

## **Caston Parish Council**

### ***Meetings***

The council met on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April one week later than normal due to Easter Monday. Councillors Chris Cook (chair) Mary Howell (vice chair) Graham Moss, Simon Spanyol, and Rob Trown attended the meeting together with 2 members of the general public. Councillor Sarah Fletcher sent her 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](mailto:parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and/or come along to the meetings to get a feel for what is involved. The council meets normally on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Caston Village Hall.

### ***Land to the North of School view***

As noted in the March and April 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 and the developer is progressing the approvals with Breckland planning. In March and April 2024 several amended and or revised documents have been submitted to Breckland planning authorities as the developer seeks to progress work on the site. We note in particular that the developers Flood Risk Assessment incorrectly states that there has been no historical flooding. The planning approval conditions required a surface water drainage plan and the developer proposed a 1250 x 750mm box section culvert be constructed to allow the watercourse to flow under the entrance to the site. A variation of this proposal requesting the boxed section be replaced with 16m of 600mm diameter pipe has been submitted. This is the dimension of the culvert that has already been constructed to permit access to the site. In February 2024 flooding onto the road occurred demonstrating this installed culvert is of insufficient capacity. Another condition of planning approval was the requirement to submit a construction management plan. In the plan recently submitted the developer states that large deliveries will be scheduled at off peak times but do not specify what this actually means. As the site entrance is opposite Caston Primary School it would appear reasonable that drop off and pick up times for the school are avoided. The Parish Council are continuing to comment on the revisions/proposals.

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

Following the advice of the FWMT the parish council have individually written to residents and landowners who we believe have riparian ownership. In contrast to previous letters we have included brief details of the location of the watercourse for which we believe the recipient has responsibilities. Background information about the watercourse that is a major part of the rainwater drainage system in Caston was also provided as well as the offer of help and any assistance we can give with respect to riparian responsibilities. We had relatively few responses to our offer of hosting a village meeting so it was felt there was not enough interest to warrant holding an event. If following the receipt of the letters we are contacted by a reasonable number of residents and or landowners we would hold a village meeting. In particular responsibilities for where the watercourse flows through a culvert under the Highway could be a subject for discussion.

The riparian ownership letters have been sent to residents and landowners who are adjacent to where the watercourse flows. We have not included landowners or residents where there are ditches that, although important for land drainage, do not flow into the watercourse. It is

important that these landowners and residents also maintain their ditches as failure to do so may result in water overflowing either onto the highway or into adjacent properties.

### ***Playground***

The inspection report noted the wire mesh fence on the border of the playground with the telephone exchange has been damaged. BT's facilities helpline has been contacted and they will progress its repair.

### ***SAM 2***

No SAM2 (Vehicle Speed Activated Monitor) data was presented at the April Parish council meeting as the monitors are moved every 5 weeks. Data will be presented at the May meeting.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting which includes the AGM will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May as the 6<sup>th</sup> is a bank holiday.

It is really helpful to the council to have members of the general public attend meetings and contribute where they can with local/historical knowledge, have a say on the issues of the village and or raise any concerns or ideas.

*Caston Parish Council*