



Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: - Mr. J. Chapman VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mr. P. Hall

MEETING OF THE CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2008 in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Councillors present: - Mr. J. Chapman - Chairman, Mr. P. Hall - Vice Chairman, Mr A. Bunn, Mr. D Blincow, Mr. P. Chapman, Mrs. K. Farmbrough, Mrs. J. Horner. Mr. John Rogers (County)

Also present: - Mr. & Mrs. Haggett, Mr. C. Bearne (Home Watch), Mr. Michelmore, Mr. & Mrs. Brooker, Mrs. Uskeiwicz

1. To accept apologies for absence: - None
2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 3rd October 2008. The minutes were handed out to the public and Councillors as Draft. It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting could be signed by the Chairman, as a true and correct record.
3. The following Declarations of Interest from members, in any item to be discussed were noted: - Mr. J Chapman item 5.F, Mr. Blincow items 5.A & 5.F, Mrs. J Horner items 5.A & 5.F, Mrs. K. Farmbrough items 5.A & 5.F
4. The following decisions were noted:-
 - A. Miss. Anne Bustard - The White House - Erection of one 3-bed bungalow, one 4-bed house, and two 4- bed semi detached dwellings, with garages and or car parking spaces, - Outline permission given by Breckland with detailed considerations and restrictions.
5. Finance: It was RESOLVED that the following payments could be made:-
 - A. Cable locks for Speed Watch team £7.90 including VAT to Car Care Centre, Thetford. It was proposed and seconded that this payment could be made to assist the Speed Watch volunteer team.
 - B. Web site fees for Parish Council site. Domain name for 2 years @ £6.95, plus the web page package for one year @ £24.95. Total of £31.90. It was proposed and seconded that this payment could be made to Mr. Brooker in lieu of payments made by him for this service.
 - C. Payment for Emergency Management Seminar on Nov 5th at Poringland, £20.00. Mr. Bearne the Emergency Planner was aware of the events to be discussed so there was no need for him to attend. No member of the Council wished to attend this meeting so no payment was made.
 - D. Pay and expenses for the Clerk for period July to October 2008. The wage increase of 0.197p per hour was explained. It was proposed and seconded to pay the amount as stated on the invoice.
 - E. Purchase of book from Society of Local Council Clerks for a copy of blue book for clerk work £9.40. It was proposed and seconded that this amount should be paid as a reference tool for the Clerk.
 - F. Precept amount required for 2009/10 to be discussed.
 The Clerk explained the amounts shown on the Budget. The Precept Budget for 2009/10 will need to be increased from £4,000.00 to £4,500.00 to cover rising costs and also to cover a small loss which will probably be accrued at the end of this financial year. The Precept has not been increased for several years and the costs have been going up. The Councillors discussed the various aspects of the Budget. These included where the increases in costs were most likely to occur, where savings could be made, and the costs associated with anticipated village projects. Mr. Rogers explained the Breckland Council financial position regarding the Precepts for Parish Councils. The Councillors were concerned that the 12.5% increase to £4,500.00 would be considered too large for the public to accept. It was decided that the justification for the increase was valid and the amount needed to be increased to £4,750.00 to cover the fact the Budget has not been increased for several years.
 It was proposed and seconded that the Precept Budget should be £4,750 for 2009/10. This represented an increase of approximately £4.00 per household over last year.
 - G. A late addition to the finances - a request for a donation to the Dereham, Watton and Holt Citizens Advice Bureau requested a donation towards their work. The budget for this was £95.00 in the past. It was proposed and seconded that £95.00 should be given again this year.

6. Matters to report: - Clerk
- A. An invitation had been sent to Tonya Winsley the new PCSO for Caston to visit the Parish Council meeting. Due to unforeseen circumstances she was not able to attend and would now be visiting at the next Parish Council meeting, despite the fact this was her day off. Her visit is to be added to the village web site.
 - B. Request to make the village cross an ancient monument. To be added to the next agenda.
7. Correspondence from: -
- A. Stanta activities as posted on the notice boards in the village. The chairman read the letter from the authority explaining the range uses up to and after December. This information to be added to the village web site and Waylander.
 - B. Training events from the Sustainable Communities team in Breckland November to March. Added to the notice board and to the PCC.
 - C. Sustainable Communities meeting November. The Clerk will attend this meeting on 19th November and find out about funding for projects in the village.
 - D. Activity grant scheme for Community projects in Breckland. Poster to be added to the notice boards and the web site and Waylander and info sent to the Caston Photography Club.
 - E. Breckland Youth Scheme. This will also be added to the web site notice boards etc.
 - F. Two firms, Lawn ranger and C.G.M., asked if they could quote for the grass cutting for the village green and the churchyard and Coronation Terrace. Details of the various areas are to be sent to the two companies. The current contractor is also to be asked to quote for cutting the grass and trimming the hedge alongside Coronation Terrace.
 - G. Extra to the Agenda - A letter to the village tree warden from Breckland offering the village one free Beech tree for planting in the village complete with guard and stake. This is due to arrive in November. A planting position would need to be decided so that it could become an asset for the village. The position was discussed. The Village Green was considered to be an "open" space to accommodate the view of the centre of the village and may not be suitable due to the amount of shade created by the tree when it is fully grown. Coronation Terrace would be a possible site as it could be added to the existing trees on the site. It was agreed that the offer of the tree would be accepted by the Parish Council and temporarily looked after by the tree warden.
8. Village Website - Mr B Brooker reported that there were 2000 hits last month.
9. Home Watch: - Mr. Bearne reported that recently a parked vehicle was taken from The Street, in broad daylight, whilst the owner was standing just a few feet away. It is therefore important to make all vehicles secure even if you are close by. Lock your car.
10. Speed Watch: -
The scheme is going well and currently has 13 volunteers trained, doing 2 or 3 sessions per week since the beginning of September. 27 cars have been driving at excess speed, 3 less than the last report. One car was recorded in the same session and 2 others noted as driving at 52 miles per hour. Most of the volunteers say that there has been a moderation of speed in the village since the beginning of the scheme. The two community speed watch signs do not cover all accesses to the village. A request for two more moveable signs or possible permanent signs to help the scheme. The amount of daylight hours available has contracted the number of sessions available, however a few more volunteers would help to maintain a better spread of people and their availability. Volunteer coordinators are needed as well. The Clerk is to contact the Police for extra signs. Thanks were conveyed to the coordinator.
11. Items for the next agenda: - Items included in the minutes.
Plus the results of advertising the possibility of starting a community car scheme in the village.
The purchase of the "Fido" dog bin for Northacre. Permission has been given by Breckland to put it up but the costs of £136.00 need to be approved.
There were no further items.

Councillor's folder circulated for information only

The next meeting will be Monday 1st December 2008 date in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

CHAIRMAN: -

DATE: -

District & County Councillor report and public participation: - Councillor John Rogers

CLERK: - Alison Skipper 3rd November 2008

Report from Councillor John Rogers-

Mr. Rogers Informed the Council and Public about the meeting concerning the Precept to be held at Breckland council. The road surface in Carbrooke on the B1108 should be finished but the contractor has not been paid by the developers of the building site next to the road. The cycle path from Drury lane and the Aerolite Garage is going to be re routed as it is safer for the children.

He also advised that the Precept should be increased by smaller amounts each year rather than in one large step.

Public Participation -

Mr. Haggett suggested that a Beech tree may not be suitable for Caston due to its shallow routes and the large quantity of shade it would create. An Oak would be more suitable for Caston as it has deeper routes. The Clerk is to request an Oak tree.

A Fuel Charity meeting to be held on the 3rd December.