

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Kay Farmbrough

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

Councillor's present:- Chris Cook, Kay Farmbrough, Graham Moss, John Hill, Mary Howell,
 Richard Ives

Also present:- 2 Members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**
 None.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 9 January 2023.**
 Proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Farmbrough. All voted in favour.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

3. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1.**
 The Village Hall Committee have arranged a Coronation Party on the Sunday of the Coronation (7th May). The Committee have applied for a grant of £500 from Breckland Council and should receive a decision by 24 February. The plan is for an Afternoon Tea for 80-100 people. The WI/PCC are likely to also be involved in the arrangements. The Committee requested that if the costs exceed £500, would the Parish Council be prepared to financially support the event.

The Council agreed that we should await the outcome of the grant application and then, if necessary, a formal application should be made to the Parish Council for consideration. The Clerk also advised that there is some National Lottery funding which may be available for community events.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

4. **Guest speakers.**
 None.
5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report.**
 Cllr Ives reported that the old SAM2 may require a new battery as it is not holding its charge as long as it should. Further, the new SAM2 sign can be temperamental when moving location and sometimes takes several times to reset.
 Cllr Ives will liaise direct with Westcotec to obtain some prices for a new battery and advice regarding the newer machine.

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

Cllr Moss – 7c

7. **Planning Applications:-**

- A. **3PL/2023/0072/F** – Land at Chase Farm, The Street, NR17 1DD- Erection of Farm Bungalow. The Council discussed this matter and whilst, in principle, they have no objection to the application there are considerable concerns that the proposed development is outside of the Settlement Boundary which could set a dangerous precedent for future developments. The Clerk will submit comments accordingly.
- B. **3PL/2023/0003/LB** – The Mill, The Street, NR17 1DD – Continuation of temporary permission for removal of the windmill cap to carry out repairs to the windmill cap approved under 3PL/2020/1431/LB. No objections.
- C. **3PL/2022/1385/F** - Home Farm, Northacre NR17 1DG - Conversion of redundant farm buildings (with link extension) into a single storey dwelling house plus detached double garage building. Comments previously submitted. Undecided.
- D. **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. This application has been approved with conditions. These are, as yet, unconfirmed on the Planning portal.

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 January 2023 in the sum of £236.02.
- B. To ratify payment to Plusnet for Broadband at the Village Hall for the month of December in respect of invoice number 00004758344-043 in the sum of £26.40 (incl VAT).

To approve two further items of expenditure:-

- C. To approve reimbursement to Brian Brooker for Caston On-line Mailbox (Namecheap) in the sum of £12.96.
- D. To approve payment to Glasdon UK for purchase of bench for the play area and new litter bin for the Village Green in the sum of £1,109.43 incl VAT (invoice number SI855705).

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

A short discussion took place as to the location of the new bin. Some concerns were raised regarding where cables run on the Village Green as the bin requires an anchor to be screwed into the ground. The logical location is to place the bin to the left of the bus shelter (as you look at the shelter). Cllrs Ives and Hill to investigate and install the bin.

9. **Matters to report:-**

a. **County Broadband update**

The Clerk advised that she had sent suggested amendments to the wayleave and requested details of the monetary value of the same. A response is awaited and Clerk will follow up in due course.

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b. **Financial Balances**

Caston Parish Council £8,439.45

c. **Highways/The Rangers/ Resident road safety at Rayner's Falgate**

Following the meeting with Highways, the Council were advised:-

- Junction of Carbrooke Road – there are to be new reflective directional signs placed at the junction. New slow signs will be painted in the road and new reflective Give Way signs to also be installed.
- 2 new play area warning signs will be installed at the play area.
- Rayners Falgate – there will be new slow signs painted in the road. There will be a new hazard warning sign at the bends. There is already one in place coming into Caston and the new one will be installed going out of the Village.
- Highways were concerned at the state of the verges along Rayners Falgate largely due to straw and other farming materials blocking the drains and ditches which have failed to be cleared for some time. Highways suggested that we should attempt to find out who maintains the ditches and try and speak to the owners directly.
- The 30mph at the Griston bend. Whilst Highways accepted that if this was being installed now it would possibly be moved back slightly, they do not consider that this would make a material difference and would not therefore support a change.

Matt Lines from Highways spoke regarding the flooding issues at Delmar House corner. A lot of investigation has gone into the matter and the work has been authorised for the Summer. He advised that the £70K allocated is solely for this project alone and does not include any other flooding issues in the village contrary to what County Councillor Bowes had implied at a recent Planning Committee meeting. He advised that it is a large job which has been made difficult by some alterations which have been made by homeowners over the years.

d. **Emails**

This is ongoing, Clerk to arrange.

e. **Play Area – replacement bench/annual inspection**

Whilst it has been established the swing seats are not at the correct height, concerns were raised if we were to carry out the movement of the seats ourselves, from an insurance point of view and it was felt that this should be done by the installers. Clerk to contact the installers to arrange. Clerk also to ask inspector to amend his report to include the matting under the swing seats.

The Council thanked Cllr Hill for fitting of the new bench.

f. **New bin for Village Green**

See 8 above.

g. **Communications Policy/Social Media Policy**

This matter was deferred to the next meeting to enable more time to go through. Councillors to pass any comments to the Clerk before the next meeting.

10. **Correspondence**

None.

11. **The next meeting date: 6 March 2023.** Cllr Howell gave her apologies for the next meeting.

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The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

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

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

Jo Blackman
Parish Clerk

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