



# 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 December 6<sup>th</sup> 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: - Mrs. D. Bearne ( for Home Watch & Speed Watch)

1. To accept apologies for absence: - PCSO Tonya Winsley
2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. 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: - Alan Bunn 4(b), Jane Horner 4(b), & 5(c)
4. Planning. The following decisions were noted:-
  - A. Red Lion, Caston - Alterations to public house & car park, conversion of store to dwelling and erection of new dwelling. Plus Alts to PH, inc. creation of flat. Erect a 3 bed house. Convert store to dwelling & alts to car park etc Listed Buildings consent. Waiting for a Section 106 letter.
  - B. Mr. A Bunn, Fallowfield Cottage, Northacre - Conversion of a disused piggery to a 3 bedroom single storey dwelling. Waiting for a decision from Breckland Council. Waiting for reply from Breckland Council.
5. Finance: It was RESOLVED that the following payments could be made:-
  - A. Mr Brooker Parish Council web site fee reimbursement £24.95. In budget. Proposed by David Blincow, seconded by Peter Hall.
  - B. RGM cutting village green in September £72.85. In budget. Proposed by Kay Farmbrough, seconded by Peter Hall.
  - C. Mrs. Horner reimbursement for purchasing plants for planters. In budget. Proposed by Kay Farmbrough, seconded by Peter Chapman.
  - D. SLCC membership fee £61. In budget. Proposed by David Blincow, seconded by Peter Hall.
  - E. Parish Council Precept 2011/12. The amount needed from the precept for 2011/12 was discussed by the councillors. Mr. Rogers said that there may be a freeze on the precepts from Breckland. The Clerk was to contact Breckland Council to check this and see if the amount could be increased this year to cover rising costs of insurance etc. If this was possible the precept for 2011/12 was to be increased to £5700.00. The Clerk was also asked to check that previous minutes did not state that the Parish would keep the precept request at £5250.00.
  - F. Coronation Terrace - Letter from Breckland. The Chairman read the letter from the Chief executive at Breckland Council stating that they would refund the costs incurred for acquiring the land at Coronation terrace as the acquisition did not continue.
  - G. Return funds to Awards for All for incomplete projects. A refund of £806.13 would be given to the PC from Breckland. As this was a grant from Awards for All, it needs to be returned to them as soon as possible because it has not been used for its intended purpose. All councillors agreed that this should happen.
  - H. Paying for planter plants in the future. After discussion it was resolved that the PC should pay seasonal plants for the planters and any ongoing maintenance for them in the future. The cost should be added to the precept budget for the parish grass cutting.
6. Matters to report: - Clerk
  - A. Prospective Councillor Campaign 2011. An election for local and parish councillors is due in May 2011 and local people are being invited to stand as councillors. The clerk suggested that the parishioners should be invited to a village meeting to ask questions about the roles of a parish and local councillor. This is to be added to the next Parish Council meeting on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm the normal meeting will then start at 8.00pm.
  - B. Village sign. It was noted that the village sign needs cleaning and painting. Roy Horner has volunteered to paint the sign and peter Hall will remove and reinstate the sign on The Green when

ready. Any costs paint will be covered by the Parish Council.

- C. Telephone boxes. It was noted that the telephone boxes in the village need painting and new glass is needed in the one next to the school. The clerk is to ask BT to repair the glass and refurbish the boxes, or if the village can paint the boxes if BT supply the materials. .
  - D. Hedges in village. Two hedges in the village have been causing difficulty for road users. The hedges need to be trimmed to allow for better vision on the roadway plus wider vehicles may need to use the centre of the road to avoid the hedges thus causing a hazard to oncoming traffic. The clerk had asked for information from NCC. There are safe distances for hedges and overhanging trees on the highways and they are not allowed to obstruct footpaths. NCC can charge the occupier for not keeping the hedges and trees away from highways and footpaths.
  - E. Parking on corner of The Street near Dukes Lane. Owners of cars parked here, will be asked by the PC to find alternative parking, if their parked cars cause a hazard to other road users and pedestrians.
  - F. A non Agenda item: - the Chairman read a letter from Anglian Water in reply to a letter written to the PC regarding the reporting of smells of raw sewerage in the village. The villagers need to report any smells to Anglian water for them to note it and resolve the problem. The contact information has been added to the web site and the notice boards.
7. Correspondence from: -
- A. NCC maintaining the street scene and Public Rights of way. The NCC invited Parish Councils to pay towards the upkeep of any item like rights of way. It was resolved that the PC does not have the funds to cover such matters and therefore are not interested.
  - B. Tele shopping. This NCC run home help shopping service for the house bound has been added to the web site and notice boards and Waylander.
  - C. Pride in Breckland nominations. This information has also been advertised as above.
  - D. Police crime report for last month. This has been added to the councillors' folder.
8. Speed Watch: - A new volunteer has come forward to help but the team still need more volunteers who can spare one hour a week to help with the speed watch in the village. The Clerk can give you the information.
9. Awards for All: - The councillors thanked Alistair and Alison Skipper for making the wooden planters and John Chapman and his son for placing them in their positions at the entrances to the village. The council also thanked Jane and Roy Horner and all the new volunteers for planting the plants. A list of volunteers to keep the planters looking neat and tidy has been created for each area, so that the plants and bulbs are watered in the summer and renewed as needed.  
A summary of the Awards for All projects to Bootify Caston will appear in the Waylander, on the web site and on all the notice boards in the village. A letter will also be sent to Helen Maxwell thanking her for her part in the proposed acquisition of land at Coronation Terrace. The clerk will attach small lottery signs to the new items when they arrive.
10. Home Watch: - It was reported that farm thefts are on the increase. Plus home fuel thefts have been occurring during the very cold spell. Please inform the police if you see anything suspicious in the area.
11. Items for the next agenda: - prospective councillors and election.

Councillor's folder circulated for information only

**The next meeting will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.

**CHAIRMAN: -**

**DATE: -**

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

CLERK: - Alison Skipper 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Report from Councillor John Rogers: - The path known as Gilman's Drift is going to be resurfaced for pedestrians and horses with riders. A new toucan crossing is going to be made across the Watton to Thetford road for the Watton High School. The new Breckland Council Chief Executive Trevor Huggins will cover 2 districts - South Holland (Spalding, Holbeach area) and Breckland. Shared services will also extend to managers but they will remain in their respective council offices.

Public Participation: - None.