



Caston Parish Council

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

DRAFT

MEETING OF THE CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2009 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. J. Rogers (Breckland & County)

Also present: - Mr. C. Bearne (Home Watch), Mr. R. Lond Caulk, Mrs. Uskeiwicz

1. To accept apologies for absence: - None
2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 1st December 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, Mr. D. Blincow, Mrs. J Horner, Mrs. K. Farmbrough, - Item 5.C & 5.D.

The meeting was adjourned for Caston PCSO Tonya Winsley to give a short talk about her job and how she can help the community. She started her job before Christmas and apologised for not being able to attend a Parish Council meeting sooner. Based in Watton and the surrounding villages she informed us that the Police emergency response team for this area would be moving to Thetford in April. Residents had requested a greater Police presence in the village and she said that she would visit as often as she could. Patrol cars would also pass through the village when possible.

The non-emergency Police contact number is 0845 456 4567.

The Chairman thanked her for her visit. The meeting was reconvened at 7.45pm

4. The following decisions were noted:-
 - A. Mr. M. Dunnet, Ivan House, Caston - Extension to side of cottage to include toilet and lobby. PLANNING PERMISSION granted by Breckland.
 - B. Mr. & Mrs. R. Lond Caulk, Vacant plot off Dukes lane, Caston - Alterations to approved scheme (3PL/2008/0816/F) inc. New garden room and workshop addition to garage block. Awaiting a decision from Breckland.
 - C. Mr. & Mrs. G. Penfold, The Old Rectory, Caston - Rear single storey extension, removal of kitchen window & insert doors, forming access to exit through kitchen store. Under listed buildings consent. Plus - single storey rear extension. Under consideration by Breckland.
5. Finance: It was RESOLVED that the following payments could be made:-
 - A. Mr. B. Brooker web page package for one year for the Village Website £24.95 in budget under "Miscellaneous". It was proposed and seconded that this payment could be made to Mr. Brooker in lieu of payments made by him for this service.
 - B. Subscription for one year's membership to the CPRE £29.00, in budget at £30.00. It was proposed and seconded that this payment could be made.
 - C. Increase in the village hall fees for the Parish Council meetings to £40.00 per year. In budget at £44.00. It was proposed and seconded that this payment could be made.
 - D. A late letter not on the Agenda - The Village Hall committee would like a donation towards the cost of the Insurance for the Village Hall. £318.00 was donated in 2007/8 and a sum of £328.00 is needed for 2008/9. It was proposed and seconded that a sum of £328.00 should be paid.
6. Matters to report: - Clerk
 - A. The road outside Church Farm would be closed on Feb. 16th.
 - B. Community Car Scheme. There has been no interest in this proposed idea to date but it will be added to the next Agenda to discuss further.
7. Correspondence from: -
 - A. Breckland financial inclusion plan. The Councillors did not wish to support this proposed scheme.
 - B. Breckland Core Strategy - comments request from Breckland - no further comments were added by

the Councillors.

- C. A researcher for Screen East wished to ask the Parish Council if any parts of the village had been used to make TV programmes or films in the past. These were noted as Dads Army "Turkey Dinner" episode and a farming diary programme. All some years ago and nothing recently.
 - D. Gabbie Sharp a Parish Councillor from Thompson invited the members of the Parish Council to join a joint training session for Councillors. The chairman thanked her for the invitation but no Councillors wished to take part.
 - E. The donated Beech tree has arrived and after considering where to plant the tree, it was decided to offer it as a gift to the village school for use on their site.
8. Village and Parish Council Website - Mr B Brooker sent his apologies for absence but sent a report. There were 2251 hits from 1031 visitors last month on the village website and 164 hits from 69 visitors on the parish council site.
9. Home Watch: - Colin Bearne reported: The County Home watch Coordinating Committee and Norfolk Constabulary have recently produced a 10 point Action Plan for the Scheme which they are busy working their way through. They have also been doing a survey of active participants, and he has assured them that Caston is still an active member of the Scheme with a representative in post and with full support of the Parish Council and residents. As promised Mr. Bearne has, with the help of Jane Horner circulated a note to all recently arrived residents drawing their attention to the existence of the Scheme. A pair of heavy drive gates was stolen from a property in Breckles on 26th Jan. There is nothing that cannot be stolen!
10. Speed Watch: - Denise Bearne reported: The scheme is continuing well with regular twice weekly sessions. With better daylight and improving weather we will have a wider time slot and able to increase the number of sessions. December had 12 teams working for 1 hour or more for each session. 11 vehicles were being driven at excessive speed. Most volunteers agree that there has been a reduction in the speed of vehicles as well as the number of vehicles passing through the village. A new volunteer co-ordinator is needed. He or she does not have to be part of every team but do a session when they are able. An easy to follow timetable system is used to show when a team is available. Also more volunteers are needed as well. If you would like to help please contact Denise on 483961.
11. Items for the next agenda: - Items included in the minutes.

Councillor's folder circulated for information only

The next meeting will be Monday 2nd March in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

CHAIRMAN: -

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

CLERK: - Alison Skipper 2nd February 2008

Report from Councillor John Rogers-

Mr Rogers had attended the Annual Police meeting - the increases in the Police Precept of 17p per week was not as much as expected but he felt that there was not enough Police coverage for this extra cost.

The planning department at Breckland may be outsourced to Capita Symonds - this would not affect the way in which applications are considered.

Road resurfacing will soon be happening at the Lovell gardens portion of Norwich Road Watton.

Watton public lavatories are now open again.

Public Participation -

Questions were raised as to how the planning office would be run in the future and whether there are any advantages to the proposed changes? This is all still under consideration at the moment.

He would also contact the highways dept. Reading the zebra crossing lighting in the main street in Watton as they do not illuminate the area enough and it is difficult to see pedestrians crossing at night.

The hedge opposite Coronation Terrace is overhanging the main road. The owner is to be contacted regarding the state of the hedge or it will be trimmed by the Council.

The roads in the village are still flooding in places. The Clerk is to contact the various authorities. Item to be added to the next Agenda.