

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2025 AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

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

Also present: Four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received and accepted from Rob Trown.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2025.**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2025 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.**
A member of the public asked whether they could purchase some plants for the planter on the Village Green. The Clerk advised that she was awaiting an update on who would be taking over on the Planting Team but saw no reason why this planter could not be planted now and that the invoice should be passed to the Clerk for processing. The Clerk further advised that she had been in discussions to replace the four planters previously discussed and this was ongoing. The Clerk will also investigate who is going to be the point of contact on the Planting Team going forward.

A member of the public was enquiring whether letters would be sent this year to those residents with riparian responsibilities. Cllr Howell advised that she had today provided the Clerk with the information and letters would be prepared shortly.

4. **Guest Speakers**
District Councillor Phil Cowen was in attendance and later provided this written update.

"District Councillors' report October 2025

At Council on October 9th a motion proposed that Council should rescind the 2019 decision to declare a climate emergency. After much discussion there were only 5 members who supported the motion and thus it was defeated. Breckland continues to ensure that our day to day running of the council and all of the services we undertake meet our Breckland 2035 agenda.

Devolution

Government will press ahead with elections for a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk in May 2026 provided that both Norfolk and Suffolk County councils vote in favour. To date Suffolk has voted 'yes' to the proposal, Norfolk CC has yet to vote. This would see a Mayoral combined authority with strategic responsibility for planning, infrastructure and more in the two county areas.

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

Local Government Reorganisation

Norfolk authorities submitted 3 proposals to the minister on 26th September. Breckland in partnership with Kings Lynn, Great Yarmouth, Norwich City, North Norfolk and Broadland have proposed a three unitary model whilst the County have proposed a single unitary and South Norfolk a two unitary model. The three unitary model shows that each authority would deliver:

- Unitaries based on smaller than most new Council sizes, but not massive outliers
- Unitaries that are about average in terms of delivering a reduction in Cllr numbers
- Unitaries that are mid-range in terms of estimated costs and thus delivers better credibility.
- Unitaries that are mid-range in terms of estimated benefits

The proposals that we have promoted are focussed very much on place awareness and knowledge of local issues and challenges and a more representative balance of population to elected member numbers, factors that the survey we undertook resonated most with those who responded, and we had a substantially larger response from the public than others.

Local Plan

After much frustration following the mandatory housing figures presented to Breckland, we have prepared an amended proposition that will be taken to a cabinet meeting, scheduled for the 20th October, for discussion prior to the final version being debated at full council. If approved, this will then be sent on to the minister/planning inspectorate to proceed through the formal phases of analysis, consultation and investigation. The cabinet papers have been published and contain more detail than would be appropriate in this monthly synopsis.

Ward matters:

- Hook 2 Sisters
This site is subject to an interim stop notice that expires on October 15th and requires that the applicant submit appropriate planning applications for the proposed/partly constructed works. Breckland has also advised that they will be required to prepare an Environmental Impact assessment. The site is being monitored on a weekly basis to ensure that further works are not undertaken. The operator has acknowledged that an EIA will be required.
- Cherry Tree Farm
Breckland advised the applicant that an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to support the application and the deadline for receipt has now passed. Breckland will take appropriate action as a result.
- Eastern attachments
It is understood that at the moment the planning matters are outside of the remit of Breckland and we await decisions on what further actions the Planning inspectorate will undertake. It is also understood that Eastern Attachments are in detailed discussions regarding an alternative site remote from Griston that will enable them to vacate in the fullness of time.
- Breckles Moor
I am advised that the tree officer will revert to the Parish Council this week.

Cllrs Philip Cowen and Sarah Suggitt"

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5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report**

Cllr Spanyol reported the following:

There were three Speedwatch sessions in September. Two early morning sessions and one at 4pm.

14% of vehicles were recorded as exceeding 35mph. 658 vehicles passed by and 46% of those were exceeding the speed limit.

There are three Speedwatch sessions planned for October. The times are now becoming dictated by daylight.

There is a Speedwatch AGM in November.

There have been two new recruits to the Team and the circular regarding Speedwatch is now ready to be sent out.

The SAM2 machine which was recording data in 1970 is now recording correctly. The Attleborough Road was busy and recorded 17% of vehicles exceeding 35mph. Some were travelling between 55 and 65mph. All details are passed to the Police.

Typically morning and evenings seem to record the most speeding vehicles. Northacre recorded 6% of vehicles exceeding 35pmh.

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

None.

7. **Planning Applications**

- a. **PL/2025/1369/HOU** - 1 Coronation Terrace, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DL - Proposed rear single storey extension to semi detached 2 storey house. **Undecided. No objections.**
- b. **PL/2025/0683/FMIN** – Caston Primary School The Street, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DD - Proposed flat roof rear single storey extension. **Undecided.**
- c. **PL/2025/1106/PAH** - 1 Coronation Terrace, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DL - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Larger Home Extension The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A - (3.45m, 3.7m height, 2.64m eaves). **Withdrawn.**
- d. **PL/2025/1077/PIP** - Fallowfield Northacre, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DG - Permission in principle for a phased development of 4-5 self build dwellings. **It was reported that this application had been refused planning permission due to the flood risk, being outside of the settlement boundary and does not follow the linear pattern of buildings in Northacre.**
- e. **PL/2025/0376/FMIN** - Church Farm The Green, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DB - Erection of a stock shed to replace existing temporary structures. **Granted with conditions.**
- f. **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.

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DC Cowen advised that there have been active discussions for an alternative location which will better suit their needs with a purpose-built facility whilst remaining in the Breckland area. The legal process will continue to run its course.

g. Stow Bedon & Breckles Chicken Farm

See the report of the District Councillors re Hook 2 Sisters at 4 above.

The Chairman of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council has requested support in this matter. Caston Parish Council agreed that they would assist, where possible.

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 2025 in the sum of £271.96.
- B. To approve payment to BT for broadband at the Village Hall in the sum of £41.27 (incl VAT) – paid by Direct Debit. (New contract being negotiated).

Both payments were approved.

9. Matters to report:-

A. Financial Balances

Caston Parish Council £16,071.64/Highway Surveyors £15,875.79

B. Playground

- New piece of play equipment
A two seated rocker was suggested. The Council will place a notice in the Waylander and also on the Noticeboards to obtain the views of residents and to gauge if there is a wish for it. The Clerk will try and establish the longevity of the existing equipment.
- Additional tree works
The Clerk advised that we had received a quote for the additional works discussed at the last meeting. It was agreed that we would go ahead with the additional works to the trees in the play area and also works on the large beech tree on Coronation Terrace, at the same time, at a combined cost of £1,500 plus VAT. Monies had been set aside in reserves in the financial budget for 2024/25 for any works required.

C. Village Planters update

The Clerk will follow up on this and try and establish who is the point of contact now and also contact the farmer to arrange a convenient time to carry out the removal of the old and placement of the new planters.

D. Riparian responsibilities

Cllr Howell sent through the list of addresses and the draft letter to the Clerk this evening. The Clerk will now prepare the letters.

E. Property Flood Resilience Questionnaire

The Clerk advised of a questionnaire which had been received from the Property Flood Resilience Group. Cllr Howell will complete the same and sent it to Councillors for approval.

F. Highways

The Clerk advised that the Rangers have reappeared but all matters are to be reported in the normal way through the Norfolk CC website. The following were reported and the Clerk will follow up.

- Flaxmoor House – weeds in the gutter to be cleared
- First drain in Stow Bedon Road is blocked
- Chase any road safety ideas for the end of Northacre

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- G. **Co-option**
No applicants.
- H. **Liaison with School**
No update.
- I. **Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership**
No update.
- J. **Local Government Reform and Devolution**
See report of the District Councillor above.
- K. **Local Plan**
See report of the District Councillor above.

10. **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported the following correspondence:

- Thank you letter from the Village Hall for donation of £570.
- Acquisition of Go-East Anglia (Konectbus)
- Update on the Highway Ranger service
- An email had also been received from DCMC asking for the support of the Parish Council. This was a very last minute email sent but it was unclear to what it referred. The deadline passed the following day. Clerk to acknowledge and ask for more information to be included in future.

11. **To agree the next meeting date: Monday 3 November 2025.**

Agreed.

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**

None.

Meeting closed at 8.53pm

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk

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