

# Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook    VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Kay Farmbrough

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CASTON**  
**MONDAY 15 MAY 2023**  
**AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

Councillor's present:-        Chris Cook, Mary Howell, Graham Moss

Also present:-                County Councillor Claire Bowes  
                                      5 Members of the Public

1.        **Apologies for absence**  
          DC P Cowen.
2.        **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9 May 2022.**  
          Proposed by Cllr Howell, seconded by Cllr Cook. All voted in favour.
3.        **Chairman's Report from Mr Chris Cook.**

**"Chairman's Report, Caston Parish Council AGM 2023**

Last year's report for the Caston Parish Council AGM was something of 'a tale of wow' regarding village matters, mainly the development of the houses next to the school, the Caston Water Splash and endless problems with highways. However, this past year's work by the PC I think, or I hope, might be graded good to outstanding if OFSTED graded parish councils.

We fought a long a tenacious battle with the forces of Breckland's Planning Department with regard to drainage at the site next to the school. It was a battle we were never likely to win. However, via our written objections and Mary's presentation along with Phil Cowen we made a good and sensible case. Sadly, we were undermined at the last moment by an intervention by our County Councillor. We subsequently made a formal complaint only to have Breckland dismiss it out of hand – no surprises there, but we tried.

Our relations with Norfolk Highways seem to have come on in leaps and bounds. Mainly I suspect because of our joint efforts to curb the excesses of County Broadband as they attempted to ride roughshod over planning, land use, historic monuments and Ofcom's regulations. We also blocked their plans to destroy the view along the Stow Bedon Road with telegraph poles simply to save them a few pounds and repair the village green which they simply dug up without reference to anybody. This fight is still ongoing.

The Dukes Lane drainage problem or 'The Caston Water Splash' as it is known is due for repair in October. It has taken eight years, but who said it would be easy. The PC has also (with our new best friends at Highways) had additional signage added to the village, The Stow Bedon Road and at the end of the Carbrook Road. Looking through the agendas for the past year we have done what we are allowed to do. Maintained parish council land. Maintained and monitored the village playground. Inspected and removed dangerous trees and branches. Discussed and commented where necessary on numerous planning applications. Numerous items that individually don't amount to much but hopefully keep the village of Caston in a better state than we found it.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

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

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I would like to thank Jo for her excellent work as the parish clerk, Tony Ash and his team for Speed Watch, the playground inspection team and the numerous other volunteers for their work in and around Caston. I would also like to thank departing Councillors Kay Farmbrough and John Hill for their work over the past year Being a parish councillor is a thankless task so I am grateful to my remaining fellow councillors for staying the course. Chris Cook – Chairman”.

4. **County Councillor’s report from County Councillor.**

**“Norfolk County Council Budget for 2023/24 approved by councillors**

Norfolk County Council has set its latest budget, which tackles spending pressures and protects key services.

The budget approved today includes:

- A net spending increase of £29.6m to meet rising costs
- A Council Tax increase in line with the Government’s cap of 4.99 per cent – 2.99 per cent for general Council Tax and two per cent for the adult social care precept. This would increase the County Council’s share of band D bills from £1,516.95 to £1,592.64.
- A “significant proportion” of the £59.7m savings coming from “doing things better for less”, including £17m from the first phase of a strategic review of the council

The proposed spending for each department is:

- Adult social services, £249.5m
- Children’s services, £232.6m
- Community and environmental services, £177.1m
- Strategy and transformation, £12.8m
- Finance and commercial services, £35.8m

The same meeting will consider its £956.9m capital investment in buildings and equipment, funded by grants and property sales. In addition to a range of existing schemes, like the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing and investment in special education needs (SEND) schools, there are new investments totalling £35m:

- County Farms refurbishment and carbon reduction schemes (£9.4m)
- The rolling Technology Improvement programme (£8.2m)
- Scottow Enterprise Park refurbishment (£8.6m)
- Estate Buildings Decarbonisation initiatives (£4m)
- Highways improvements (£2.5m)
- Fire and Rescue services equipment and site improvements (£1.2m)
- Expansion of waste recycling sites and services (£0.51m)
- One Million Trees for Norfolk (£0.5m)

**Have your say on the county deal**

A series of events have and are continuing to taking place so you can have your say on a £600 million-plus deal to unlock opportunities to deliver more jobs, housing and investment. Consultation takes place until 20<sup>th</sup> March at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal) on the in-principle county deal devolution agreement that Norfolk County Council signed with the Government last December.

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**£133m for highways and transport in Norfolk over the next year**

Carbon-cutting transport schemes are set for a £29 million boost in Norfolk, despite the tough financial climate.

Norfolk County Council's Cabinet will be considering a forward looking and carbon-cutting transport budget for the new financial year at a meeting on Monday 6 March.

At £133m the 2023/24 highways and transport budget represents a £29m increase on the previous year's budget. Despite inflation being expected to dent the authority's spending power the highway and transport team have been focusing on maintaining and improving the network and continuing strong investment in carbon cutting transport strategies as the council moves towards net zero carbon by 2030.

Details of the location and cost of 120 walking, cycling, and road improvements across the county, and how £45.6m will be spent on maintenance of bridges, roads, drains and paths, are available in the papers for the meeting.

Cabinet will consider the report when it meets at 10am on Monday, 6 March.

**£50m Bus Service Improvement Plan Funding for Norfolk**

Norfolk County Council was only one of around 30 authorities who successfully received an allocation from the Bus Service Improvement Plan from government, receiving one of the largest allocations at £50m. The first £10m phase of this funding was received in November 2022. Through our Enhanced Partnership, we are now working closely with the Bus operators to implement enhanced routes and services as well as reviewing infrastructure and fares to encourage passenger growth and improved bus journey reliability. This should enable bus routes to be more sustainable in the long term. Following the receipt of the first payment, measures have already been implemented, which includes an increased frequency on the Coastliner 36 service, more frequent buses from North Walsham to Norwich and new late night bus services serving Thorpe St Andrew, Thorpe End, Rackheath, Salhouse, Wroxham and Watton.

**Thousands more trees and hedgerows to be planted in Norfolk this winter**

As part of the [1 Million Trees for Norfolk project](#) Norfolk County Council is preparing to plant more than 75,000 young trees and hedges across the county in the months ahead.

In 2019, Norfolk County Council agreed an ambitious scheme to plant a million trees over five-years. The pandemic brought many challenges and caused delays which meant at the end of last year the total planted trees stood at just over 68,000.

Now the project is picking up pace rapidly, and early in 2023 the Council's Hedge Restoration Fund will plant 55,000 hedge and tree plants on six County Farms owned by Norfolk County Council.

The hedges will see improvements in nature connectivity across the farms by filling in gaps in hedgerows. This is particularly good for our wildlife as it helps join up habitats and provides corridors for wildlife to safely travel along. The project is funded by a grant from The Tree Council.

**£1.5m boost for 12 pioneering jobs and skills projects**

From commercial use of seaweed to improving home insulation – 12 projects to boost Norfolk's economy are set to receive £1.5 million from the county council.

Cabinet will consider funding 12 pilot projects to shape Norfolk's economic future, using £1.5 million from the local business rates fund.

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The proposed projects are the first phase of the Norfolk Investment Framework (NIF), which will identify long-term investment priorities for the county, to boost the economy and improve public services.

The county council's cabinet will consider 12 pilot projects, which include:

- Exploring development of a seaweed industry to support food, fertilisers, animal feed, biofuels and bioplastics
- Investigating water storage and desalination and the efficient movement of water supplies around Norfolk
- A digital and creative media centre in Watton, to improve skills and encourage start-up businesses
- Working with colleges to support recruitment and retention of skills tutors, including the development of a bursary to support graduates in taking up tutoring jobs
- Investigating the development of a rooftop solar panel network across greater Norwich
- Carrying out a feasibility study on retrofitting homes to maximise energy efficiency

### **Norfolk's Social Infrastructure Fund gives 10 organisations money to improve community impact**

Norfolk County Council has awarded £770,000 to organisations who will be able to make a large positive impact in the communities in which they operate.

This is the third round of Social Infrastructure Funding, which has provided capital grants to organisations who can use the money to improve facilities for communities and boost the level of local community services. This year's funding pot totalled £1 million, with £225,000 to continue the successful partnership with Norfolk Community Foundation in expanding their Nourishing Norfolk food hubs across the county, and £775,000 available for individual projects to improve communities across Norfolk.

Examples of successful projects this year are:

- Whitlingham Charitable Trust who will get £100,000 to resurface and restore the wheelchair accessible path at Whitlingham Country Park
- North Lynn Methodist Church will get £50,000 to renovate and create new space to become an accessible community asset to host a variety of social events
- Banningham and Colby Community Hall will receive £39,790 to complete refurbishments of the hall to offer a welcoming space to bring the community together
- The Charlotte Harvey Trust in Watton will get £38,000 to refurbish and improve their toilets to make the community centre more accessible and fit for the future
- Castle Acre Village Hall in West Norfolk will receive £37,604 to make improvements such as refitting the kitchen and installing solar panels and batteries to invest in the future of the village
- Aylsham Community Church will receive £28,000 to refurbish the Jubilee Family Centre so it can once again offer a warm, welcoming, and safe space for the community
- Silver Road Community Centre in Norwich will get £18,500 to build accessible toilets and make the well-used community space more welcoming
- Sutton Parochial Church Council will receive £12,000 to add a kitchen and toilet to the church to enable it to be used as a community space

Five projects had their applications fast-tracked during the winter of 2022 to enable them to make the maximum impact as soon as possible.

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**Care farm among six new tenancies for Norfolk’s County Farms**

Norfolk County Council has welcomed six new tenants to its county farms estate later this year. Among the new tenants are two couples who are set to join forces to create a new care farm in west Norfolk. NHS workers Alex and Ed Webster will be working with Ben & Gemma Human to set up Ingleborough Care Farm after they discovered both parties were interested in applying for the same tenancy.

In total the six new tenants have taken on just under 750 acres of county farms land from October last year. This follows a thorough application process that began at the end of last year and recently concluded with an interview with a panel of experts.

**Norfolk Museum Service secures further funding**

In November 2022, Norfolk Museums Service secured £4.126 million of Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation funding for the period 2023-2026. The funding will enable Norfolk Museums Service to deliver new Early Years’ programmes across the County, expand our formal learning offer, deliver new targeted programmes to young people 11-25, along with a range of new health & wellbeing activities for residents of all ages. The funding will also support the delivery of new community learning programmes through the NCC Environment Hub at Gressenhall.

**New Adult Learning Construction Training Facilities open in Norwich and King’s Lynn**

In 2022, Adult Learning’s vision to support the construction industry and Norfolk’s economy by establishing a construction and environmental sustainability curriculum offer for adults in Norfolk, became a reality. A successful tender to the Community Renewal Fund (CRF), which secured £568,000 of central government funding, has enabled Adult Learning to establish two new construction skills training centres in Norwich and King’s Lynn. These two hubs are now, in early 2023, receiving the first adult learners on site.

To gather momentum, whilst the two new sites were under development, in January 2022 Adult Learning opened a temporary construction training room at Wensum Lodge, Norwich and delivered a variety of trades, including plumbing, tiling, brick laying, plastering and carpentry, with 400 adult registrations (January to October 2022). The participation rate of female learners was over 30% which compares to a construction industry participation figure of less than 15% in the UK.

**No Cold Calling Zones introduced**

308 individual No-Cold-Calling Zones (NCCZ) have been set up in the county with 11 new zones being launched in 2022. The 308 NCCZs protect 14,474 individual households across the county.

NCCZs are designated areas where residents have declared that they will not accept traders calling at their homes without an appointment, and act as a deterrent to traders and bogus callers who don’t want to be recognised as working in a particular area. The zones are particularly useful and effective in areas where residents might be at a higher risk from cold calling, such as neighbourhoods with a large number of vulnerable or elderly residents. Creating an NCCZ is an effective way of helping to protect them and send a clear signal that residents do not wish to be approached in their homes.

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NCCZs are effective as demonstrated by the feedback we receive. Households in NCCZs feel safer, cold calling is reduced or eliminated and residents feel better equipped to manage should traders call:

- *“Since becoming a no cold calling zone area myself and my neighbours feel safer”*
- *“On behalf of myself and residents I wish for you to know our inclusion in this scheme has made our lives more comfortable. The cold calling factor has been very minimal since (shortly after) we joined”*
- *“It is a very good idea. We feel much safer”*

Trading Standards follows up all reports of cold calling in an NCCZ, which may simply involve finding out why a trader has ignored the zone but may include more formal action. While there is no law preventing cold calling, consumers have 14 days to cancel contracts which have a value of more than £42 when signed at their home or place of work. Traders who do not issue a cancellation notice allowing the 14-day cooling off period are breaking the law and Trading Standards may be able to take enforcement action in these cases.

### **£1m funding for out of school activity facilities**

Active Norfolk, who are hosted and supported by Norfolk County Council, have secured £1m to support schools to open their facilities outside of school hours to enable local communities to be more active.

Working with the Integrated Care System through 2022, Norfolk County Council will be launching an ongoing programme to enable people to access physical activity opportunities as part of the treatment pathway for long-term conditions such as diabetes, stroke, and cancer. The programme will also build community capacity to support greater equity of access to opportunities for people all across the county.

Working closely with Children’s Services, we provided holiday activities and food at Easter, during the summer holidays and over Christmas, for around 10,000 children in 2022. Around 1 in 5 of those children were those with a disability or SEN. This was delivered by c.100 local community providers and invested c.£2m into local organisations.

### **Adult Learning leads the delivery of numeracy skills of adult residents in Norfolk**

The need nationally to improve the numeracy skills of both children and adults has been highlighted recently both through central government and the media.

Norfolk has received £4.7 million to improve the numeracy skills of adult residents through a government initiative called Multiply. This funding will last until the end of March 2025, and by then our target is to secure 11,000 adult registrations onto Multiply programmes in Norfolk.

Adult Learning is leading the delivery of this major new programme, delivering both in-house and through grant funding arrangements with the colleges and other, smaller organisations and grassroots providers. The funding enables us to work with small groups and even individuals on a one-to-one basis.

The funding targets adults who need support with and lack confidence in their numeracy skills and a wide range of interventions are already taking place across the county. These include:

- Introductory courses which help increase people’s confidence with numbers
- Courses designed to help people understand and manage their money, particularly during the cost-of-living crisis

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- Specific workplace courses, delivered with employers to provide skills relevant to the workplace
- Numeracy courses aimed at parents who want to increase their own skills to be able to better help their children
- Additional maths modules built into existing vocational courses
- Intensive and flexible courses which lead to a Functional Skills Qualification.

While we are in the early stages of the programme, this funding has already made a difference to some of the first learners to complete a course.

**Norfolk to benefit from new Family Hubs and Start for Life funding**

Children and parents in Norfolk are to benefit from a new cradle to career approach to family support.

The government has just announced that Norfolk County Council will be one of 75 local authorities receiving some of the £302m new Family Hubs and Start for Life funding.

It means the county will receive approximately £6m to further develop its prevention and early help services for families with children and young people up to the age of 19 (25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities).

This is not about introducing a new service or opening new buildings but to allow the county to further develop support for families. Using a whole family approach, the Family Hubs network will give families a single access point to support services that are integrated across health (physical and mental health) and social care as well as voluntary and community organisations and education.

Whilst there will be at least seven physical Family Hub sites in existing community buildings, which families will be able to walk into, services will be delivered largely on an outreach basis. The Family Hub approach will bring together a wide range of services so that families can access support in the spaces and places that they live and visit, such as libraries and community buildings.

The Family Hubs network will provide simple access to ‘Start for Life’ services, providing the best support for babies in the first 1,001 critical days from conception to the age of two, setting them up to maximise their potential for lifelong emotional and physical wellbeing including:

- Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships support for families who are expecting a baby or have a baby under the age of two
- Infant feeding support services
- Parenting support for parents of children aged 0-2
- Home learning environment support for parents of children aged 3-4”

Cllr Howell raised the £70K which has been allocated to assist with the flooding problems experienced in Caston especially in the Dukes Lane area. Cllr Howell said that the Council are delighted to have been allocated the money and felt the face to face meeting with Highways was very helpful and there was a good rapport.

It is recognised that it is now a case of managing expectations and informing the residents of the works that will be carried out.

Cllr Howell mentioned that Highways have however confirmed that the £70K did not cover the area around the school.

CC Bowes advised that she was happy to help to spread the word to residents and she would be meeting with Highways the following day to obtain further information.

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5. **District Councillor's report from District Councillor**  
"District Councillors' report All Saints and Wayland Ward, Breckland Council May 2023

Sarah Suggitt and Phil Cowen are privileged and honoured to have been re elected to represent the interests of the electorate in the All Saints and Wayland Ward for Breckland Council. We are proud to have played a part in helping to deliver Breckland Council's many achievements of the past four years, details of which can be found here, Breckland Council - Annual Achievements Report 2021-2022 and we look forward to continuing to work with residents, communities and business within the ward to continue the work that Breckland undertook over the past four years in areas such as:

1. Working to support our local environment through the Breckland 2035 initiative delivering for example,
  - a. A reduction in Breckland Council's CO2 emissions by 437 tonnes.
  - b. £850,000 investment in LED streetlights.
  - c. Saved energy at our leisure centres through LED lighting and highly efficient pool covers.
  - d. Successfully prosecuted 100 illegal fly tippers.
  - e. Reduced landfill by collecting small electrical items and batteries alongside our weekly refuse and recycling service.
  - f. Awarded a contract for EV charging points in Swaffham and Watton.
  - g. Planted 700 trees in Attleborough and Watton.
2. Helping our district to thrive by,
  - a. Invested £750,000 to support our High Streets.
  - b. Funded a new electricity sub station in Snetterton to enable economic growth in the heart of Breckland.
  - c. Helped business to bounce back from the pandemic by allocating £4.2 million of funding.
  - d. Supported over 45 new enterprises and created more than 65 jobs within our successful start-up programme.
  - e. Secured £1.6 million for local projects to boost skills and training.
3. Inspired local communities through,
  - a. Investing £4.6 million in emergency housing provision.
  - b. Helped domestic abuse survivors with £100,000 support for the Daisy programme.
  - c. Introduced a low-cost local food store and community food bus.
  - d. Trained over 100 residents to become mental health champions.
  - e. Provided a new handyman scheme to allow vulnerable residents to stay in their own homes.
  - f. Awarded over £120,000 to local community projects.
  - g. Continuing to build new energy efficient homes for life across the district through our joint venture company, Breckland Bridge.
  - h. Supported local youth by launching a £10,000 educational bursary scheme.
4. We have changed the way the Council works through our working smarter programme including,
  - a. Made our website more user friendly.
  - b. Introduced a 24/7 chatbot to make the service more accessible to all.
  - c. Made £344,000 of true efficiencies in the way the Council operates.
  - d. Maintained and increased our commercial property portfolio income to help to fund our services to residents.
  - e. Processed over £5 million in Council Tax rebates.
  - f. Developed Leadership Development Programmes to increase skill levels of residents.

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The Council, in looking to the next four years, intends to build upon all of the above by:

1. Keeping the district charge in the overall council tax bill low through
  - a. Strong financial management
  - b. Providing well run and efficient local services
2. Supporting our communities and our elderly and vulnerable residents by
  - a. Providing a 24/7 service that's available to residents when they may need it.
  - b. Working with partners to deliver dedicated mental health support.
  - c. Providing dedicated officers to support victims of domestic abuse.
3. Protecting our green spaces and environment through
  - a. A positive drive to net zero by 2035.
  - b. Increasing EV charging points across the district.
  - c. Continuing to prosecute fly tippers through the courts.
4. Reducing crime and protecting residents from anti-social behaviour by
  - a. Continuing to help fund county lines enforcement.
  - b. Investing in CCTV.
  - c. Working closely with the police to support rural residents.
5. Supporting our local economy including
  - a. Providing start up grants for qualifying businesses.
  - b. Helping to create skilled and high-quality jobs.
  - c. Delivering opportunities for employment across the district.
6. Providing good quality local services through
  - a. Increased waste collection services at a lower unit cost.
  - b. Investing in emergency housing.
  - c. Reviewing contracts to ensure best value for money is achieved.

Finally, we would like to add our congratulations to the many parish councillors who have been returned to represent their local communities within Breckland. As your Ward representatives we are here to be the bridge between you and Breckland Council and our contact details can be found on the Council website. Sarah Suggitt and Phil Cowen”

6. **Financial Reports.**

The AGAR for 2022-23 has been submitted and the balances at the close of business on 31 March 2023 were as follows:-

Caston Parish Council £6,763.69  
Highway Surveyors £14,467.80

The precept for the financial year 2023-24 is £10,600.

7. **Speedwatch report from co-ordinator.**

No annual report available.

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8. **Caston Village Hall Charitable Trust.**

**“Caston Village Hall 2022-2023 Chairman’s Annual Report**

**Overview**

Following the easing of Coron 19 Virus restrictions the activities of the hall gradually restarted, most notably the Friday morning ‘Drop In’ coffee morning and WI meetings but return of the weekly Art Club and Yoga soon followed.

The third phase of the hall improvement building works which commenced in April 2022 progressed to conclusion in November 2022 though the fitting out of the Bar facility completed a little later. However, there was change in the social attitude of the village following Covid with may fold cautious to return to activities. The once vibrant Caston Photographic Club has never restarted.

**Phase Three Building Improvement Completed.**

With some intrepidation due to material cost fluctuations. work commenced at the end of April 2022 in order to miss a 25% increase in concrete prices for the foundation work. The cost of materials and labour was fluctuating greatly at this time and no contractor would give a firm contract price. We kept faith with Paul Lincoln builders who had constructed the first two phases of the improvements. The work was eventually completed at end November and the construction costs were just maintained within budget. Work then was carried out constructing a Bar facility with services and the hall trust was very grateful to Steve Farmbrough and John Hill who between them completed the installation of this most useful asset.

**Activity revival**

The increasing use of the hall continues to improve with several notable events including quizzes, Whist Drives, Activities organised by the local churches and Caston WI. Attendance at the Friday morning “Drop In” has gradually improved over recent months. This regular event is only possible thanks to the many volunteers from our community who provide confectionary and man the kitchen.

**Finance**

The finance for the construction work and running of the hall has been greatly assisted by several grants. Deputy Chairman John Hill has done an excellent job identifying and securing various grants which have enabled the works to be successfully completed and together with our treasurer, David Leach, were able to secure a modest commercial loan designed for community halls. This loan, together with a donation from Caston WI, enabled us to purchase new chairs with storage trollies and some tables have which greatly improved the storing and safety in arranging of these items for events. Full details of the annual accounts are in a separate Treasurer’s Report on the hall’s website ([www.castonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.castonvillagehall.co.uk)).

**Ongoing Activity**

The hall continues to play an important role in the social and community life of Caston and on 7th May 2023 hosted and organised a most memorable afternoon tea to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Many folk from the village, under guidance from members of the hall committee and Caston WI, were involved in its preparation, hall decoration and catering for the event which was attended by over 80 parishioners and friends.

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**Summary**

Many activities are being planned for the coming months and the Trustees and I are extremely appreciative of all the work done by members of the Trust committee, including John and Dawn Hill, Lynsey and Phillip Doughty, Treasurer David Leach, secretary Sue Tanner. Thanks also to Kay Farmbrough and Stephanie Blincow who oversee the Friday "Drop In" and book stall. A special welcome too to Lynsey Doughty who is making a great contribution to the running of the Village Hall and sincere thanks to John and Wendy Chapman who have retired from running the hall whist drives after 26 years.

**Team effort**

The regular running of Caston Village Hall is totally achieved with volunteers for which the Trust is grateful. As chairman of the managing trust, I am continually appreciative of all the support, efforts and contribution made by our active committee members and trustees who oversee the running of the hall, which makes such a valuable contribution to the social life of Caston village. David Blincow, Chairman Caston Village Hall Charitable Trust"

9. **Open Forum for public participation.**

A member of the public questioned CC Bowes claiming that the £70k allocation was to cover works in the school area at a recent Planning Committee meeting when this was known to be untrue. CC Bowes refused to discuss the matter as this is part of a Standards Investigation and would not comment.

A member of the public also questioned CC Bowes regarding her lack of attendance at Parish Council meetings. From recollection the member of the public stated that this was in the region of one meeting per year and asked whether this is likely to improve. CC Bowes stated that there are reasons for this but she refused to explain. CC Bowes stated that she is not a member of the Parish Council and is not under an obligation to attend. However, she will try and attend when she can.

10. **The agree the date for the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Monday 13 May 2024**  
Agreed.

Jo Blackman  
Parish Clerk

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