

# Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook    VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Kay Farmbrough

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MONDAY 7 MARCH 2022  
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

Councillor's present:-        Chris Cook, Kay Farmbrough, Graham Moss, John Hill

Also present:-                2 Members of the Public

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Howell, CC Bowes and DC Cowen.

**2. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7 February 2022**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7 February 2022 be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Moss and seconded by Cllr Hill, all voted in favour.

**The Chairman closed the meeting to permit participation from the public.**

**3. Participation and questions from the public, session 1.**

Cllr Moss raised the question of the location of the rowan tree, to be planted by the WI, at Coronation Terrace. The WI are hoping to plant the trees on Friday 11 March. Cllr Moss had visited the site and suggested two possible locations for the tree to be planted. Cllrs Moss, Farmbrough and Hill will attend on Friday at 2pm to direct the WI to the location of the tree.

**The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.**

**4. To consider co-option**

Cllr Cook proposed co-option of Richard Ives to the Council. All voted in favour. Richard Ives joined the meeting and Clerk to complete paperwork as soon as possible for submission to Breckland.

**5. Guest Speakers**

Neither CC Bowes nor DC Cowen were able to attend the meeting but both submitted reports as follows:-

**Report of CC Bowes:-**

**"Fostering Review**

Cabinet resolved to approve the investment of £700,000 into the fostering service and the proposal for fostering allowances and fees paid to foster carers including increased fee for placements for enhanced needs children.

**Highway Parish Partnership Schemes**

Cabinet resolved to approve the 121 local schemes listed for inclusion in the PP Programme for 2022-2023, including approving 32 vehicle activated sign schemes subject to securing funding from the Safety Camera Partnership.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ

Tel: 01842 829821 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk

### **Bus Back Better**

Cabinet resolved to agree the proposed Enhanced Partnership Plan with bus operators and that the plan and scheme are adopted by 31st March 2022

Supported by all Norfolk's bus operators, over the next 5 years Norfolk's Bus Service Improvement Plan aims to simplify ticketing and journey information, cut fares for under 25s, bring in cleaner and greener buses, improve accessibility and bus stops, and make better and more frequent links between the places people live, work and shop.

### **Local Issues**

#### **Update on Flooding and Drainage problem at Dukes Lane corner.**

Following the visit by technicians and their report back to the the Area Highways Manager, he has been considering the best approach. Given the nature of the layout of drainage in the area and the lack of road space to work in, it has become apparent that to do the work required would mean a full road closure scheme. This means that the work will therefore not be able to start for a few months due to the related legal process.

#### **Village gates**

Regarding the proposed repairs/replacement of the Village Gates. To advise that through the Parish Partnership scheme the Council is able to apply for like for like replacement gates should it wish but which will be made of resin rather than wood so much longer lasting. (The scheme doesn't cover repairs to the older wooden gates or replacement wooden gates) The Highways engineer can get quotes back following an application from the Council within two weeks."

#### **Report of DC Cowen:-**

"I have met with Simon Wood to try and gauge a better understanding of the delay in reaching a determination on the planning applications on the land next to the school. It is much as I explained last time in that because the Environment Agency flood mapping does not show the problem that we all know to exist, the EA have therefore raised no objection to the development. As such therefore if the application were to be refused on flooding grounds, an inspector would more than likely allow an appeal because the EA does not have a problem. Similarly, planners have been trying to engage the County Council, as local lead flood authority, to assist but they have taken the line that this is too small a development for them to become involved. This is a problem that planners are having on many schemes in Breckland where the County are not taking a more proactive line and even refusing to act on some major developments.

As a result, planners, who are well aware of the issues highlighted by the PC and residents through photographic evidence, are asking the applicant to provide additional information regarding flood mitigation and have thus asked them for an extension of time to determine the application. Thus, the deadline is now 31st March.

You will by now be aware that at Council in February it was agreed that Breckland Council portion of the Council Tax would be increased by £4.95 per year so that a Band D property district council tax would be £100.68 per annum or under £2.00 per week. However, as 75% of our residents are in Bands A-C they will pay less. Breckland remains the lowest District Council Tax in the country providing some £750.00 worth of services to each household

My colleague Alison Webb advises as follows re the platinum Jubilee:

- I wish to make you aware that the Community Team have now outlined the terms of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Community Grant Scheme to me and, based on feedback we have received to date, we will launch this on an earlier date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ

Tel: 01842 829821 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk

- o The scheme will be open to all community groups who wish to develop a community project, activity, or host an event that looks to acknowledge and celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, in line with the national calendar of events. Grant awards will be £500 from a total fund of £10,000."

**6. Speedwatch**

"During February the Speed Watch Teams only managed four checks. Inclement weather and severe storms prevented more. 231 vehicles were assessed and only 7 offenders reported to the Constabulary. Requests for volunteers to man the March dates have gone out and I am awaiting responses."

**7. To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members.**

Cllr Farmbrough – 8D and 8E.

**8. Planning Applications**

The following updates were provided in relation to current planning applications.

- A. **3PL/2021/1662/HOU** - The Old Rectory Attleborough Road NR17 1DL - The construction of an acoustic fence and gates. **Withdrawn.**
- B. **3PL/2021/1590/HOU** – Richmond The Street NR17 1DD - Proposed Single Storey Side Extension and Alterations (Amended Scheme to Permission 3PL/2020/0406/HOU). **Permission.**
- C. **3PL/2021/1562/VAR** – Chase Farm The Street NR17 1DD - Variation of Condition No2 on 3PL/2021/0002/F - change in design. **Permission.**
- D. **3PL/2021/0223/D** - Land Adjacent To Caston Primary School Caston NR17 1DD - Reserved matters application for Erection of five dwellings following outline application 3PL/2017/1267/O. **Undecided.**
- E. **3DC/2021/0039/DOC** - Land Adjacent To Caston Primary School The Street NR17 1DD - Discharge of Condition No 4 & 9 on 3PL/2017/1267/O. **Undecided.**
- F. 3PL/2022/0172/HOU - South Cottage, The Street NR17 1DD - Proposed 2 storey side and rear extension. **Undecided. No objections.**
- G. 3PL/2022/0221/HOU - Daisy Cottage Carbrooke Road NR17 1DQ - Two-storey rear extension and internal alterations. **Undecided. No objections.**

**9. Finance – to approve and report the following expenditure:-**

- A. To approve salary payment including holiday allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the month of February 2021 in the sum of £221.07.
- B. To approve payment to Calico Internet in the sum of £28.80 for SSL Certificate for Caston On-line.
- C. To approve reimbursement to Brian Brooker in the sum of £11.36 for the mail box for Caston On-line.
- D. To approve reimbursement to Cllr Moss in the sum of £22.00 for road closure application for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- E. To ratify payment to Plusnet for Broadband at the Village Hall in respect of invoice number 00004758344-030 in the sum of £27.00 (incl VAT).

Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ

Tel: 01842 829821 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk

**10. Matters to Report:-****A. Financial Balances**

The Clerk advised the current Caston Parish Council balance amounts to £7,089.14.  
Highway Surveyors balance amounts to £14,200.28.

**B. Highways/The Rangers**

The Clerk provided updates on all reported matters.

**C. Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr Moss provided an update. The Minutes of the last meeting are not yet available. It had been reported back to the Jubilee Committee the details obtained in relation to insurance for the event and the Group are happy for the event to be under the PC umbrella to enable use of the Council insurance. Clerk to write to Chase Farm to establish whether it would be possible to use their drive if the road closure is unsuccessful. The Village Hall will be open for drinks and will be run by volunteers. There are not many volunteers at the current time but hopefully they will come forward.

The road closure had been submitted to the Council and there was no news at the moment but Norfolk County Council see no reason why it would not be granted.

**D. Village Gates**

The Clerk advised that she had been trying to obtain an alternative quote for the works to the gates but as yet had been unsuccessful. Given the report from DC Bowes, the Clerk will also seek to obtain a quote for resin alternatives.

**E. Vehicular access to 10 Coronation Terrace**

The Clerk advised that the following had been received from Breckland Council:

"I remember transferring this land and we were really clear about future use and that it could only be used as amenity space for the benefit of the community. Although this particular request relates to land at the end I feel it would set a precedent and therefore do not support a variation to the covenant. The covenant was imposed to prevent this type of activity and I feel by 'flexing' this now would create problems for us and the Parish Council in the future."

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not pursue this matter any further and the decision would be relayed to the Housing Association.

**F. Plum tree at Coronation Terrace**

The contractor has been instructed and hopefully this work will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks.

**G. Drains, ditches and flooding**

This matter was deferred until the April meeting when Cllr Howell returns.

**H. Operation London Bridge**

The Clerk and Cllr Moss are liaising on these matters. A budget of £175 had previously been agreed.

**11. Correspondence**

None.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ

Tel: 01842 829821 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk

- 12. **To agree the next meeting date**  
Monday 4 April 2022.

**The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.**

- 13. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2**  
None.

- 14. **Matters for future discussion to be noted**  
As above.

Meeting closed at 8.34pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ

Tel: 01842 829821 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk