

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2014**

Present:

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

Also Present:

PCSO Edson, Mrs A Moon – ACE

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor B Robertson and County Councillors Crute and Pounder.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Edson advised that 8 incidents had been received since the last meeting. One theft of money from an outhouse and two males poaching and digging on land. Incidents were down 3%. Further details were given of the action taken for speeding on the B1281 which had been a PACT priority. The current PACT priority was youths causing nuisance.

Councillor Turnbull explained that he had emailed Inspector Coxon advising that residents would be willing to volunteer to use the speed guns to carry out speed checks.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on **19 DECEMBER 2013**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence to report.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Crute had submitted his apologies but had advised he had submitted an objection to applications CE/13/01502/FPA and CE/13/01660/FPA.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7. PLANNING PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to the following planning applications:

a) CE/13/00770/FPA New dwelling and detached garage at land adjacent to Parklands, St James Fields, Castle Eden for Mr J Anderson (Amended Plans)

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council support the application but concerns were raised that the applicant had been requested to move the southern boundary into the site and would recommend natural fencing.

b) CE/13/01502/FPA Erection of wind and installation of associated equipment and infrastructure including access track at approximately 220 Metres to the east of Dene Leazes Farm Hesleden Durham TS27 4PD for Eden Farm Ltd

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that an objection be submitted as the turbine would have an impact on visual amenity, local residents and the local ecology. Concerns were also raised regarding the cumulative impact of wind turbines and the effect it would have on the Conservation Area as well as the impact on Castle Eden Dene and nature conservation.

c) CE/13/01659/FPA Extension and refurbishment to outbuilding in addition to external alterations to rear elevation of property at 11 The Foundry, Castle Eden for Dr Cooper

RESOLVED that no objections or comment be made.

d) CE/13/01660/FPA Crematorium, Upgraded Access and Associated Works at land to north of Castle Eden Brewery, Castle Eden for Dignity Plc

A public meeting had been held prior to the commencement of the meeting to enable the Parish Council to listen to representations from residents regarding the proposal. A number of residents expressed their concerns and objections to the proposal based on highway safety, traffic generation, visual amenity, smells, the effect on the Conservation Area, pollution and nature conservation.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that an objection be made on the following grounds:

- Visual amenity - The Crematorium would be very close to existing houses and be detrimental to the visual aspect of the village.
- Traffic Generation - The increased traffic would add to the already severe problems caused on the exit sliproads of the A19 and the amount of additional traffic through the village. There have been documented traffic related problems in and around this location.
- Hazardous materials - There are concerns that the materials used would have an effect on the adjacent Castle Eden Dene and the wildlife.
- Smells - the prevailing winds would have smells blowing towards Castle Eden Dene.
- Effect on listed building and the conservation area - The site is on the edge of a Conservation Area and bounded by a SAC.

Concern was also expressed regarding the viability and need of a Crematorium as figures obtained from neighbouring Crematoriums were that they were not working to maximum capacity. It was felt that the applicants had failed to demonstrate the need for a Crematorium and provide justification for a departure from planning policies.

8. **FINANCE REPORT**

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|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Balance at Bank as at 19 December 2013 | £11,210.68 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | |
| HCI Data Ltd | £82.80 |
| Alphagraphics – A3 posters AED event | £83.18 |
| Alphagraphics – A4 leaflet | <u>£16.80</u> |
| Balance at Bank | £11,027.90 |

9. **PRECEPT 2014/15**

The notification of the Tax Base and request for Precept for 2014/15 had now been received from Durham County Council. The Clerk circulated a draft budget for consideration.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the 2014/15 budget be set at £8,079.81, comprising a Precept of £7835.81 and Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant of £244 which equated to a 0% increase to a Band D Property.

10. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

(i) **ACE Report**

Amanda Moon gave an update on progress.

(ii) **Broadband Connection**

Concern was expressed regarding the broadband speeds in the village. A lot of residents worked from home as well as a number of businesses operating from the village.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to BT to enquire if there was any planned work to upgrade the broadband network in the village.

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

Councillor Vacancy – Co-option

The Clerk reported that a resident had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor.

RESOLVED that the resident be invited to the next meeting to be considered for Co-option.