

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 7 APRIL 2025
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

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

Also present: Six members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**
Cllr Sarah Fletcher.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 2025.**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 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.**
None.
4. **Guest Speakers**
None.
5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report**
Cllr Spanyol reported the following:

"Three speedwatch sessions were conducted with just under 200 vehicles monitored and approximately 11% exceeding 35mph.
The Norfolk Community Speedwatch Team have agreed to moving the Stow Bedon Road site to the drive of Witchwood."

The pole at School View which holds the SAM2 sign was unfortunately hit by an agricultural vehicle. The SAM2 sign was in situ at the time but fortunately it has not been damaged. The pole however is rusted through and requires replacing. The Clerk will obtain a quote from Westcotec for a replacement pole and will also check the Parish Council insurance to see if it is possible to claim for damage.
6. **To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members.**
None.
7. **Planning Applications**
 - a. **PL/2025/0405/HOU - Old Barn Cottage, The Street, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DD - Demolish existing sun room extension & replace with slightly larger sun room extension. *The proposed extension is at the rear of the house and has no adverse impact. The Council therefore supports this application.***

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

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

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- b. **PL/2025/0044/HOU** - Old Barn Cottage The Street, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DD - Proposed single storey rear extension in addition to flat roof placement with additional flat roof light over the existing kitchen. *Granted with conditions.*
- c. **PL/2025/0397/DCA** - The Street, Caston - Discharge of condition 12 on pp 3PL/2020/0262/O (allowed at appeal ref no APP/F2605/W/21/3268777). *There was some confusion as to Condition 12 and it is thought it actually refers to the culvert. This will be checked and comments obtained.*
- d. **PL/2025/0376/FMIN** - Church Farm The Green, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DB - Erection of a stock shed to replace existing temporary structures. *No objections.*
- e. **PL/2025/0121/FMIN** - School Lodge The Green, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DB - Erection of three bedroom dwelling. *The Parish Council continues to have the same concerns as previous applications for this site namely the entrance/exit and visibility display, outside of the settlement boundary and the trees on the site, some of which are subject to Tree Preservation Orders. The Clerk to submit comments accordingly.*
- f. **PL/2025/0226/LB** - Thatched Cottages The Street, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DD - Remove existing render and re-render external envelope of building Remove existing plaster to parlour end Excavate parlour end floor and install capillary break and limecrete floor; re-tile Make and install complete new suite of windows to three elevations Replaster internally ceiling and walls to parlour end Limewash all New thatch skim and new ridge. *No objections.*
- g. **PL/2024/1193/FMAJ** – HM Prison Wayland, Griston, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 6RL - Full Planning Application for demolition of existing structures and the construction of a four storey (T60) houseblock, new multi-faith/education building, new kitchen and minor extensions to and refurbishment of existing ancillary buildings, energy centre, new internal security fence, creation of an all-weather sports pitch within a secure perimeter fence together with new pedestrian footpath, relocation of horticultural polytunnels, car parking and associated landscaping. *Comments submitted.*
- h. **PL/2024/1056/FMIN** - Land To The North Of School View, The Street, Attleborough, NR17 1FP - Proposed 3No bedroom detached house & garage. *Concerns were raised as it looks like the footings for this property has already started and should be reported to the Planning Department accordingly. It was noted that the Statutory Consultee Comments from the Flood Authority appear to have disappeared from the portal. Clerk to follow up.*
- i. **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. *Cllr Spanyol will be attending this meeting and will revert in due course.*
- j. **Local Plan Update**
It was noted that this remains in process. There is lots of information in relation to the Local Plan Review on Breckland Council website.
<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/19942/Local-Plan-Full-Update-2024-2042>
- k. **Call for Sites 2025**
The Call for Sites currently shows the following for Caston:
- Sites approved - none.
- Sites under consideration – one.

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Concerns were again raised in relation to the new planning portal. Cllr Spanyol has already raised concerns with both Simon Wood, Director of Planning and Building Control and to District Councillor Phil Cowen. This was done in Cllr Spanyol's personal capacity and it is felt that a formal complaint should now be sent to Simon Wood and our local MP, George Freeman with copies to both DC Phil Cowen and DC Sarah Suggitt. The Clerk will write accordingly.

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 March 2025 in the sum of £263.47.
- B. To approve payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for reimbursement of Microsoft 365 renewal in the sum of £84.99.
- C. To approve payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for use of home office in the sum of £50.00.
- D. To approve payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for reimbursement of printing expenses in the sum of £11.99 per month for the months of November 2024 to January 2025, in the sum of £35.97.
- E. To approve payment to Norfolk Parish Training & Support Annual Subscription in the sum of £116 (invoice 21481).
- F. To approve payment to BT for broadband at the Village Hall in the sum of £30.38 (incl VAT) – paid by Direct Debit.
- G. To ratify reimbursement payment to Brian Booker for SSL Certificate for Caston On-line in the sum of £28.80 (incl VAT).

All payments were approved.

9. **Matters to report.**

- A. **Emails**
The Clerk advised that she had received a notice from Hostworld to advise that we were nearing capacity on our email storage. This is with the extra storage purchased last year. The Clerk reminded Councillors to delete any junk mail and recurring messages and to remember to delete contents from their deleted folders.
- B. **Village Planters**
Cllr Fletcher had reported to the Clerk that the initial four planters are now ready and they need to be stored until they are ready to be planted out. A member of the public agreed to store two of the planters and Councillor Cook will store the other two.

There was also a question raised regarding compost and where/when this would be purchased from. Cllr Fletcher has more information regarding this.

The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Fletcher on these two points.

An invoice is awaited in relation to the planters.

- C. **Financial Balances**
£10,575.97 Parish Council / £15,613.97 Highway Surveyors
- D. **Playground**
 - *Deep clean* – it was agreed that we would seek to have a further deep clean of the play area. Clerk to obtain up-to-date quote and likely timescale.
 - *Stones/debris* – it has been reported that stones and debris from the play area is being collected and placed on to the play equipment. Whilst we appreciate this is children having fun, a gentle reminder that this is not to be encouraged. Clerk to place a notice on Facebook.

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- E. **Liaison with School**
Nothing to report.
 - F. **Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership**
Nothing to report.
 - G. **Local Government Reform and Devolution**
Breckland have produced some publications which have been sent to households.
Comments can be made until 13 April (Norfolk County Council website).
10. **Correspondence**
None.
11. **To agree the next meeting date: Wednesday 14 May 2025.**
Agreed. To include AGM.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

12. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2.**
None.

Cllrs Howell and Spanyol attended a Q&A session hosted by the EDP with Sam Chapman-Allen, Leader of Breckland Council. It was quite an interesting session and many issues were raised. A high percentage were related to Thetford and Dereham. Views were given on planning issues and as a direct result Sam Chapman-Allen has agreed to meet with the residents of Griston next week.

Barnham Broom was sold on the 13th March.

It was worth attending.

13. **Matters for future discussion to be noted**
None.

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk

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