

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

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

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

Also present: Three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**
None.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 June 2025.**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 June 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 advised that the plaque had fallen off the village sign on the Green. This will be cleaned and Cllr Trown will refit.

A member of the public raised an issue, experienced at both ends of Northacre, where it is very difficult to pull out due to poor visibility. A request was put forward to enquire whether it would be possible to have mirrors installed. The Clerk advised that she would contact Highways in this regard. It was noted that the Parish Partnership Scheme does not cover highway mirrors and this would need to be funded by the Parish Council.
4. **Guest Speakers**
The Clerk read the June report received from P Cowen, District Councillor.

"District Councillor report June 2025

Breckland continues to lead the response to the government's call for proposals for unitary authority status in Norfolk on behalf of 6 authorities, Breckland, Broadland, Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn, North Norfolk and Norwich City. The proposal being developed would see three Unitary Authorities established for Norfolk centred on the three largest settlements, Kings Lynn in the West, Great Yarmouth in the East and Norwich in the centre.

This approach would establish a more manageable grouping in both population size and geography with, perhaps more importantly, more localised representation and knowledge of the 'patch' compared with the alternatives of a single or two Unitary model.

Whilst this work is undertaken in readiness for submission to the Minister in September, Breckland continues with business as usual; we are still mandated to provide all of the statutory services and by choice those more discretionary services to individuals, communities and businesses until the Minister advises that with the impending change and, significantly, the election of the new Mayor in May 2026 some of the duties and responsibilities are passed onwards to alternative service providers.

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

Breckland is ahead of the game with regard to domestic food collection; vehicles are on order as are the requisite containers for residents to collect food waste. This is a service yet to commence although our commercial food waste collection is already underway.

At Cabinet today we reported that the year end figures for 2024-2025 showed a surplus despite challenging areas within the organisation such as a significant reduction in planning and building control income and higher costs associated with temporary accommodation and housing.

The local plan process continues apace with local communities being involved in the process so that we can draw on a bottom up approach to delivering the 903 houses that the minister requires us to provide year on year through the next local plan period.

Cllrs Sarah Suggitt and Phil Cowen - June 2025".

5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report**

Cllr Spanyol reported the following:

"SAM2 report for 9th May to 23rd June 2025

The Attleborough road SAM2 had a date malfunction (it thought it was 1970) and the record was also incomplete with too few rows on the spreadsheet and thus a low number of vehicles for this site. However, the % exceeding 35mph was just under 17% which is high.

The Northacre data showed just under 11,000 vehicles with around 8% exceeding 35 mph.

A total of four sessions were held including one early morning (07:30) and two late afternoon (17:00).

Mill House on The Street at 5pm to 6pm continues to provide the highest number and % of >35mph.

In total 523 vehicles were recorded and 54 (ca. 10%) exceeded 35mph".

Four sessions are planned for July.

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

None.

7. **Planning Applications**

- A. **PL/2025/0573/HOU** – Ambazac House, Northacre, Caston, NR17 1DG – Proposed two bay cart lodge, proposed single storey side extension, proposed single storey extension linking garage and house, proposed amends to rear single storey roof replacing hip roof with parapet and glazed balcony off first floor master bedroom. **Granted with conditions.**
- B. **PL/2025/0444/PIP** – Land adjoining Fallowfield, Northacre, Caston, Attleborough, NR17 1DG – Permission in Principle for a phased development of 4-5 self build dwellings. **Refused.**
- 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). **Discharged.**
- D. **PL/2025/0376/FMIN** - Church Farm The Green, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DB - Erection of a stock shed to replace existing temporary structures. **Undecided.**
- E. **PL/2025/0121/FMIN** - School Lodge The Green, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DB - Erection of three bedroom dwelling. **Refused.**

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- F. **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. **Undecided - comments submitted.**
- G. **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. **Appeal dismissed.**

Cllr Spanyol reported that following the hearing, he believes his email was taken into consideration which explained that on investigation the alternative Snetterton site does have sufficient power capacity, something denied by the Applicant. The Applicant has four weeks left to take the matter to the High Court. The site at Attleborough has been flattened and they are now operating illegally.

There is one additional application which has been received:-

- H. **PL/2025/0948/HOU** – Beech Leigh Stow Bedon Road, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DN - New replacement conservatory. **No objections.**

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 June 2025 in the sum of £263.47.
- B. To approve reimbursement payment to H Lindsey for plants in the sum of £12.47.
- C. To approve payment to BT for broadband at the Village Hall in the sum of £30.38 (incl VAT) – paid by Direct Debit.

All payments were approved.

9. **Matters to report.**

- A. **Financial Balances**
£13,599.95 Caston Parish Council
£15,746.41 Highway Surveyors
- B. **Playground**
The Clerk explained that she had two quotes for the tree works and was expecting a third. The quotes ranged from £820 plus VAT to £1,140 plus VAT.
It was agreed that the Clerk would await the third quote and take a view on price and/or timescales and instruct accordingly.
- C. **Village Planters**
Cllr Cook has provided details of the amount of compost required. A member of the public put forward details of someone who may be willing to carry out the replacement of the planters, fill with compost and remove the old planters from site. The Clerk to follow up.
- D. **Co-option**
Two Councillors are urgently required. Clerk to post Facebook request.
- E. **Liaison with School**
Nothing to report.

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F. Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership

The draft report was sent round and details published in the Waylander. Nothing further to report at the current time.

G. Local Government Reform and Devolution

Cllrs Spanyol/Moss attended a meeting on the 24th June hosted by Breckland Council. The officer base will remain similar however the number of Councillors/Directors may reduce. Further details can be found on the new website www.futurenorfolk.co.uk

The final submission will be 26 September.

H. Local Plan

Cllr Spanyol had a recent meeting with Gemma Manthorpe at Breckland Council who confirmed that houses with planning permission but not yet started are included within the numbers. She confirmed that the old target was 600 houses and the new target is 900 houses. There is currently permission for in the region of 11,000 properties but it is unknown how many of these will be built.

The current Call for Sites includes both previous and new allocations. There are 77 at Griston and 5 at Caston.

10. Correspondence

- Caston PCC had written requesting a donation towards the churchyard upkeep. It was agreed a donation of £450 would be made.
- Reports had been received about damage being caused to the mature trees behind the hedge on Coronation Terrace possibly by children playing. Whilst the Council accepts that children may play and climb trees a polite request will be placed in the Waylander to deter such behaviour.
- The Parish Partnership Scheme is running again and the Clerk will forward the email to all Councillors for consideration.

12. To agree the next meeting date: Monday 1 September 2025.

Agreed.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

13. Participation and questions from the public – session 2.

None.

14. Matters for future discussion to be noted

None.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk

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