

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Mary Howell

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 18 MAY 2026
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**

None.

2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April 2026.**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 April 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.**

None.

4. **Guest Speakers**

None.

5. **Speedwatch and SAM2 Report**

Cllr Spanyol reported the following:

The SAM2 recorded 13,000 vehicles at Northacre with 8% recorded as exceeding the 35mph speed limit. Most of these incidents were recorded in the early morning.

At Coronation Terrace, 33,000 vehicles were recorded with 11% recorded as exceeding the 35mph speed limit. Again, most incidents were recorded in the early morning.

The Speedwatch team held three sessions during April. 350 vehicles were observed with 9% recorded as exceeding the 35mph limit. Most were recorded at the Mill House location, followed by The Street and then Stow Bedon Road.

A motorbike was recorded exceeding 50mph down the Stow Bedon Road and on observing the Speedwatch team, promptly sped up!

The daylight hours are now longer and the team are hopeful to carry out some more sessions. Volunteers are always welcomed.

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

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

None.

7. **Planning Applications**

- a. **Appeal** against **PL/2025/1077/PIP** – Fallowfield, Northacre, NR17 1DG – Permission in principle for a phased development of a 4-5 self build dwellings. *The Council discussed this matter and the original views have not changed and the concerns remain the same mainly flooding but also sustainability, location etc. The Clerk will reiterate all previous comments made.*
- b. **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. **Awaiting Appeal Decision.**
- c. **Hook 2 Sisters Application – Great Hockham – no update.**

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 April 2026 in the sum of £271.96.
- b. To approve payment to AJG Insurance for annual insurance premium in the sum of £1,314.63 (in budget)
- c. To ratify payment to Arborpro Tree Services Limited for bracing of the Beech Tree on Coronation Terrace in the sum of £1,320 (incl VAT).
- d. To ratify payment to Norfolk Parish Training and Support for annual subscription in the sum of £139.20 (incl VAT).
- e. To ratify payment to BT for broadband at the Village Hall in the sum of £43.14 (incl VAT) – paid by Direct Debit.

There was one additional item for payment:

- f. To approve refund to Chris Cook in the sum of £24.75 for compost for the planters.

All payments were approved.

9. **Matters to report:-**

a. **Financial Balances**

Parish Council £13,211.01/ Highway Surveyors £16,165.47

b. **Village Hall Insurance**

The Clerk had received a response from the Village Hall in relation to the questions raised namely:

- Whether the Village Hall had taken a quote from Policybee recommended by Simon Spanyol last year. The Village Hall responded that when the policy is due for renewal in August they would be seeking quotes and the best price available to the Village Hall.
- The second question was in relation to the £75 bar fee. The Village Hall responded that 'The Village Hall holds the license for the sale or supply of alcoholic drinks in the hall, and the charge is to cover the staff required to man the bar during an event (supplying the drinks, serving drinks, washing up and clearing up after an event).

The Parish Council felt that neither of our questions had been answered entirely

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A member of the public (who is also part of the Village Hall Committee) advised that the bar staff do not get paid, this is voluntary and felt the wording was a bit misleading.

The bar fee had been in place for three years but this was now in black and white due to the license. Other village halls also charge a fee for their bar.

Cllr Cook advised that he was simply reiterating what had been said to him that some people wishing to hire the village hall felt they got a better deal by going to Thompson to hold events.

The Village Hall AGM is on Wednesday at 7.30pm and is an open meeting so anyone can attend. The representative from the Parish Council will attend.

- c. **Asset Register**
Work in progress. The Clerk has found a very old, printed copy from 2015. A lot of the information is now irrelevant and there is little information regarding costs etc. The Clerk will send a copy to Cllr Spanyol.
- d. **Phone box refurbishment**
Cllr Howell and the Clerk advised that nobody had come forward at the current time. A further notice would be placed in the Waylander.
- e. **Playground**
The Clerk advised that the bracing of the Beech tree had been completed.

The Clerk also advised that she is obtaining quotes for the deep clean of the play area as the original company had ceased trading.

Cllr Howell enquired whether we knew what Rocklands/Griston did with their play area. The Clerk will make enquiries.
- f. **Village Planters update**
The last two planters are now in position and plants have been ordered. A thank you to Lewis for his assistance will be sent.
- g. **Highways - Parish Partnership Scheme**
Clerk to follow up.
- h. **Liaison with School**
No update.
- i. **Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance**
No update.
- j. **Local Government Reform and Devolution**
No update.
- k. **Local Plan**
No update.
- l. **Norfolk Ramblers Association**
This item was a response following Cllrs Spanyol and Howell walking the two footpaths in Caston. Please see report attached.

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- 10. **Correspondence**
None.

- 11. **To agree the next meeting date: Monday 1st June 2026.**

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

- 12. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2.**
A member of the public advised that when trying to obtain quotes for insurance for the village hall, very few would quote due to the construction of the buildings which made it more difficult. This was noted.

A member of the public enquired whether we could obtain a quote for the painting of the telephone box. This had previously been dismissed however, it may be a way to make a final decision on this matter. It could only be considered for a third party to carry out the works **if** this had the full support of the villagers. Cllr Howell will include this in the Waylander for opinions.

- 13. **Matters for future discussion to be noted**
Defibrillator.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk

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