

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

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

Also present:- Three members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Trown.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 2024.**
All voted in favour.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

3. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1.**
A question was raised regarding the BT kiosk. It was explained that it had been agreed to repaint the kiosk in the Spring to smarten it up. It was further explained that replacing the glass was cost prohibitive at the current time.

A question was also raised regarding the outcome of the grass cutting contract. It was explained that the contract had been awarded to Groundscape for the next financial year. A further question was posed as to whether the new contractor charged VAT as this would make it more expensive than the current contractor. The Clerk explained that both the quotes did not include VAT and were therefore comparable.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

4. **Guest speakers**
None.
5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report.**
"During January we had five checks planned but due to inclement weather, sickness and unavailability only two were accomplished.

A total of 79 vehicles were assessed and 5 reported to the Constabulary of exceeding 35 mph. We have one new prospective volunteer awaiting Constabulary approval.

Four checks are planned for February, I am awaiting the volunteers' responses."

The latest reports can be accessed here [Caston Parish Council | SAM2 Data](#)

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

The Clerk advised that she had received a quote from Westcotec for two replacement batteries in the sum of £175.50 plus VAT. The Clerk advised that Westcotec have confirmed that both our machines will run from the same batteries. The Clerk had raised this question as the machines are different in design and age and had requested clarification. Cllr Howell proposed that these should be purchased and Cllr Cook seconded, all agreed.

A member of the public advised that the camera currently at Stow Bedon Road seemed to be indicating vehicles are travelling faster than they are. Cllr Fletcher advised that she would report this information and it may be that the speed limit has been inadvertently set too low on replacing the battery.

“The camera was indicating “Slow Down” at a speed below 30mph.”

This will be addressed by the SAM2 volunteers.

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

Cllr Cook declared an interest in item 7G.

6. 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.**
- B. **3PL/2022/0472/F** – Appeal No. APP/F2605/W/22/3308149 – Homefield House, The Street, Caston – Proposed new dwelling. **Approved on Appeal.**
- 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 provided an update to advise that the Secretary of State have requested a full Environmental Impact Assessment. The application has been recommended for refusal. George Freeman visited the site last week and has personally written to the Secretary of State to raise his concerns regarding the change of use from light to heavy industrial use.

- D. **3PL/2023/1055/VAR** - Coughtrey Industrial Estate Church Road IP25 6QB - Coughtrey Industrial Estate Church Road IP25 6QB. **Undecided.** See C above.
- E. **3PL/2023/1054/VAR** - Coughtrey Industrial Estate Church Road IP25 6QB - Removal of planning condition 4 from 3PL/2003/1092/F. **Undecided.** See C above.
- F. **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. **Undecided.** Cllr Spanyol drafted a response to the application which all Councillors are to review and comment. Cllr Fletcher had reviewed the document and suggested that the paragraph relating to the culvert at School View be removed as it was irrelevant to this application. The Clerk agreed.

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

- G. **3PL/2024/0050/HOU** - Lupin Cottage, The Street - Single storey extension with flat roof and glazed lanterns. **Undecided.** Cllr Spanyol enquired whether the yew tree which was to be removed had a TPO on it. The Applicant was permitted to speak and advised that it did not. No objection
- H. **3PL/2024/0073/VAR** - The Barns, Attleborough Road NR17 1DJ - Removal of Condition 13 on 3PL/2019/0518/F. **Undecided.** A discussion took place and it was agreed that it was quite clear the reason this condition was imposed. *“Paragraph 61 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) requires Councils to plan for people wishing to build their own homes. Self-build has been identified as the method of delivering the site and this condition is to secure the development as self-build.”*
With this in mind, the Council believes that insufficient means is not a reason for such a condition to be removed and therefore object to this application.

7. **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 2024 in the sum of £252.63.
- B. To approve payment for use of Home Office to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the financial year 2023/24 in the sum of £50.
- C. To approve payment to RG Maintenance Limited for hedge cutting at Coronation Terrace in the sum of £244.80 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 2250919.
- D. To approve payment to BT for broadband at the Village Hall in respect of invoice M006 in the sum of £27.54 (incl VAT) – paid by Direct Debit

All voted in favour.

8. **Matters to report:-**

A. **Flooding / Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership.**

It was noted that there had been one further interest in the holding of a village meeting.

The Clerk had previously advised Councillors that the Flood & Water Management Team at Norfolk County Council had requested a site visit to walk the watercourse of Caston to familiarise themselves with the watercourse as it passes through Caston and to pinpoint any areas which may contribute to the flooding the Parish experiences. The meeting has been arranged for Thursday 8th February between 10am and 12 noon (time to be confirmed). Councillors Howell, Spanyol, Fletcher and Moss will attend. The Clerk is at work and unable to attend however, she requested that notes of the meeting be taken, on her behalf, Cllr Howell agreed so to do.

Cllr Howell had provided a copy of the letter which she had previously sent to the Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership.

Cllr Howell advised that she had been speaking to her contact at Spooner Row and they are arranging a meeting to discuss the issues both Councils are experiencing.

B. **Riparian ownership letters.**

Cllrs Howell and Fletcher are working on a revised letter, for approval by the Council, which will be sent to all households who may have riparian responsibilities.

Cllrs Howell and Spanyol have produced a revised and updated list of properties in Caston believed to have riparian rights and this has been sent to councillors for sense checking. The house map produced by Cllr Cook has been updated to reflect house name changes and new builds and will in due course be placed on the village noticeboards.

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

C. File storage.

The Clerk reiterated that the Council computer is backed-up to an external hard drive and it was therefore felt unnecessary to have any further file storage.

D. Financial Balances.

Caston Parish Council £9,180.70/Highway Surveyors £14,923.90.

E. Village Gates.

The Clerk advised that C E Clarke do not undertake painting works however, a contact name has been provided and the Clerk has requested a quote.

F. Playground.

The Clerk advised that, as requested, she had obtained quotes for installing either wet-pour safety surfacing or bonded rubber mulch underneath the nest swing and flat swings.

The quotes are as follows:-

Wet-Pour £9,862.20 (incl VAT)

Bonded Rubber Mulch £5,131.20 (incl VAT)

A discussion took place and it was agreed that the costs were prohibitive at the current time and that we would ask the new contractor to re-seed underneath the swings in the Spring. The Clerk will investigate whether there is currently any funding available for the surfacing work.

Cllr Spanyol advised that he had forgotten to check whether he had any bolt covers but will check before the next meeting.

G. Website/Emails.

The website is fine at the moment with no issues or amendments to be made.

Cllr Cook and Trown are still not operating on the Council emails. Hopefully this will be resolved shortly.

H. Emergency Plan.

The Clerk had provided the Council with an outline document of a proposed Emergency Plan. The Clerk advised that there was quite a lot of work to be done to get this into a working form and that she would continue to work on it when time permitted. Low priority.

I. Village Green Noticeboard.

To be addressed in drier weather.

J. Road Closures.

The two proposed road closures were discussed. The first was at The Green by Norfolk CC and has now passed and the second is by UK Power Networks to undertake electric works on the 12/13 February. The map is extremely small but if the Clerk is able, it will be placed on the Council website.

K. County Broadband.

The Clerk advised that no response had been received from County Broadband to date.

The clerk will contact to Caston Village school and offer Cllr Howell to be the liaison person between the school and the council.

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

- 9. **Correspondence**
Change of bin days – the Councillors advised that each household had already received notification of the change of collection days.
- 10. **The next meeting date:** 11 March 2024. This is a week later than normal due to Clerk and Councillor holidays.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

- 11. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2**
None.
- 12. **Matters for future discussion to be noted.**
As noted above.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Jo Blackman
Parish Clerk

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