

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2024
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

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

Also present:- Four members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**
Cllr Rob Trown.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 October 2024**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 October 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Chris Cook.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

3. **Participation and questions from the public.**
None.

The Chairman reopened the Council Meeting.

4. **Guest Speakers**
None.
5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report**
There have been two sessions since the last report.

School View - 16,455 vehicles were recorded with an average 6.6% over 35 mph.
The highest percentage of speeders (>35mph) are in the small hours. Peak traffic times are around 7am and 2-4pm

Coronation Terrace - 23,746 vehicles were recorded with an average 10% over 35 mph.
These numbers are close to normal and probably reflect the school and The Street being open.
The highest percentage of speeders (>35mph) are in the small hours. Peak traffic times are around 6-9am and 3-6pm.
6. **To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members.**
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

7. **Planning Applications**

- a. **3PL/2024/0680/HOU** – Caston Lodge Attleborough Road NR17 1DL – Demolition of existing single storey side extension and erection of new two storey side extension. **Approved with conditions.**
- b. **3DC/2024/0154/DOC** - Land adjacent to Caston Primary School, The Street NR17 1DD - Discharge of condition 5 on 3PL/2021/0223/D. **DOC-COMplete.**
- c. **3DC/2023/0322/DOC** - Land to the North of School View NR17 1DD - Discharge of Conditions 5,6,7,8,12 on 3PL/2020/0262/O. This application relates to Condition 5 – Drainage, Condition 6 – Construction Management, Condition 7 – Biodiversity and Ecology, Condition 8 – Trees in Countryside and Condition 12 – Access to site. **DOC-COMplete.**
- d. **3DC/2024/0049/DOC** – Land adj School View, The Street,NR17 1FP – Discharge of Conditions 5, 6, 7 & 8 on 3PL/2024/0180/VAR. **DOC-COMplete.**
- e. **3DC/2024/0174/DOC** - Land adjacent to School View, The Street NR17 1FP - Discharge of Conditions 4 & 5 on 3PL/2024/0067/D. **Undecided.**
(c to e) It was noted that the pipes in the culvert have been changed however, these are believed to be a temporary measure and are still not to specification.
- f. **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.**
- g. **APP/F2605/W/24/3351737 – Appeal on application number 3PL/2022/0368/F-GRISTON** - 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. **Appealed.**
The Parish Council have reiterated their previous comments on this application via the Appeal portal. It was reported in the Waylander that two reports have been submitted and residents of Caston are being urged to submit their own comments regarding traffic and any other matters which are of concern.
It is unclear whether Caston residents fully understand the extent of traffic that will come through the village.
It was noted that pre-Appeal decision works, have already started on site.

8. **To approve Clerk salary increase in line with the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 24/25 (backdated to 1 April 2024).**

All voted in favour.

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 October 2024 in the sum of £252.63.
- b. To approve salary increase backpay from 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2024 in the sum of £75.88 (£10.84 per month).
- c. To approve reimbursement payment to the Clerk for printing expenses for the months of April 2024 to October 2024 in the sum of £83.93 (£11.99 per month).
- d. To approve payment to BT for broadband at the Village Hall in the sum of £30.38 (incl VAT) – paid by Direct Debit.

One additional item for payment:

- e. To approve donation payment, in the sum of £25.00, to the Poppy Appeal.

All voted in favour.

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10. **Matters to Report**a. **Village Planters**

Cllr Fletcher confirmed that the maker of the new planter is prepared, in principle, to make replacement planters for all locations.

Cllr Fletcher has also found various examples ranging in price. It is important to decide what we would like any new planter to look like for example, whether it should be on legs or to the ground and whether it should incorporate a false bottom to reduce the amount of soil required and avoid direct contact with the ground.

Cllr Fletcher will send some examples to all Councillors for consideration. A decision will be made at the next meeting in December.

b. **Financial Balances**

Caston Parish Council £15,233.59/Highway Surveyors £15,375.41.

c. **Playground**

The Clerk advised that honey fungus has been reported growing in the play area. It is a problem which is almost impossible to eradicate. It travels underground and remains in the ground, reappearing each year. It will weaken and eventually kill the tree. The Clerk will check which tree appears to be the problem and consideration will be given to the way forward.

d. **County Broadband**

The Clerk advised that the agreement is nearing completion.

e. **Liaison with School**

No update available.

f. **Litterpick**

Ruth Trown reported that the first litterpick was very successful and Breckland Council removed the bags collected. A further date has been arranged for 8th January 2025 at 2pm, weather permitting. Ruth has asked that a plea be put out for volunteers. Cllr Howell will arrange for the details to be placed in the Waylander and for volunteers to contact the Clerk, in the first instance.

g. **Highways – making good the damage caused in Northacre**

This has yet to be completed.

h. **Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership**

There are some updates on the Norfolk County Council website. Breckland magazine has also provided some updates. They have stated that they will carry out works where public health is at risk.

i. **Riparian ownership letters/culvert**

The Clerk read the quote received from Barnes Drainage to attempt to clear and CCTV inspect the problem culvert in the sum of £325. The purpose of the original inspection was to establish whether there is a blockage. The contractor suspects that it may be a build up of silt in the culvert but a CCTV inspection would show any other problems which may or may not exist.

It was generally felt it would be a goodwill gesture of the Parish Council, if we could legitimately allocate sufficient funds, whether we should pay for this inspection to be done. Any inspection considered would be on a 'non acceptance of responsibility' basis. Discussion also took place about other known culverts in the village and what would happen if they too became a problem.

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It was accepted that this is a complex issue especially as it is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

The Clerk advised that funds could not be used from the Highway Surveyors account as it clearly states that it can only be used for "...charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Caston".

The Clerk did however indicate that there were reserves which could be used from the Parish Council, these would be out of budget expenses, but it would be acceptable to use these funds. Further, we will shortly be receiving funds from County Broadband once the Wayleave Agreement is finalised.

Bridget Hall commented that in October 2022 there was exceptional rainfall (6") over a one-week period. The road flooded but not for long and it did drain away and no houses were flooded.

This October there was approximately 2" rain over a longer period but the water could not get away and three areas were flooded in the village, so something has definitely changed.

In February 2024 further flooding occurred.

Getting to the bottom of it may help us understand and assist. Peter Hall, the landowner, would like to meet with the contractor prior to any works commencing and is to be contacted to enable access.

A water source/tap may be available from the residents at the Bridge Farm complex and they should be approached in the first instance to enable the contractor to refill the water tank on his vehicle.

It was therefore agreed that Barnes Drainage be contacted to arrange a date for the works to be carried out, as per the quote, and a date which is agreeable to the landowner.

With regards to the riparian letters, Cllrs Howell and Spanyol have identified areas in the village where it is considered a follow up letter may be appropriate. Cllr Howell had drafted a letter which was provided to all Councillors. It was agreed that the letter should be sent and Cllrs Howell and Spanyol will provide the Clerk with addresses and information required for the letters to be prepared. Cllr Howell will hand deliver the letters in due course.

11. **Correspondence**

A recent update report from Norfolk ALC had been circulated to all Councillors.

12. **To agree the next meeting date: 2 December 2024.**

Agreed.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public participation.

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

A member of the public mentioned a dead tree near Flaxmoor House which is covered in ivy and fungus and wondered whether this was also honey fungus. Cllr Cook advised that his understanding is that honey fungus is only found on the ground and travels underground, so it is unlikely to be honey fungus.

A question was raised as to whether we had considered horse/cattle troughs instead of wooden planters as they would be less likely to rot. Cllr Fletcher said she had looked at these but they tend to be reclaimed and as such are very expensive but that she would have another look and she confirmed nothing has been ruled out at this stage.

Cllr Howell raised concerns that a recent invite to Council Engagement events had been missed. The Clerk found these emails in her spam folder, upon searching, and unfortunately the dates have now all passed. The Clerk advised that she would check her spam settings to ensure that this does not happen again. Cllr Moss advised that sometimes emails are routed to a spam folder for no apparent obvious reason. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the sender of the initial invite to enquire whether any notes/slides are available from these sessions.

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

As above.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Jo Blackman
Parish Clerk

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