



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 1ST March 2010 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. Ash, Mr. Bearne (Homewatch), Mrs. Bearne, Mr. Brooker (Web Sites), Mr. Cummings (The Red Lion), Mr. Daines-Smith (The White House), Mr. Hicks (The White House), Mr. Metcalfe (The Red Lion), & Mr. Skipper,
1. To accept apologies for absence: - None
 2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2010.
The minutes were handed out to the public and Councillors as Draft. After 2 small additions on items 3.A. and 7.C. 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: -
Mr. Bunn, and Mrs. Horner - Item 4A.
With reference to item 5.b. on the Agenda, Mr. Blincow gave the Clerk a copy of a letter from the Breckland Council Monitoring Officer dated 19.07.05 stating that the members of the Parish Council who are also members of the Village Hall Committee can vote on Village Hall matters as long as they do not have a "vested interest" in the item. The Clerk is to contact the Monitoring Officer to check this rule is still current.
 4. Planning. The following decisions were noted:-
 - A. Mr. A. Bunn, Fallowfield, Northacre - continued use of residential property as living accommodation. Awaiting a decision by Breckland Council.
 - B. Red Lion, Caston - Alterations to public house & car park, conversion of store to dwelling and erection of new dwelling. Plus, alterations to Public House, including the creation of a flat. To erect a three bed house in the garden, convert store to dwelling & alterations to the car park. Listed Buildings consent. This application was added to the Agenda as a late item as the plans arrived after the Agenda was sent out. The plans are currently being considered by the Councillors and therefore cannot be discussed at this time.
 5. Finance: It was RESOLVED that the following payments could be made:-
 - A. Reimbursement to Clerk for purchasing litter picking equipment £52.90 plus VAT = £63.01. In Awards for All budgets at £56.00 without VAT as VAT can be reclaimed.
 - B. Request from Caston Village Hall Committee to Caston PC to give a guarantee to cover 25% (£5,000.00) of the refurbishment costs. Non Village Hall Committee members suggested supporting the village hall. It was proposed and seconded that the £5,000.00 for the Village Hall refurbishment should be taken from the Highway Surveyors Land bank account and a new bank account opened named "Village Hall refurbishment".
 - A. Purchase of village seat. Awards for All budgets. After discussion the Councillors chose the "Witton" style seat with a decorated back in brown. This is to be ordered by the Clerk and delivered to and stored at Mr. Peter Chapman's.
 6. Matters to report: - Clerk
 - A. Speed roundels for Northacre and the village. The Clerk requested these for all the entrances to the village in an email dated 01.03.2010 to the Highways Dept. Norfolk County Council website states that the roundels are only painted on high volume routes, with speed related personal injury accidents records on the site. The Clerk is to discuss this further with them.
 - B. Flaxmoor and Chase End pavement repair update. The Highways Dept. are aware of these areas as well as some large pot holes at Folgate, to be added to their programme.
 - C. Awards for All - update on land acquisition at Coronation Terrace. Breckland Council are discussing future uses of some of the smaller and odd pieces of land throughout Breckland, at a meeting on 13th April 2010. Coronation Terrace frontage and the piece next to the BT exchange are on the list. Breckland have noted the P.C interest in this land.

- D. Awards for All - consider type of hedging plants and costs. Mr. Chapman, the Tree Officer for the village, has looked at all the hedges in the village. He suggested this hedge should be Crataegus (hawthorn), as there is already a short length of this hedging on the site. He also recommended the use of just one species of plant in the hedge so that future maintenance is easier.
- E. Information regarding Quality Council Status. To be added to the next agenda.
- F. Late addition - The new notice board at Northacre is now installed. It was voted to keep this unlocked. It is to be used to advertise village events, Parish Council meetings and Police information only.

- 7. Correspondence from: -
 - A. Norfolk Rural Support - invitation to meeting at Croxton. No councillors wished to go.
- 8. Home Watch: - Colin Bearne reported: Nothing to report this month.
- 10. Speed Watch: - The volunteers hope to do more sessions when the weather improves.
- 11. Items for the next agenda: -
 - 1. Flooding at Broadway House and on the corner of Dukes Lane.
 - 2. What happened to the follow through of the flood survey in 2008?

Councillor's folder circulated for information only

The next meeting will be Monday 12th April 2010 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 1st March 2010

Report from Councillor John Rogers

Senior officers are possibly going to share jobs at Breckland and South Norfolk Councils to save money. The M.O.D. is offering the Watton airfield land back to the original owners so there will be no helicopters flying here in the future. The Sustrans grant for a footpath between Griston and Watton only lasts until May 2010. As work has not yet started the grant may be lost. The Highways Dept. looks after the road and one metre from the edge of the road only. So maintenance of hedges and verge areas are the responsibility of the landowner adjacent to the path. There is no programme as yet for road surface improvements on the Watton to Norwich Road.

Public Participation

Mr. Daines-Smith the architect for The White House, on behalf of the new owner Mr. Hicks, presented the future ideas for The White House and for the land surrounding it. Their structural engineers recommended demolition as the construction of "clay bat" (a mix of clay and straw) is not mortgage able and not suitable for current living standards. He said that if the windows, roof, etc. were to be removed for replacement and improvement it is likely that the building structure may not withstand changes. Mr. Daines-Smith gave the Clerk a copy of the report. He said that a replacement house would enhance the site. The area around the house would include new properties in a period style, retaining the farm look. The paddock area at the back would be split between the two back properties. The plans passed last year showed the new access road. This would remain the same. Mr. Daines-Smith offered to answer any questions. A discussion ensued. He would be willing to talk to any parishioner now or in the future to consider their ideas for the property so that progress could be made and plans drawn up for the new properties. The Councillors pointed out the various village concerns about the development and demolition of The White House.

A request was made that the clerk should write to CERCO thanking them for continuing to empty the Dog waste Bins in the village.

Mr. Metcalfe offered to answer any questions from the public regarding the new plans for The Red Lion. He said he would like to reopen the pub before the two proposed properties were built. An independent manager would run the pub. He was due to meet with Breckland Council to discuss securing the continued use as a public house for the future years ahead - section 106. The P.C. members could not discuss this matter as not all members had yet seen the proposed plans and as there was quite a lot of changes to the grounds and barn these need to be looked at carefully. Mr. Rogers said that it is Breckland Council policy to keep all pubs going where possible.