

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2023
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

Councillor's present:- Chris Cook, Mary Howell, Simon Spanyol and Sarah Fletcher

Also present:- Three members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Moss and DC Cowen.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 4 September 2023.**
Proposed by Cllr Howell, seconded by Cllr Cook. All voted in favour.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

3. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1.**
A member of the public advised that the storm drains near the back gates of Flaxmore House were blocked. Clerk to report.

Concerns were raised at the speed that traffic was travelling in Northacre. This is a constant problem but this will be exacerbated with the increase in traffic which will be directed through Northacre when The Street is closed.

A suggestion was made that a 30mph speed limit could be placed along the whole length of Northacre during the road closure. The Clerk will contact the Contractor with the suggestion and concerns that have been raised.

A member of the public suggested that the Councillors names should appear on the Agenda. The Agenda is in a prescribed format and the names would therefore not be added.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

4. **Guest speakers**
None.
5. **Co-option**

Robert Trown attended the meeting. Cllr Howell proposed Mr Trown's co-option to the Council which was seconded by Cllr Spanyol. All voted in favour. Mr Trown was invited to join the meeting and signed the required documentation.

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

6. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report.**

“During September the volunteers undertook three checks, five were planned but the weather scuppered two. PC Dion Phillips who joined the volunteers for one check's' would like to get more involved with Caston so may be joining us again to issue a few tickets.

The volume of traffic through the village has decreased 210 were assessed and 22 were reported for exceeding 35 mph.

Due to the road closures coming in on 2/10 for drainage works I am only going to arrange 4 checks next month”.

The Clerk and Cllr Fletcher explained that there was an initial problem in downloading the data from the SAM2 machines. The Clerk has the raw data and she will contact Westcotec for assistance in this regard.

A question was raised as to how the buses would be affected during the road closure. The Clerk will make enquiries and see what information can be obtained.

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

None.

8. **Planning Applications:-**

- A. **3PL/2021/0932/VAR** - Cherry Tree Farm Cherry Tree Lane Stow Bedon - Variation of Condition No2 on 3PL/2017/0878/F : Variation to reflect the as-built appearance and layout of the pig sheds, feed silos and manure store cover and proposed amendments including revised external materials and the addition of chimneys. **Stow Bedon application. Undecided.** No update available.
- B. **3PL/2022/0472/F** – Appeal No. APP/F2605/W/22/3308149 – Homefield House, The Street, Caston – Proposed new dwelling. **Undecided.** No update available.
- C. **3PL/2022/0368/F** - Coughtrey Industrial Estates (Units 1 - 17) Church Road - The demolition of Units 1-6 (whole block Western boundary) and Units 7-13 (part of North Block), extensions to units 14 and 15 (large extension to North block), extension to unit 16 (small extension to South Block), external fascia changes, refurbishment to Unit 17. Change of use of whole site to mixed B2 and Class E (offices). The reconfiguration of parking and creation of a new loading and unloading area. **Undecided.**
Cllr Spanyol advised that there has been a new article in the EDP in relation to this application. Cllr Spanyol attended a group meeting in Griston with CC Claire Bowes, in his personal capacity, and it is understood that there is an attempt to get George Freeman MP involved.

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 September 2023 in the sum of £236.02.
- B. To approve reimbursement payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the initial BT broadband invoice number M002 (direct debit pending) in the sum of £22.04 (incl VAT).
- C. To approve reimbursement payment to the Clerk for printing expenses (£9.99 per month) for the months of May 2023 to September 2023 in the sum of £49.95.
- D. To approve payment to R G Maintenance Services Limited for grass cutting for the month of September 2023 in the sum of £331.20 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 2250153.

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- E. To approve payment to Hostworld Internet Limited in the sum of £168.00 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 171678 (domain transfer and emails).
- F. To approve payment to HCI Data Limited in the sum of £74.04 in respect of additional data space from May through to September.
- G. To ratify payment to Plusnet for Broadband at the Village Hall for the month of September in respect of invoice number 00004758344-50 in the sum of £26.40 (incl VAT).

Proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Howell.

10. **Matters to report:-**

- A. **Broadband for Village Hall – update**
The Clerk reported that the new broadband had been installed successfully. It is slightly slower than that previously experienced, but it was the best that could be achieved within a similar price budget.
- B. **Financial Balances**
£13,009.55 – Caston Parish Council
£14,725.56 – Highway Surveyors
- C. **Village Gates**
The Clerk advised that she has requested a quote from C E Clarke and this is awaited.
- D. **Playground**
The wires are sagging above the play area with the weight of the branches. The Clerk will contact BT.
- E. **Website** have seen the new proposed website and the following comments/suggestions were made:-
 - The Notices section is out of date and the Clerk advised that she would be going through these before the website goes live.
 - The Village Appraisal information shall remain
 - Add Speedwatch to the menu and include a request for volunteers
 - Planning Applications – this is a good idea and shall remain
 - A suggestion was made for there to be a public forum. This was not considered necessary as the Parish Council can be contacted from the website or Facebook.
 - The Caston House Map link should be added to the menu.
 - The title Public Information shall be changed to News & Information
 - Check there is a link to and from Caston On-line and the Parish Council.
 - Add a Useful Links tab to the menu.

Some of these items may be found under existing or new tabs as appropriate. The Clerk will implement the suggested changes.

- F. **Emails**
The Clerk advised that this is in progress.
- G. **Telephone kiosk**
There has been interest shown from two people. After discussion, it was agreed that it was difficult to know parishioners thoughts when there have been only two responses. A notice will be placed on the box to see if this brings any further interest. Cllr Howell agreed to add the notice.
- H. **Road Closure, Dukes Lane corner – October 2023**
The road closure signs are in place in readiness for the works. It was however noted that the signs indicate the road will be closed for 10 weeks, not the previously advised 16 weeks.

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I. Emergency Plan

The Clerk advised that whilst she had found some templates we can follow, no further progress has been made. Ongoing.

J. Village Green Noticeboard – update

Cllr Cook has not been able to attend to the Noticeboard due to work commitments but will do so as soon as possible.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that she had received notification that the dog bin outside the Village Hall was constantly overflowing and it had been suggested that either collections are increased or a replacement larger dog bin is purchased. The Clerk advised that additional collections was not an option but she would obtain some prices for a replacement bin.

There are several local events being hosted by Breckland Council in relation to the Local Plan. Cllrs Howell, Spanyol and Fletcher were hopeful to attend one of the events.

12. The next meeting date: 6 November 2023.**The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.****13. Participation and questions from the public – session 2**

A member of the Council enquired about the Wayleave agreement proposed by County Broadband. County Broadband are getting close to connection through the Village and a query was raised as to how this was being achieved when no agreement had been entered into. The Clerk was asked to reconnect with County Broadband and establish the current position.

A question was asked whether the rear of Homefield House was being used as the storage compound for the road works. The storage compound is in fact in Dukes Lane.

A member of the public advised that Hingham has a list of useful telephone numbers for the Emergency Plan.

14. Matters for future discussion to be noted.

As above.

Jo Blackman
Parish Clerk

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