

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Present:

Councillor Mrs M Wilmer (Chair)
Councillors D Martin, B Nutter and B Robertson

Also Present:

Sgt Hawkes, Mrs A Moon – ACE, Councillors R Crute and Mrs L Pounder,
Mrs K Martin and Mr R Leonard

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs V Robertson and B Turnbull.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair declared a pecuniary interest in relation to item No 9 - CE/13/00846/FPA Erection of New Boundary Wall and Gates at Eden Brook, Stockton Road, Castle Eden for Mr B Wilmer

3. **POLICE REPORT**

Sgt Hawkes explained that since the last meeting, 18 incidents had been reported, comprising of a violent assault and public order offence, burglary of a shed at The Village, bogus parcel collector, off road motorcycles on the walkway and road traffic accidents on the B1281 and A19.

Year on year crime was down 11% in Castle Eden.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **15 AUGUST 2013**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute No 2 refers – The Chair advised that Councillor Turnbull had attended the latest PACT meeting where the 40mph speed limit on the road leading down to The Village was raised. Councillor Crute explained that this issue had been referred to Maxine Stubbs at Police HQ but it was unlikely that traffic calming measures could be installed as this was a bus route. Members commented that the speed limit was adequate it just needed to be enforced. Mrs S Pearce, AAP Co-ordinator explained that there had been community speedwatch pilots in other AAPs across the County which involved local volunteers from the community.

Minute No 4 refers – The Clerk advised that planning enforcement had established that the recycling bin was located on land that was classed as

'highway verge' and had now been referred to the Highways Team to investigate. If the owner could not be located, then it would be removed by DCC, although no timescales were given.

Minute No 6 refers – The manhole cover near Hallow Hill had still not been replaced despite it being reported on a number of occasions. The Clerk advised she would report it again to the Highway Action Line.

6. **EASINGTON AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair welcomed Mrs S Pearce, Principal AAP Coordinator (East Durham) to the meeting. Mrs Pearce explained that there were 14 AAPs which were part of the larger County wide strategic framework, with the County Durham Partnership (CDP) as the overarching strategic body. AAPs were one of the key community engagement and delivery mechanisms which provided the local residents of Co Durham an opportunity to get involved and help shape the delivery of services.

AAPs had three levels of operation; a wider AAP Forum, an AAP Board and a variety of themed task and finish groups. The AAP Forum met in November/December each year to set the priorities for the AAP Board and assess how well the AAP was progressing. There was currently 1000 members on the Forum membership list. The Forum was open to anyone aged 11 years or over who lives, works and studies, represents groups or services in the area.

The AAP Board met at least 6 times per year and was made up from three distinct groupings

- Seven public representatives
- Seven Elected Councillors (County Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors)
- Seven partner representatives (Police, Fire, Health, Business, Local Authority, Voluntary Sector and Social Housing)

(N.B. Board members must be a minimum of 16 years of age)

Amanda Moon, Secretary of ACE was one of the public representatives on the East Durham AAP.

To aid the AAP and its Durham County Council elected members in carrying out their roles, they had access to four different types of funding budgets. They were the Area Budget, the Neighbourhood Budget, the Member Initiative Fund and the Highways Budget. The AAP, when developing its projects and schemes, was also required to engage in dialogue with relevant County Council service departments and its partners with regard to their involvement, advice, support and where possible to influence the use of their delegated budgets.

Area Budgets (£120,000) were devolved allocations of funds which were

made available to AAPs for use locally. These funds would support community led initiatives that aligned themselves with AAP priorities and met local needs whilst encouraging communities to participate in the decision-making process.

Neighbourhood Budget (NB), Member Initiative Fund (MIF) and Highways Budget (HB) were allocations of funds made to Elected Members for use locally. They gave Elected Members the opportunity to address local needs and priorities. They provided the ability to take spending decisions back to local communities, and give Elected Members, in consultation with their local AAP, the opportunity to address local needs and priorities. The overall role of NBs, MIFs and Highways Budgets was to help support the development of the role of frontline Councillors as community leaders and champions, to support and encourage community based initiatives that meet local needs while impacting on County priorities, and to encourage community participation in decision-making.

Each Unitary Councillor was allocated a NB fund of £20,000, a MIF fund of £2,000 per Member and a Highways Budget of £5,500.

Arts Council Funding of £1.5m had been secured in East Durham and a business plan was currently being developed. The lead was Beamish Museum working in partnership with DCC Arts and East Durham AAP. An internationally known artist, Dryden Goodwin was involved and was sketching 13 people over the next 2 weeks. Venues for the project launch were currently being identified.

There was an event at the Glebe Centre on 26 October 2013 “Your money, your area, your views community grants fund” which will be making decisions on applications. £20,000 had been made available to 'not for profit', voluntary or community group organisations to apply for a grant ranging from £1000 to £5000.

The Chair thanked Mrs Pearce for her attendance.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) Blackhall Youth Band

Blackhall Youth Band had thanked the Parish Council for the donation and explained that it would be used to help for tuition.

RESOLVED that the thanks be noted.

(ii) Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan

The Clerk explained that an email had been received from DCC to advise that they were working on a Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan for the eastern area which would contain a programme of greenspace improvement projects and recommendations for greenspace improvements in conjunction with new development. DCC would like to ascertain what aspirations for

greenspace improvements were held by Parish and Town Councils across the eastern area.

RESOLVED that the email be circulated to Councillors for comments.

(iii) Peterlee Town Council – Mayors Charity Ball

The Clerk advised that a request for donation for the Tombola Stall/Auction had been received for the Mayors Charity Ball. Tickets could also be reserved for the Ball priced at £23 per person.

RESOLVED that the request be noted.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Crute advised that the issue regarding the surface dressing at the junction on the B1281 had been referred to DCC. A site visit had taken place and he had been advised that it didn't cause too much of a problem and could not justify funding as it was unlikely to solve the problem although the situation would be monitored.

Councillor Martin explained that the footpath had no foundation all the way along and was causing the surface of the footpath to be destroyed. County Councillors Crute and Pounder were looking at the pathways all the way up to and around Hesleden and would put together the problems of the area and report them to HAL.

Councillor Crute advised that the Street Lighting consultation was open until 26 September 2013 but would not affect lights in built up areas although he had concerns were the roads were not lit.

A meeting had taken place that day between Mr Day, Sustainable Transport Manager and representatives from Blackhall and Castle Eden regarding the 206 bus service. Concern had been raised that the timetable was not sufficient to meet the needs of residents. Mr Day had been asked if he could look at the performance of the route. A micro bus service may be able to be utilised to fill in the gaps in the GO North East timetable. Sustainable Transport section would be looking to carry out a survey with service users.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS,
THE CHAIR LEFT THE MEETING
COUNCILLOR D MARTIN IN THE CHAIR**

9. PLANNING PROPOSALS

(i) CE/13/00846/FPA Erection of New Boundary Wall and Gates at Eden Brook, Stockton Road, Castle Eden for Mr B Wilmer

Mr Wilmer gave details of the application and explained that highways had made comment that it would improve visibility and no objections had been raised from residents. He added that it would give his property more safety and security.

RESOLVED that no objection to the application be made.

COUNCILLOR M WILMER REJOINED THE MEETING AND TOOK THE CHAIR

- (ii) CE/13/00770/FPA New dwelling and detached garage at Land Adjacent Parklands St James Fields Castle Eden for Mr J Anderson

The Chair explained that amended plans had been received by DCC. The size, scale and roofline had been reduced in keeping with the adjacent properties and the 1.8m fence along the access to the field had been replaced with a native hedge.

RESOLVED that no objection to the application be made.

10. **FINANCE REPORT**

- (i) Balance at Bank

Balance at Bank as at 15 August 2013	£12,754.06
<u>Receipts</u>	
Northern Power Grid – Power lines at War Memorial	£6.90
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Hire of Village Hall for Parish Meetings	£480.00
Annual Donation St James Church	<u>£600.00</u>
Balance at Bank	£11,680.96

- (ii) Budget

The Clerk circulated details of expenditure for the 2012/13 financial year. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged to discuss the budget in more detail prior to the precept being set for 2014/15.

- (iii) “Local Councils Explained” Publication

The Clerk advised that the “Local Councils Explained” publication by NALC would be available to order from October. The price per book was £49.99 for Councils who were members of CDALC which may be reduced for bulk orders. The book would equip local councils to frequently asked questions about all aspects of their work.

RESOLVED that

- (a) a meeting be arranged to discuss the budget in more detail prior to the setting of the precept.

- (b) The Clerk order the publication “Local Councils Explained”

11. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

(i) **Parish Plan**

The Chair explained that the Parish Plan had a budget of £2000 and the actual cost had been £1192.56.

(ii) **ACE Report**

Amanda Moon circulated the key points from the last ACE meeting and gave an update on progress.

(iii) **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)**

Councillor Robertson had applied for funding from a community heartbeat charity that could provide partial funding for an AED and a cabinet to house it. An application had been made to the East Durham AAP for the balance. This would include free basic life saving training by North East Ambulance for as many people who were interested as well as additional training for the AED. The code for the cabinet would be kept at the ambulance control room and given to members of the public who reported an emergency to them. The Castle Eden Inn was suggested by North East Ambulance Service as the best place for the AED to be located.

The funding application from East Durham AAP would be considered on 26 October 2013 at the Glebe Centre but he could not attend as he was on holiday.

(iv) **War Memorial**

If the project costs less than £20,000 then an architect did not need to be employed. An initial estate from a local builder was £17,000 but did not include cleaning. Three estimates were required. Councillor Turnbull had also had a builder to look at it but no quote had yet been received. Councillor Robertson explained that proof of ownership of the war memorial was required. The War Memorial Council handed over the war memorial in 1922 to Castle Eden Estates. In 1963 Castle Eden Estates were in the process of handing it over but no legal documentation was ever drawn up.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

12. **ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

(i) Windfarm Meeting

The Chair explained that she had attended the Windfarm Meeting and the windfarm applications at Sheraton, Wingate and Shotton were still pending. 1 windfarm had been refused in Sedgfield. Applications were now to be considered locally.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) External Auditors Report

The Clerk explained that the external auditors BDO had now completed the audit. The Annual Return that had previously been approved and accepted had been returned. There was one issue raised and this was that a Risk Assessment as part of the review of effectiveness of internal control was not completed during the financial year ended 31 March 2013. The external auditors had recommended that a risk assessment must be carried out before the end of the current financial year.

RESOLVED that the issue raised by the external auditor be noted and a risk assessment as part of the review of effectiveness of internal control during the year ended 31 March 2014 be carried out.