

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2024
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

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

Also present:- Two members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**
None.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 September 2024**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 September 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, session 1 and to discuss item 9J.**

9J

A resident of Bridge Farm advised that she had sent an email to the Clerk on 20 September, following the discussions at the last Parish Council Meeting, but had not received a response. The Clerk advised that she had read the email but did not appreciate it required a response and at the time of the email, we were awaiting updates from various sources. The Clerk apologised.

The landowner has cleared both ends of the culvert at Bridge Farm and the tree which may be causing the problem can be seen in the verge. The residents of the properties at Bridge Farm have arranged an onsite meeting with Louise Brown from the Flood and Water Management Team on Thursday 17th October at 11am.

The residents stated that water is flowing through but very slowly and they believe it is due to the tree roots, as advised by Norfolk County Council Highways.

It is not clear whether the tree is or is not causing a problem.

Cllrs Howell and Spanyol have inspected the culvert and have taken some photographs. It is confirmed that water is moving into the culvert but the ditch at the other end has no visible movement of water. Whilst inspecting the culvert, the landowner came over and explained what work had been carried out.

It was noted that the culvert entrance is slightly 'up hill'.

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

A spade was inserted into the entrance of the culvert and it is not believed the tree roots are the cause of the problem.

It is still felt that there needs to be some kind of camera inspection to establish the condition of the culvert.

Whilst it remains unclear as to who is responsible for the culvert, any kind of escalation and/or enforcement remains a problem and there are no resources.

A discussion took place re funding of a camera inspection and the Clerk agreed to look into this.

The Chairman reopened the Council Meeting.

4. Guest Speakers

None.

5. Speedwatch and SAM2 Report

The latest SAM2 Analysis Reports to the end of September are available on the Council website.

Northacre camera had been reasonably quiet over the last period largely due to a closed road and it was in place during the school holidays.

Stow Bedon Road camera continues to show the busiest time is between 3pm and 6pm with approximately 14% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit.

There have been two Speedwatch sessions. At the Stow Bedon Road location, 83 vehicles were observed and 14% of those were recorded to be exceeding the speed limit.

At the Northacre location, only 1 vehicle was recorded to be exceeding the speed limit.

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

None.

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. **Permission.**
- b. **3OB/2024/0024/DOB** – Land Adjacent to Caston Primary School NR17 1DD - Application to discharge the planning obligation on Paragraph 1.1 of Schedule 2 relating to the S106 Agreement on pp 3PL/2017/1267/O. **Permission.**
- c. **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.**
- d. **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.**
- e. **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.**

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- f. **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-f) It is the understanding of the Parish Council that building was to slab level only though it is noted the buildings are almost to first floor level. The Clerk will check the position as some conditions have been satisfied and this may now be permitted. The builders failed to seek authority before installing the culvert and the Parish Council have been assured this is a temporary measure. This needs to be kept a close eye on. The Clerk to report any issues to Breckland Council.
- g. **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.**

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.

The above Appeal was received after the Agenda was published. The Parish Council discussed the matter, being a long established application, and advised that they stand by their original comments and these should be reiterated to the Planning Inspectorate particularly in relation to traffic impact and risks. The Appeal will be heard on 11 February 2025 at 10am at Breckland Council Offices in Dereham.

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 September 2024 in the sum of £252.63.
- b. To approve payment to BT for broadband at the Village Hall in the sum of £30.38 (incl VAT) – paid by Direct Debit.
- c. To approve payment to Ravenscroft Tree Services Limited in respect of invoice no 2746 for tree inspection at Coronation Terrace in the sum of £294.00 (incl VAT).
- d. To ratify payment to Andrew Deptford in respect of invoice no 15039 for replacement ChargePak and Defibrillator Pads in the sum of £172.80 (incl VAT).

All voted in favour.

9. **Matters to Report**

a. **Village Planters**

Cllr Fletcher has spoken with Kay Farmbrough and they have some ideas if we were to invest in new planters. In principle, the gentleman who made the replacement planter now positioned under the village Noticeboard, would be prepared to make the replacement planters.

Cllr Fletcher suggested that this be discussed at our next meeting so she can provide the Council with some pictures and ideas to be considered and discussed.

The plants are now going in for winter.

b. **Financial Balances**

Caston Parish Council £16,117.42/Highway Surveyors £15,323.60.

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- c. **Playground**
The Clerk advised that she has agreed for the annual inspection to be carried out when it comes due in November.
- d. **County Broadband**
The Clerk advised that County Broadband have agreed to pay our legal fees, whether an agreement to the wayleave is achieved or not. This is in writing to the Solicitor and as such, the Clerk has instructed that the Parish Council will be happy to proceed.
- e. **Liaison with School**
No update available.
- f. **Litterpick**
The Clerk advised that Ruth Trown has organised a litterpick for Wednesday 23 October 2024 meeting at 10am at the Village Hall. There are sufficient volunteers on this occasion.
- g. **Defibrillator**
The Clerk advised that new pads and Chargepak have been installed. An error had occurred with the defibrillator but the new Chargepak has corrected this.
- h. **Highways – making good the damage caused in Northacre**
This has yet to be completed.
- i. **Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership**
No updates.
- j. **Riparian ownership letters/culvert**
Please see 3 above.

A question was raised as to whether we are permitted to use the Highway Surveyors funds to arrange an inspection of the culvert(s). The Clerk advised that she will look into this.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will identify any problem areas where riparian responsibilities have not been addressed and these will be discussed/followed up.

It was noted that School View is being impacted by the new culvert.

- k. **Communication**
Cllr Spanyol asked for this matter to be placed on the Agenda as he had recently been approached by a resident who mentioned that she was going to respond to an email, sent by the Clerk, to which he had no knowledge. Cllr Spanyol asked whether Councillors should have sight of all correspondence.

The Clerk advised that the contents of the email was known to all Councillors as she had been asked to send the email at the previous meeting. The Clerk further advised that she felt it unnecessary to send all communications to the Councillors and typically would only forward an answer/solution to any items she had been asked to deal with or update the Council at the next meeting.

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Cllr Fletcher suggested that a compromise may be if anyone wants to see specific emails/correspondence then these are requested direct from the Clerk and in all other cases, the Clerk will continue to update the Councillors in the normal way.

This was agreed and accepted by the Clerk and all Councillors.

10. **Correspondence**

The Clerk had sent to all Councillors an update in relation to the Local Plan. The Local Plan has been placed on hold pending an update to the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF'). It was considered that the outcome of the NPPF needs to be known before further work is undertaken on the Local Plan to avoid additional costs and a duplication of works.

11. **To agree the next meeting date: 4 November 2024.**

Agreed.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public participation.

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

None.

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

As above.

Meeting closed at 9.06pm

Jo Blackman
Parish Clerk

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