

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**

**CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2014**

**Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

Mrs A Moon – ACE, Mr and Mrs Bird

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors B Robertson and Mrs V Robertson and County Councillors R Crute and L Pounder.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Turnbull declared an interest in Item No 8(ii) and 8(iii).

3. **POLICE REPORT**

The Clerk explained that there had been 31 incidents recorded since the last meeting, 19 of which were A19 related. There had been 1 burglary, 4 calls relating to poaching and an arrest had been made. 2 poaching letters had been sent for suspicious activity. Farmwatch had been undertaken the previous week when Officers had been patrolling until 2am. Crime was down 54% and theft down 44%.

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

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **16 OCTOBER 2014**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**GP Surgery, Healthworks (Minute No 4 refers)**

Councillor Nutter advised that he had attended a meeting that day regarding a new initiative by the health service relating to communicating with the community and how they engaged with the community to ensure they were aware what the health service was doing.

**Footpaths (Minutes No 6 refers)**

The Clerk advised that the works to both footbridges had been added to the design programme and was provisionally programmed for a start on site in February.

**ACE Report (Minute No 12(i) refers)**

Councillor Nutter suggested that the Parish Council promote East Durham Creates activities. Mrs Moon added that a brochure was delivered to every household the previous year.

**RESOLVED** that information given be noted.

6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The County Councillors had submitted their apologies.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

### (i) **Environment, Health and Consumer Protection Enforcement Policy Consultation**

The Clerk explained that Durham County Council were currently consulting on the above policy. The proposed policy was in response to The Regulator's code that was introduced under the provisions of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. A full copy of the draft policy was available on DCCs website.

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

### (ii) **Citizens Advice County Durham**

The Clerk had previously circulated correspondence received from the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils regarding the future of the Citizens Advice Bureau and the withdrawal of some services in villages across East Durham. Members were encouraged to respond with their views.

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

### (iii) **Correspondence from Mr and Mrs Bird**

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Mr and Mrs Bird regarding the Parish Councils decision to contribute towards the legal costs for the work surrounding the appeal for the Crematorium application. It was felt that not all residents were opposed to the proposal and Parish Council funds should not have been used for this purpose.

The Chair advised that more than 100 residents had attended the public meeting that was set up by the Parish Council to obtain the views of the public prior to the Parish Council considering making representations on the planning application. After listening to the views of the residents present at the meeting, the Parish Council resolved to object to the planning application.

The Clerk advised that s137 of the Local Government Act 1972, enabled Parish Councils to spend a set amount per head of electorate for the benefit of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. A large proportion of the electorate objected to the planning application and they were not aware of any resident making representations to support it. There were over 180 written representations on the application, none of which were in favour of it.

The Parish Council had been invoiced for the legal advice Nicola Allen Associates had provided in relation to defending their position at the appeal hearing. It was felt that £500 plus VAT was excellent value for money for the advice received and the current budget would not be affected.

Mr Bird commented that he had been concerned that the Parish Council had spent public money for that purpose.

As Mr and Mrs Bird were present at the meeting and received a full verbal response, a written response was not required.

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

## 8. PLANNING PROPOSALS

(i) DM/14//03199/TPO Felling of six trees (T1-T4 and T5-T6) and crown clean to remove deadwood of one tree (T5) protected by at tree preservation order for St James Parochial Church Council, Church Of St James, The Village, Castle Eden

Councillor Mrs Robertson has been unable to attend the meeting but asked for her views to be taken into consideration. She felt that the trees should be managed and maintained rather than being felled.

Concerns were expressed regarding the removal of the trees but if they were dangerous then it was felt they must be attended to. If removed, Members would like to see them replaced with established trees and suggested that this may be a condition that was attached to the planning permission if Officers were minded to approve the application.

**RESOLVED** that the comments outlined above be made to Durham County Council.

(ii) DM/14/02374/FPA Demolition of existing timber garage and erection of detached triple garage Broxholme, Stockton Road, Castle Eden for Mr D Johnson

Councillor Turnbull advised that he had been approached by the applicant regarding the Parish Council's opinion on the application. Councillor Turnbull had advised that it would be discussed on the 20 November and no decision had been made as to what the comments may be. He has spoken to the immediate neighbours, neither had objections to the application but one had concerns regarding how the applicant would deal with the trees that were on his own property as well as those of another neighbour.

Following discussion, Members raised concerns about the direction the gates opened. They would like Officers to take into consideration the direction that the gates opened. At present, they moved outwards not inwards. If Officers were minded to approve the application, then this could be a planning condition.

**RESOLVED** that the comments outlined above be made to Durham County Council.

**PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS, COUNCILLOR TURNBULL DECLARED AN INTEREST AND LEFT THE MEETING**

(iii) DM/14/03204/FPA Dwelling (retrospective and resubmission) at 4 Parklands Drive Castle Eden for Mr D Johnson

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that an objection be made to the additional buildings that had been added to the previously approved planning permission. The development would have a detrimental effect on residential amenity in terms of privacy and have a huge visual impact on the neighbouring property.

**COUNCILLOR TURNBULL REJOINED THE MEETING**

9. **FINANCE REPORT**

Balance at Bank as at 16 October	£11,307.41
<u>Income</u>	
Interest	£0.49
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Poppy Appeal	<u>£50.00</u>
Balance at Bank	<u>£11,257.90</u>

10. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

(i) **ACE Report**

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

(ii) **Newsletter**

The Chair advised that a newsletter would be prepared in the new year and asked all Members to give consideration of what items they would like included.

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

(i) **Estate Fencing on the Blackhall Road**

Concern was expressed regarding the estate fencing on the left hand side of the road leading from the war memorial junction to The Village. Some of the steel railings were protruding out onto the footpath.

**RESOLVED** that the fencing be report to DCC.

(ii) **Street Lighting**

A number of street lights were out in the vicinity of the Castle Eden Inn.

**RESOLVED** that the street lights be reported.