

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 1 JUNE 2026
 AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

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

Also present: County Councillor Jack White and District Councillor Phil Cowen

Members of the Public: 1

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2026.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2026 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 if the small bin on the inside of the bus shelter by the school could be removed. The Clerk and Cllr Howell remembered this had been raised before but could not remember the outcome. The Clerk will check previous Minutes.

A member of the public raised the white lines by the Village Green/Attleborough Road which have become very feint. CC Jack White advised that he would be meeting with Highways shortly to discuss various issues and will raise this.

Further, the signage in the village is very green with algae and CC Jack White will also raise this with Highways.

4. Guest Speakers

CC Jack White introduced himself as the new County Councillor for Caston having been appointed following the recent elections.

CC White advised that there was not a great deal to report at the moment as he was getting to grips with the role. He reported that he has also been appointed the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. CC White advised that he had previously been in the military and latterly worked in Social Care. He is a speaker in AI and Business Management and is also a Watton Town Councillor.

DC Phil Cowen welcomed the new County Councillor. Breckland Council are continuing to carry out business as usual with two distinct roles. Breckland Council continue to fulfil their statutory obligations whilst still preparing for Local Government Reform.

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

The County Council are questioning the Minister whether Local Government Reform should go ahead. Breckland Council tried to change the decision of the Minister two years ago.

However, the Council has to work on the basis that it will happen under the three model selected.

The model needs to be developed, and parameters will be established for unitary status.

Council Tax harmonisation – this will likely rise under the new model.

Drainage levy – currently valid in King's Lynn – it is unknown what will happen in this regard.

May 2027 will see elections for a shadow authority to start paving the way to Reform.

Local Plan – Regulation 19 is continuing and the Plan will eventually merge with the King's Lynn Local Plan

Food Waste – North of the District will begin collecting food waste at the beginning of September with the South to follow from 21st September.

5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report**

Cllr Spanyol reported the following:

There is no Speedwatch data as yet for this month.

Two sessions were held in May. Stow Bedon Road reported 3% of vehicles travelling in excess of 35mph. Northacre reported 15% of vehicles travelling in excess of 35mph.

Four sessions have been planned for June.

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

None.

7. **Planning Applications**

- a. **PL/2026/0649/FMIN** - RED LION INN The Green, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DB - Change of use of an existing outbuilding to a small-scale ancillary food sales area for the display and sale of locally sourced produce. *After discussion, no objections were raised.*
- b. **Appeal** against **PL/2025/1077/PIP** – Fallowfield, Northacre, NR17 1DG – Permission in principle for a phased development of a 4-5 self build dwellings. *Comments have been submitted.*
- c. **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. *There has been a decision to approve this application. However, there are lots of conditions which have been imposed on the site. There are several time restrictions and lots of the decisions have to be approved by Breckland. There is relevant mitigation regarding noise, fumes and dust. Fumes particularly remain a concern. There will be constrained working hours. Breckland Council will do everything within their powers to enforce and ensure all constraints are kept to.*

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

- d. **Hook 2 Sisters Application – Great Hockham.** *DC Cowen advised that they have reduced the number of buildings. The risk is that these types of sites will be taken out of Local Planning remit as the food industry have lobbied the Minister stressing that food production is significant and should fall outside of the Local/District remit.*
8. **Finance – to approve and report the following expenditure.**
- To ratify salary payment including holiday allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the month of May 2026 in the sum of £271.96.
 - To approve payment to the clerk for reimbursement of postage costs for internal audit in the sum of £15.95.
 - To approve payment to Roger Canwell for the internal audit in the sum of £60.00.
 - To ratify payment to BT for broadband at the Village Hall in the sum of £43.14 (incl VAT) – paid by Direct Debit.

All payments were approved.

9. **To discuss, propose and vote on the following subjects:-**
- To adopt Receipts and Payments Schedule, Balance Sheet and Bank Reconciliation for Caston Parish Council for the financial year 2025/26.**
Receipts and Payments Schedule, Balance Sheet and Bank Reconciliation for Caston Parish Council for the financial year 2025/26 were duly adopted and signed by the Chairman, Clerk and RFO.
 - To adopt the Balance Sheet for Highway Surveyors for the financial year 2025/26.**
The Balance Sheet for Highways Surveyors for the financial year 2025/26 were duly adopted and signed by the Chairman, Clerk and RFO.
 - To approve, sign and complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/6.**
The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 was duly approved, signed and completed by the Chairman, Clerk and RFO.

10. **Matters to report**

- Financial Balances.**
Caston Parish Council £11,595.42 / Highways Surveyors £16,202.76
- Defibrillator.**
The Clerk advised that she had investigated possible grants for a new defibrillator however, all details found to date are for installing a brand new machine, not replacing an old one. The Clerk also advised that she had found a company that rent machines which may be worth considering but it was thought that this would likely not be cost effective. Clerk to investigate. CC White suggested that it may be worth contacting local businesses to see if they would sponsor the purchase of a replacement defibrillator.
- Footpaths.**
Cllr Spanyol had previously reported the condition of the second path and has contacted Highways to discuss this. When the weather improves, Cllr Spanyol will attempt to walk some more of the path and revert.
- Village Hall.**
Cllr Cook advised that he attended the AGM for the Village Hall. It was noted that this meeting had not been advertised (as is required by the Charity Commission) and it was only by chance that the Parish Council was made aware of the AGM at their last meeting. Cllr Cook advised that he was made very welcome although the Committee were somewhat surprised to see him. The Committee were shocked that the Parish Council/Cllr Cook had received comments regarding the £75 charge for the Village Hall bar. The Committee took on board the comments made and will consider this further. P Doughty was appointed as the new Chairman. The Clerk will write to the new Chairman and welcome him to his new position.

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

- e. **Asset Register – update.**
The Clerk provided Cllr Spanyol with a printed version of an old Asset Register from 2015. A lot of the information is no longer relevant, but it is helpful as a starting point. Cllr Moss also expressed an interest to work alongside Cllr Spanyol in updating the Register. The Clerk will continue to work through the current copy and update the information where possible.
- f. **Phone box refurbishment.**
A notice was placed in the latest edition of the Waylander. Review next meeting.
- g. **Playground**
- **Deep clean** – the Clerk advised that the company we previously used to carry out the deep clean are no longer trading. It has proved very difficult to find another company to carry out the work as most require an ongoing cleaning contract. The one quote which had been obtained was £800+. The Clerk contacted local parish councils to enquire what they do but it seems that all those contacted are cleaned by a team of volunteers from the village. Cllr Trown advised that he felt if the table was moved back a couple of feet towards the fence this would stop the bench from getting so dirty from the trees/birds. The bench is however on a concrete plinth so this would need to be looked at and considered carefully.
Cllr Trown advised that he would inspect the bench position and see if this is possible and revert to the Council. In the meantime, Cllr Trown and his wife will clean the equipment as far as possible.
- h. **Highways - Parish Partnership Scheme.**
A new scheme has not yet been released and the Clerk is yet to ask for suggestions from residents which will be done in due course.
- i. **Liaison with School**
Nothing to report.
- j. **Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance.**
Nothing to report.
- k. **Local Government Reform and Devolution.**
See District Councillor report above.
- l. **Local Plan.**
See District Councillor report above.

11. **Correspondence**
None.

12. **To agree the next meeting date: Monday 6th July 2026.**

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

13. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2.**
Cllr Trown advised that the plants for the planters are being delivered this week and the invoices will be passed to the Clerk for payment.

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

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk

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