

Caston Parish Council

Meetings

The council met on Monday 11th March one week later than normal due to councillor and clerk holidays. Councillors Chris Cook (chair) Mary Howell (vice chair) Graham Moss, Simon Spanyol, and Sarah Fletcher attended the meeting together with 5 members of the general public. Councillor Rob Trown sent his apologies. There is currently 1 vacancy on the council. If you are interested in finding out more about being a councillor please contact our Parish clerk Jo Blackman on 01842 829821 parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk and/or come along to the meetings to get a feel for what is involved. It is very helpful to the council to have members of the general public attend the meetings and contribute where they can with local/historical knowledge and or have a say on the issues of the village. The council meets normally on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Caston Village Hall. The April meeting will be held on the 8th as April 1st is Easter Monday.

Land to the North of School view

As noted in the March edition of the Waylander following a planning appeal permission was granted in 2021 to build houses on the plot of land to the north of School View. We reported the land has recently been sold and the new owners have started to progress the planning approval. We are however not sure if the land has actually been sold by Godfrey and Hicks but are clear that the development company progressing the planning approval is Old Bucks Development. We noted in March that the developer had submitted plans to Breckland planning which are required to be approved “before any development takes place”. The developer has currently submitted a request for a variation of this wording to “no development shall take place beyond slab level”. The pre application advice from the local authority was “Given works have already commenced on site you are technically in breach of the outline planning approval conditions”. The advice went on to recommend the applicant withdraws the discharge of conditions submission and not to resubmit until they have reserved matters permission” An application for reserved matters permission which covers amongst other things detailed designs for the 3 proposed dwellings, location plans, design of access, ecology, tree survey and flood risk assessment has been submitted and the parish council are making extensive comments on this application.

Flooding/ Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership (MNFP) / Norfolk County Council Flood and Water Management Team (FWMT) / Village Meeting

The watercourse through the village was once again overwhelmed on 18th February resulting in flooding on “The Street” from the land North of School View, across the access to School View, at the entrance to Bridge Farm and at the Carbrooke Road end of Northacre. Photographic evidence and descriptions of the flooding have been sent to both The Flood Risk Management Team and Highways.

Our MP George Freeman has written to Parish Councils to give an update on the work he is coordinating through the Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership. Amongst other things he reported that Norfolk County Council have secured £150,000 for water storage and flood mitigation in Attleborough from the Natural Flood Management Fund. There are plans for Flood prevention summits with the aim of coordinating the 35 organisations in Norfolk that have responsibilities for flooding and in his words “stop the agencies passing the buck”.

On February 8th four parish councillors met with two Flood Risk officers from Norfolk County Council Flood and Water Management Team (FWMT) who, as part of ongoing flood investigations, wanted to understand the rainwater drainage system in Caston. The watercourse was walked from the Griston end of the village along The Street to the end of

Playground

The annual inspection report for the playground noted the wear and tear underneath the swing and our plans are to reseed with grass in the spring. In addition, we have been exploring if any grants are available to help with the cost of fitting a non-wearing surface which we decided at the March meeting was prohibitively expensive for the council to fund. If a grant can be secured this would be the preferred long term solution.

SAM 2

SAM2 (Vehicle Speed Activated Monitor) data was presented at the March Parish council meeting a summary of which can be found on the Parish council website. On Northacre 8% of vehicles were travelling in excess of 35mph and the peak time for speeding was between 6am and 9am. On the Stow Bedon Road 13% of vehicles were travelling over 35mph with the peak time for speeding being 4pm to 6pm.