

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

Present:

Councillor Mrs M Wilmer (Chair)

Councillors M Colborn, D Martin, B Nutter, and Mrs V Robertson

Also Present:

Mrs A Moon – ACE, PCSO Kinghorne and Gilhodey

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Kinghorne explained that there had been 20 incidents since the last meeting. There had been one incident of criminal damage, suspicious activity of poachers and one incident of ASB. Crime was down 69%, incidents had risen 10% and theft was down 66%.

Councillor Mrs Robertson explained that they had conducted the community speedwatch and enquired if the equipment could be returned so they could do more. PCSO Kinghorne advised that speed was a PACT priority in some of the neighbouring villages and the equipment could be used again once the community speedwatch had been carried out.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on **21 AUGUST 2014**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Planning Appeal – Proposed Crematorium at Land North of the Old Brewery, Castle Eden (Minute No 6 refers)

It was suggested that Councillor Turnbull speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the forthcoming appeal. It was further suggested that the Parish Council contribute £500 for the Barristers time for the work in relation to the appeal. Councillor Martin raised concerns that not all residents may be against the proposal and objected to the contribution. Members commented that no residents had actually supported the proposals when planning permission had been applied for.

RESOLVED that £500 be contributed towards the Barrister's time for work in relation to the appeal.

Footpaths (Minute No 11(ii) refers)

Councillor Robertson explained that she had arranged a meeting with the Public Rights of Way Officer to discuss access to footpaths No 1 and 3. The access to footpath 1 has improved in the last month now that the large deposit of muck that was oozing water onto the path has been spread on the field. However, access through path number 3 was almost impassible due to large trenches in the area. The path passed through and in one place the access was blocked by two large silage bails.

6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

There was no County Councillor's report.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

North East Heating and Plumbing Spares

The Clerk advised that North East Heating and Plumbing Spares had requested details of advertising in the Parish Newsletter.

RESOLVED that the request be kept on file for future newsletters.

8. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the following planning application:

DM/14/01871/FPA Erection of two storey rear extension to south west and north west elevations. Single storey garage link including alterations to existing garage to provide first floor. Construction of subterranean plant room, erection of replacement shed, entrance gates and alterations to window and door opening throughout at Court House Stockton Road Castle Eden for Mr K Hanson

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that no objections be made.

9. **FINANCE REPORT**

Balance at Bank as at 21 August 2014

Balance at Bank	£15,172.74
<u>Expenditure</u>	
ACE Donation	£2000.00
St James Church Donation	£600.00
Hire of Village Hall	£480.00
Blackhall Youth Band	<u>£50.00</u>
	<u>£12,042.74</u>

10. **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 were minor issues which were to separate the precept from the Local Council Support Grant in the submission in future years, ensure that box 11 was answered and ensure that loose leaf pages of minutes are numbered and initialed by the Chair.

RESOLVED that the issues raised be dealt with in future submissions.

11. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

(i) **ACE Report**

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

(ii) **St James Church**

Councillor Robertson had researched the Parish Council responsibility to maintain the burial ground at St James Church. Under the Local Government Act 1972, full responsibility for the upkeep of the burial ground was with the church PCC. Only when the burial ground became a closed burial ground could the PCC request that responsibility be taken by a Parish Council. However, even then if the Parish Council request that the local authority take over the responsibility within three months of closure then the local authority must take that responsibility. The Parish Council have no legal responsibility for upkeep of the church yard at this time.

Councillors Mr and Mrs Robertson met with the St James Church PCC on 1 September 2014 to discuss the use of an old donation for £500 given by the Parish Council some years ago to assist in securing funding for the upkeep of a 14th century effigy in the church yard.

The church explained that they funded all activity and financial outgoings for St James and did not receive financial help from the church as a whole for any of this.

They have been forced to prepare an independent report into the state of trees in the churchyard after a neighbour submitted a planning application to fell the trees without consulting the church. The work is expensive and they did not have local funds to make it happen. They have therefore asked two bodies that made donations in relation to the effigy if they could use those funds for this purpose. The other body a private company has already agreed to this.

It would appear that the application was made in the wrong format (trees in a conservation area) and not (trees with a Tree protection order). It therefore appears that the Parish Council would eventually see the proper application for comment.

It was felt was that the money could only be properly used to pay for the independent report and not for any work that report recommended. In this way, the Parish Council could maintain an independent position but also have full access to the report to enable an informed comment on the felling of such beautiful old trees.

As far as the effigy lottery funding it would appear that this was not given as there was a dispute by those involved with the project as to where the effigy should finally be set. This was never resolved and the effigy still lies on the ground just outside the church door on the right hand side suffering the full effects of the weather. It would take a whole new project and lottery application to get any further lottery funding and was suggested that the £500 could be better used in the short term for the tree report.

Councillor Robertson had offered to take part in a church visioning group that will meet for the first time on 22nd September 2014 to set out a plan to obtain additional funding for the church. Councillor Nutter advised that he would also like to be part of this group.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Church be authorised to use the £500 on the tree report only.
- (b) Councillors Robertson and Nutter be authorised to be part of the church visioning group.

(iii) **War Memorial**

Work on the war memorial was to begin on 29 September 2014 weather permitting and be finished that week. Permission was sought to remove the wreaths on the memorial during that week for safe keeping until the work was complete.

(iv)

GP Surgery in Easington

Councillor Robertson advised that the Walk in Centre in Healthwork in Easington Colliery was also a GP Surgery that offered appointments from 8am to 8pm. There was concern that this facility may close due to the lack of registered patients and was asking for local people to support it. Councillor Nutter explained that he attended the Patient Reference Group and this had never been an item of discussion. He suggested that a letter be written to them asking if this issue has been discussed previously.

RESOLVED that The Clerk write to the Patient Reference Group regarding this issue.