

# Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook    VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023  
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

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

Also present:-                 Six members of the public

1.        **Apologies for absence**  
None.
2.        **To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 2 October 2023.**  
Proposed by Cllr Howell, seconded by Cllr Spanyol. All voted in favour.

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

3.        **Participation and questions from the public, session 1.**  
The Chairman agreed to take items 9A and 9B as he was aware of concerns surrounding these matters.

**9a. Recent flooding and associated issues.**

**9b. Road Closure, Dukes Lane corner and associated issues.**

The Chairman set out the concerns the Parish Council have been made aware of:

- The diversion route through Northacre is of major concern due to the high levels of traffic, speed of traffic and type of traffic. Significant damage has already been caused to the verges.
- Northacre is not suitable for lorries and in places even two cars passing is not possible let alone buses and HGVs.
- The National Speed Limit at the Carbrooke Road end of Northacre means that many vehicles are speeding in Northacre as they enter the village.
- Videos have been sent to Highways.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Highways requesting that the diversion be changed and/or a 30mph speed limit for the entire length of Northacre be imposed.

A further request would be made to ensure that any damage caused to the verges would be put right.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

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

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A member of the public reported flooding at the road entrance to Bridge Farm via the County Hotline and advised that a culvert appears to be blocked which runs under the road near Bridge Farm. Highways attended to have a look at the culvert and advised that the culvert belongs to the adjacent landowner, not Highways. The member of the public asked how a culvert, which runs under the road, can be the responsibility of anyone other than Highways? Enquiries will be made to ascertain any further information.

Another member of the public raised concerns regarding the flooding outside the school which has been reported numerous times. The Clerk advised that letters would be prepared reminding residents and landowners of their responsibilities in relation to riparian ownership.

Whilst the work being carried out on The Street is appreciated, water is being diverted into the watercourse and it has been noted that one property have planted their garden side of the watercourse and they were concerned this maybe impeding water flow.

The Old Bakery has flooded four times since January. Flooding has been from exceptional rainfall and issues with Anglian water and their sewage system.

A question was asked whether the watercourse could be dredged. It is the riparian owners responsibility to clear their own ditches to enable a clear path for the water to flow and maximise the capacity of the watercourse.

It was noted that the watercourse has narrowed over the years and a question was asked whether a survey could be carried out. This was explored previously but the costs are high.

It was mentioned that Thompson are currently having cameras put through their drains to explore their condition and/or blockages as part of the 'Save the Rain' project. Although this is a different reason, it was agreed it would be worth contacting Thompson Parish Council to enquire about these works.

Smaller villages are being ignored.

It was felt that the works currently being carried out may solve the problem with regards to normal rainfall but will not resolve flooding after exceptional rainfall events due to the current capacity of the watercourse

There are many different authorities who deal with watercourses and flooding and it is very complex.

It was suggested that a public meeting may be welcomed to explain the drainage in and around Caston together with information re riparian ownerships if residents would find it useful. Concerns were raised that it would need to be a structured meeting to be informative and to help residents understand the situation and the limitations of the Parish Council. A note will be placed in the Waylander to see if this is something that people may find useful.

#### **The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.**

#### **4. Guest speakers**

None.

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5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report.**

“During October the volunteers were scheduled to do four checks alas only three were completed. A total of 215 vehicles were assessed and 9 were reported to the Constabulary for exceeding 35mph. Support from the Constabulary did not transpire, I will try again in November. Five checks are planned and I am awaiting volunteers’ responses”.

With regards to the SAM2 data, issues remain in downloading the data. Cllr Spanyol agreed to look into this and try and extract the data.

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

None.

7. **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 the Stage 2 complaint failed to address most points and is ongoing.

8. **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 October 2023 in the sum of £236.02.
- B. To approve reimbursement payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for BT broadband invoice number M003 (direct debit pending) in the sum of £27.54 (incl VAT).
- C. To approve reimbursement payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, in respect of payment to Spanglefish for hosting fee for Caston On-Line in the sum of £78.00 (incl VAT).
- D. To approve reimbursement payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, in respect of payment to Spanglefish for website for Caston Parish Council in the sum of £39.95 (incl VAT).
- E. To approve payment to R G Maintenance Services Limited for grass cutting for the month of October 2023 in the sum of £331.20 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 2250360.
- F. To approve payment to Breckland Council for Uncontested Election in May 2023 in the sum of £75.00 in respect of invoice number 0001124512.

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- G. To approve payment to HCI Data Limited in the sum of £11.22 in respect of additional data space in October 2023 in respect of invoice number WEB16115.
- H. To approve payment to Didlington Nurseries for plants for the village planters in the sum of £92.50.

Proposed by Cllr Howell, seconded by Cllr Cook.

9. **Matters to report:-**

- A. **Recent Flooding and associated issues.**  
See 3 above.
- B. **Road Closure, Dukes Lane corner and associated issues.**  
See 3 above.
- C. **Caston Fuel Charity representative.**  
The Caston Fuel Charity requires a new representative from the Parish Council as K Farmbrough is no longer a Parish Councillor. Cllrs Spanyol, Howell and Cook are exempt as they are recipients. Cllr Trown volunteered to be the Parish Council representative.
- D. **Dog bin at Village Hall.**  
A discussion took place in relation to the dog bin at the Village Hall as this is often full and overflowing. There are two bins, one a general waste bin and one a dog bin but both fill up quickly. Whilst it was acknowledged that we would not be able to request additional collections, it was agreed that a larger covered dog bin would be purchased in the first instance. It was therefore AGREED to purchase a Deep Green Retriever 35l Dog Waste Bin at a cost of £260.65 (plus VAT), all voted in favour.
- E. **Financial Balances.**  
Caston Parish Council £12,076.90/Highways Surveyors £14,775.30
- F. **Village Gates.**  
Clerk advised we are awaiting a quote from C E Clarke.
- G. **Playground.**  
The wires at the playground continue to be a concern and the Clerk is trying to contact BT.
- H. **Website.**  
The new website is updated and the Clerk explained that having spoken to Brian Brooker, it was agreed that it was best to wait until we transfer to the new website company before going live.
- I. **Emails.**  
This is still in progress and the Clerk remains in contact with Calico.
- J. **Telephone kiosk.**  
A 'Help Wanted' sign has been placed on the telephone kiosk and there are four volunteers to date to help restore the box. Cllr Spanyol has looked into it, and it would likely cost in the region of £1,200 to restore fully. The box also needs uprighting and costs will be sought for this also.
- K. **Emergency Plan.**  
No progress to date.
- L. **Village Green Noticeboard – update.**  
No update available.

10. **Correspondence**  
None.

11. **The next meeting date: 4 December 2023.**

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**The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.**

**12. Participation and questions from the public – session 2**

A member of the public enquired about the hedge at Coronation Terrace. The Clerk advised that it is usually cut around this time of year and it was part of the original quote so she will chase RGM and find out when this will be done.

County Broadband have installed a post outside Oakleigh in Northacre, right in front of the windows. It is believed that this is going to be moved but would be worth referring to Rachel Lines at Norfolk CC who helped us before.

A discussion took place as to the object of an open public meeting in relation to the drainage/flooding issues. The purpose of the meeting would be for residents to understand everyone’s responsibilities and limitations. It affects all villagers, and it would be to encourage residents to come together as a whole. An information session effectively.

**13. Matters for future discussion to be noted.**

As above.

Meeting closed at 9.24pm

Jo Blackman  
Parish Clerk

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