

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 15 MAY 2014**

**Present:**

Councillor Mrs M Wilmer  
Councillors M Colborn, D Martin, B Nutter, B Robertson and B Turnbull

**Also Present:**

PC A Holland, Mrs A Moon – ACE, Mrs K Martin and Mrs A Bothwell

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs V Robertson.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor M Wilmer be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

**COUNCILLOR MRS M WILMER IN THE CHAIR**

4. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor B Turnbull be appointed Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

5. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED** that the following Member be appointed to serve as representative of the Parish Council on the following external body for the ensuing year.

**Easington Area Association of Town and Parish Councils**

Councillors M Wilmer

6. **APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR**

**RESOLVED** that Mr R Heywood be appointed Internal Auditor for the ensuing year.

7. **POLICE REPORT**

PC Holland explained that there had been 21 incidents since the last meeting, 3 of which were thefts. 90 holly trees had been stolen from Dene Leazes Farm. BT cabling had been stolen on two separate occasions. There had been 2 anti-social behaviour nuisance, a motorbike on the Haswell to Hart walkway and motorbike on the pit heaps at Hesleden.

There had been four call regarding the BBQ event at The Castle, two from residents in The Village and two from the organisers.

There had been two calls regarding the ongoing issue with the dog and its owner and further advice was being sought from the force Solicitor.

Crime had fallen 44% and incidents had risen from 13 to 17. Theft was down 29%.

Councillor Nutter referred to the walkway and expressed concern regarding the surfacing and barriers that were removed and suggested that his concerns be reported to DCC.

**RESOLVED** that the surfacing and barrier removal on the walkway from the A19 bridge to Castle Eden Inn be referred to DCC.

8. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **17 APRIL 2014**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

9. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Robertson explained that the bid for the funding for the AED had been rejected as the Parish Council was not a charity. Councillor Crute explained that he had met with the NE Ambulance Service as they were looking to install AED's in the Wards he represented and he would include Castle Eden within the quotation.

A further temporary events notice had been issued to the owners of The Castle for the Whit bank holiday weekend. The notice was submitted to the Licensing department who then consult with the Environmental Health department and the Police. There was no statutory obligation to consult with any other agencies/departments. A meeting had been held the previous day to discuss the previous easter event and the evidence submitted by residents had been insufficient. Contravention of permitted development rights was one area that was being looked at further.

Councillor Crute explained that he had approached the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board at DCC to request that a review of temporary licence events be conducted. This may enable more departments to be consulted if the procedure was reviewed and changed.

With regard to the reclamation site at Hesleden, it was explained that Hargreaves did not have to commit to providing anything for disturbance until the planning application had been approved. Monk Hesleden Parish Council had objected to the application and a number of residents were unhappy with the proposals. He had also met with the Residents Association at The Village who also objected to the proposals. The objections were based on loss of amenity, traffic generation and road safety, noise and nuisance and no clear benefit to the community.

DCC were currently consulting on the street lighting policy and turning off some lights within the village during set times. It was felt that this would be detrimental to the village and its residents. Councillor Crute explained that a meeting was being held on 23 May 2014 at Monk Hesleden Parish Council to discuss the implications for their residents.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) **EcoFix Energy Solutions Ltd**

The Clerk reported that EcoFix Energy Solutions had made contact to explain that they were an energy efficiency installation company who had received funding to install cavity wall and loft insulation free to all residents of Castle Eden.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

(ii) **North East WW1 Networking Events**

A number of meetings had been scheduled to provide information on what events were being organised regionally and nationally.

**RESOLVED** that Mrs A Moon attend the meeting at County Hall, Durham on Thursday 22 May 2014.

(iii) **Digital Durham – Digital Inclusion Event**

A digital inclusion event has been scheduled for 10 June 2014 from 9.30am to 12.00pm. The venue to be advised.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

11. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the following planning applications:

- a) DM/14/00519/FPA Reclamation of former colliery spoil mound to extract coal spoil, reprofiling of mound on completion of works and landscaping works at former Colliery Spoil Heap, Hesleden for Mr MacQuarrie

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that an objection be made on the grounds of loss of residential amenity, traffic generation and road safety, noise, nuisance and no clear benefits to the community.

- b) CE/13/01477/FPA/MARTIN Erection of a dormer bungalow and associated hardstanding and landscaping at Land at Stockton Road, Castle Eden

The Clerk advised that an appeal has been lodged against refusal of the planning application.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council re-confirm their object to the application to the Planning Inspectorate.

12. **FINANCE REPORT**

Balance at Bank as at 17 April 2014	£16,726.23
<u>Expenditure</u>	
AON Insurance	<u>£526.27</u>
Balance at Bank	<u>16,199.96</u>

13. **INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT**

Members were advised that all Local Councils in England were expected to complete an Annual Return which summarised their annual activities at the completion of each financial year.

It was Members responsibility to ensure that financial management was adequate and effective and the Council had a sound system of internal controls.

A section within the Annual Return had been completed by the Parish Council's independent internal auditor and in his view the system of internal controls was adequate for the purpose intended and had been operated effectively.

The Report therefore concluded that there were no recommendations concerning the Audit.

**RESOLVED** that the Internal Audit Report 2013/2014 be accepted.

14. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

(i) **ACE Report**

The ACE report was circulated.

(ii) **AED Funding Update**

This item was discussed earlier on the agenda.

(iii) **The Castle Events Update**

This item was discussed earlier on the agenda.

(iv) **Wind Turbine Update**

Councillor Nutter gave details of the current position with the windfarms at Sheraton and Dene Leazes.

15. **ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**Parking near the War Memorial**

It was reported that a resident was parking his car on the grass verge adjacent to the war memorial and cars were having to drive on the grass of the war memorial causing damage in order to pass safely.

**RESOLVED** that PCSO Goodwin be approached to ask the resident if he would refrain from causing an obstruction.

Councillor Martin, the outgoing Vice Chair, expressed his thanks to the Chair and The Clerk for the work they had done over the last year.