



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 7th December 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: -

1. To accept apologies for absence: - None
2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 2nd November 2009
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. Declarations of Interest from members, in any item to be discussed were noted: -
Item 4.B - Mr. A. Bunn, Mrs. J. Horner
4. Planning applications. The following decisions were noted -
 - A. Chapel Partners, The Red Lion Pub, Caston - change of use of building from a Public House to residential and demolition of flat roof extension between and main building and store. This application is also to be considered under Listed Buildings rules. Awaiting a final decision letter from Breckland.
 - B. Mr. A. Bunn, Fallowfield, Northacre - continued use of residential property as living accommodation. Awaiting a decision by Breckland.
 - C. Mr. Richardson, Clematis Cottage, The Street - 2 storey side extension and associated alterations. Original application withdrawn by Mr. Richardson and new application with change of design submitted. Under consideration by PC.
 - D. Mr. P. Crosthwaite, Cloverleaf Home Interiors, The Barns, Bridge House Farm, Attleborough Road - Change of use of a shed to a shop in the grounds, shop selling restored furniture and collectables. Under consideration by PC.
5. Finance: It was RESOLVED that the following payments could be made:-
 - A. £598.00 to Mr. J. Fox to make a notice board for Northacre, a notice board for the village hall and a new seat for the bus shelter on The Green. The Awards for All grant cover this sum.
 - B. £1033.45 to Greenland Houchen and Pomeroy solicitors, for fees incurred in acquiring land alongside Coronation Terrace. The Awards for All grant cover this sum.
 - C. Society of local Council Clerks, the annual membership fee of £61.00
 - D. To pay the Watton, Dereham and Holt Citizens Advice Bureau. It was agreed to increase the budgeted amount of £98.00 to £100.00.
 - E. To pay the Clerks wages for last 3 months. The sum is in budget. Mr. P. Chapman asked to see a list of the Clerks wages and expenses over the last 5 years, to show the increases over that period. The Clerk agreed to do this for the next meeting.
6. Matters to report: - Clerk
 - A. Awards for All - The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Awards for All grant to Caston could now be reported to the press and media. After John read the press release to the Councillors, it was agreed that Caston Online, the EDP, the Wayland News, the Waylander and Wayland Radio could all be informed. The first item purchased with the award money was the Mother & Toddler group storage shed. This was being put up today in the school grounds and photographs of this event, taken by Mr. D. Blincow, were shown to the Councillors. The Clerk is to write to the Chairman of the Caston Camera Club to ask the club to take further pictures of events.
 - B. Flaxmoor and Chase End pavement repair. The clerk is to notify the highways department again about the quality of the pavement surface at these points and amount of leaves accumulating on the surface near Flaxmoor.
 - C. Litter picking equipment. (Mrs. J. Horner correction 01.02.10) Mr. A. Bunn requested the purchase of high visibility jackets for the litter pickers and he asked to see the proposed new picking equipment. The Clerk informed the Council that the cost of 2 high visibility jackets was included in the award and

that types of equipment could be chosen from several catalogues on file.

- D. The style of seat for The Green. The Clerk informed the councillors that the original style of seat chosen for the Village Green is not manufactured in this country and has a long waiting time for delivery. Choosing a new style, a new provider and one made from a different material would speed up purchase and delivery. It was asked if a wooden seat could be made by a local craftsman. The Clerk and Mr. Blincow are to contact alternative manufacturers to obtain new quotes so that the new style can be considered at the next meeting.

7. Correspondence from: -

- A. Breckland bulk fuel purchase letter to be added to the councillors' folder.
- B. BT payphone box adoption and removal of phone equipment. Due to low user rate of BT Payphones in the village BT would like to remove the telephone equipment. The boxes could then be adopted by the Parish Council for a new use, e.g. notice board, mini library, etc. for a fee of £2.00. Mr. Rogers informed the councillors that Carbrooke village are not keeping their payphone. Breckland Council cannot help. If the Caston wishes to keep the phone boxes, the PC will have to maintain the glass and the paintwork. In addition, the decommissioned phone boxes could not be sold to a private buyer. The meeting was opened up to the public at 8.30 for 5 minutes discussion. A parishioner suggested that as the mobile phone signal around The Green area was not good, and the other box is near the school that the phones should be retained as a 999 emergency phone boxes only. The Clerk is to ask BT if this is possible. The PC would reconsider the "adoption" of the boxes at the next meeting.
- C. NALC grants for group, organisation or project up to £5,000. The late arrival of this information did not give councillors time to consider the uses of the possible grants. The Clerk is to inform NALC that more time is required and the application return date is too soon.
- D. Empowering Parish & Town Councils - Sustainable Communities Act. This item is to be added to the councillors' folder.

9. Home Watch: - Colin Bearne reported that the Police had warned about a number of doorstep deceptions had recently been happening. Tradesmen and bogus officials had been calling at houses and asking for money. See the village web site for more information, do not give money to strangers and report suspicious callers to the Police.

10. Speed Watch: - Peter Chapman, has been appointed as the new Speed Watch lead for Norfolk. He replaces Sgt. Andy Rust, who has moved on to a new job. The village volunteers would continue to do Speed watches in the village, weather permitting, over the coming months.

11. Items for the next agenda: - Items as mentioned above plus speed roundels on the road surface for Northacre.

Councillor's folder circulated for information only

The next meeting will be Monday 1st February 2010 in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

CHAIRMAN: -

DATE: -

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

CLERK: - Alison Skipper 7th December 2009

Report from Councillor John Rogers-

The NCC elected members fees are not increasing. The Police safer neighbourhood team are to spend 80% of their time out and about. The Light Dragons welcome home event in Dereham attracted 5,000 people. NCC is cutting senior management positions in order to save money. Phone calls to households regarding cutting Council tax rebates are a fraud and nothing to do with Breckland Council.

Public Participation -

Cerco are to be asked to collect litter from the Thetford Road near Pearson's depot. The Clerk is to request leaf sweeping and storm drain clearing near Flaxmoor. Dukes Lane corner near Broadway road surface is still collecting water, Highways dept. is to be informed. Mr. Crosthwaithe volunteered to litter pick. Local supplier of village bench is preferred.