

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2015**

Present:

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

Also Present:

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

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Western advised that there had been 17 incidents since the last meeting, of which 8 were A19 related. There had been 1 ASB social media related and a number of reports of poaching in the area. Suspected poachers had been warned with some had received poaching letters. Farm Watch and Coast Watch were beginning in February. ASB was down 15% and all other incidents were down 6%.

PCSO Goodwin explained that reports had been received regarding various items being found in the turning circle and he had been checking parked vehicles. He would ensure that all his colleagues were aware to patrol the area regularly.

Councillor Crute commented that all items that were found should be reported. If the Crematorium was approved then all evidence would need to be presented to DCC regarding the lifting of the Prohibition Order.

All residents should be encouraged to report any suspicious activity or articles found in that location.

Mr Newton explained that the car park in Maximos had been used previously as a pool car park. PCSO Goodwin advised that he could place a notice on any car parked in the turning circle but not Maximos as this was a private car park.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **18 DECEMBER 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 no decision had yet been received on the Crematorium appeal. No planning application had been made for Hesleden as yet.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence to report.

7. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

There were no planning proposals.

8. **FINANCE REPORT**

Balance at Bank as at 18 December 2014	£10,591.90
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Expenditure

Clerk's Salary	£478.56
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HMRC	£119.64
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Skillington Workshp	<u>£3108.00</u>
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Balance at Bank	<u>£6,885.70</u>
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9. **PRECEPT 2015/16**

The Clerk advised that the notification of the Tax Base and request for Precept for 2015/16 had now been received from Durham County Council. The Clerk circulated an estimate of income and expenditure for 2015/16. The Clerk advised that the LCTRS grant applicable to the Council had reduced by £197 from the previous year.

The Chair explained that two informal meetings had been held to discuss the budget for the forthcoming year. Mr Tough who kindly volunteered to pay for a gardener to tend to the area around the War Memorial was moving out of the village. The cost of the gardener would be £11 every two weeks. Further works were proposed to be carried out to the War Memorial during the year. The Parish Council's expenditure in the last 3 years had exceeded budget predictions.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the 2015/16 budget be set at £9,047, comprising a Precept of £9,000 and Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant of £47 which equated to a Band D charge of £29.53.

10. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

(i) **ACE Report**

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

(ii) **War Memorial**

Work had been completed on the war memorial. The next step was to replace the pebbles with Yorkshire stone. Residents would be consulted on what works they would like to see to enhance the war memorial.

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

Digital Durham

Many residents and businesses had complained that the internet connection was extremely slow. There was no update as to when fibre broadband would be available.

RESOLVED that an update be sought.