

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2014

Present:

Councillor B Turnbull (Chair)

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

Also Present:

Mrs A Moon – ACE, County Councillors Crute and Pounder, Mr Leonard, PCSO Western and Goodwin.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs M Wilmer and M Colborn.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Goodwin advised that there had been 20 incidents since the last meeting, of which 10 were A19 related. There had been 1 burglary and a number of calls relating to poaching. Two letters had been delivered to suspected poachers and there were a further two to be delivered.

Councillor Mrs Robertson explained that a resident had approached her asking for support from local residents in relation to the poaching. She felt that the Police did not take the issue seriously when reported. PCSO Goodwin explained that it was the way in which responses were scheduled, immediate, priority and scheduled which could take up to 24 hours. He added that he would be making poaching a PACT priority and was working with Natural England to conduct overnight patrols in the Dene. Animals, equipment and vehicles could be seized. The Police used social media and Farm Watch and took the issue very seriously.

Councillor Martin queried what evidence could be used to secure a conviction. PCSO Goodwin advised that if a video could be taken safely which would identify the individuals and vehicles then this could be used as evidence. The National Wildlife Crime Agency based in Scotland had been using social media to gather evidence.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on **20 NOVEMBER 2014**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Crute advised that the planning applications for the windturbines at Sheraton and Wingate Grange had been refused.

The issue with the fencing from the War Memorial to The Village had been reported to the Highways Action Line and DCC were looking into who owned the land.

The Parish Clerk at Monk Hesleden Parish Council was co-ordinating the scheme to install the AEDs in Blackhall, Hesleden and Castle Eden. She had met with the Ambulance Service and progress was being made.

With regard to the planning application for the static caravans, the Planning Officer had queried if the Parish Council's objection remained as the highways department had no objections. Members confirmed that they still wished to object to the planning application.

Councillor Turnbull queried if there had been any progress on the planning application for the removal of the spoil heap at Hesleden. Councillor Crute advised that he was not expecting any news until the new year. Councillor Nutter commented that he felt that transport at DCC should be part of the process prior to determination of the application.

Councillor Martin commented that he had observed the Tree Officer from DCC on Hesleden Road who was looking at the trees abutting the highway.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

St James Church, Castle Eden

Mr Leonard circulated a case statement prepared by the PCC at St James Church which identified the challenges and opportunities that the church were facing in the coming months. A financial update was also provided. There was a public meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the church were requesting that the Parish Council consider what support, if any they could offer.

Councillor Nutter suggested that the Area Action Partnership may be able to offer some help and advice.

Councillor Mrs Robertson suggested that an envelope drop asking for donations. Mr Leonard explained that there would be letter drops leading up to the public meeting.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

7. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the following planning applications

a) DM/14/03534/FPA Proposed single storey front extension at Gas Cottage, St James Fields, Castle Eden for Mrs L Slater

RESOLVED that no objections be made.

b) DM/14/03594/FPA Application to render to existing dwelling together with render to alterations as per application DM/14/01871/FPA Court House Stockton Road Castle Eden for Mr K Hanson

RESOLVED that no objections be made.

c) DRC/14/00334 Discharge of planning conditions 3 and 4 pursuant to DM/14/00084/FPA at Hallow Hill, The Village Castle Eden for Mr and Mrs Cooper

RESOLVED that no objections be made.

d) DRC/14/00335 Discharge of planning condition 3 pursuant to PL/5/2013/0060 at Hallow Hill, The Village Castle Eden for Mr and Mrs Cooper

RESOLVED that no objections be made.

8. FINANCE REPORT

Balance at Bank as at 20 November £11,257.90

Expenditure

Clerk's Expenses £95.98

N Allen – Legal expenses 600.00

Balance at Bank £10,561.92

Pay Scales 2014-16

The Clerk advised that the National Joint Council for Local Government Service (NJC) had reached an agreement on the new pay scales for 2014-16 to be implemented from January 2015. This would be a 2.2% rise with a non consolidated amount of £100 (pro rata).

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

9. VILLAGE MATTERS

(i) **ACE Report**

Amanda Moon circulated the key points from the last ACE meeting and gave an update on progress. Councillor Turnbull queried how the amount allocated in the budget for the war memorial. Mrs Moon advised that this was £1600 although there were some requirements that had to be adhered to when the funding was going to a statutory body ie more aesthetics than structure.

(ii) **War Memorial**

Councillor Robertson advised that the War Memorial Trust had not yet released the funding for the works. He suggested that the invoice be paid until the funding was received.

RESOLVED that the invoice to Skillingtons amounting to £3108 be authorised for payment.