

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2016**

Present:

Councillor Mrs M Wilmer (Chair)

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

Also Present

Mrs A Moon – ACE, PCSO Goodwin and Edson and Mr Wilds

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Goodwin explained that there had been 23 incidents since the last meeting, 1 burglary and 16 A19 related incidents. There had been late night patrols in Castle Eden Dene with Natural England. The rocks had been moved at the bus turning circle. Councillor Turnbull advised that the rocks had been moved by the contractor for the golf club and they eventually returned them.

ASB was down 24%, crime down 43% and theft down 63%.

The Chair queried if solved crimes were ever reported. PCSO Goodwin explained that they were normally reported through social media once the defendant had been through the court process.

Mrs Moon advised that there had been an increase in the number of motorbikes on the walkway. PCSO Goodwin stated that all reports should be made via the 101 number. Residents could be asked to keep a diary and ring in once per week. Reporting of crimes led to resources being allocated in problem areas.

Councillor Mrs Robertson reported that motorists were speeding through the village. PCSO Goodwin advised that a community speedwatch could be arranged. Discussion ensued around the possibility of a speed visor either temporary or permanent. County Councillors added that they may be able to contribute via the Members budget.

RESOLVED that enquires be made into the cost of a speed visor.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **10 MAY 2016**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Crute explained that the deadline for submission of representations for the Crematorium appeal had now passed. It was hoped a decision would be made within 6-8 weeks.

The County Council were consulting on removing a number of street lights in the village through the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project. Councillor Crute advised that they would be objecting to removal of all the lights proposed.

The lights were in built up areas that had a number of farm and residential accesses onto the main roads. It was a very dangerous proposal for residents in the village. There were a number of dog walkers who would be left vulnerable and the fear of crime will be hugely increased. The recent planning application that was granted for the removal of the pit heap at Hesleden would also increase traffic.

The cost of operating the lights in comparison to the potential savings by removing the lights should be requested.

Councillor Crute advised that he would seek an extension to the 4 week consultation period to enable residents to be informed of the proposals.

RESOLVED that

- (i) an objection be made to the removal of the street lights
- (ii) residents be informed via a letter drop, noticeboards and social media

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a) NJC Pay Award

A pay award for employees of the Council had been agreed for the next two years.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

b) County Durham Plan

The new County Durham Plan has commenced a public consultation. A copy of the plan was available on DCC website.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

c) War Memorial

The War Memorial had been awarded Listed Building Status.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

8. PLANNING PROPOSALS

DM/16/01785/TPO Various tree works (trees protected by tree preservation order) at Tollgate House, Stockton Road, Castle Eden for Mr Wilds

Mr Wilds gave an overview of the planning application. The trees up the side of the drive and back of the house towards the A19 are subject to TPOs. Some trees that were not subject to a TPO had been approved for removal. Advice had been given by tree surgeons on what works were required. The intention was to maintain rather than manicure. The worst case scenario was to remove.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that no objection be made.

9. **FINANCE REPORT**

Balance at Bank as at 10 May	£9,035.20
Precept	£9,049.00
Interest	0.66
ACE	£1,645.00
HMRC refund	<u>759.63</u>
	20,489.49
ACE	£1000.00
Clerks Expenses	£59.70
AON Insurance	543.65
R Heywood	60.00
Gromore Gardens	306.00
Alphagraphics	248.40
Balance at Bank	<u>£18,271.74</u>

Mr Leonard had advised that the churchyard remained open and queried if the Parish Council had agreed to contribute to its maintenance, as in previous years.

RESOLVED that £600 be donated to the Church towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

10. **PARISH PLAN 2017/20**

Consideration was given to the Action Plan. The winner of the meal at the Castle Eden Inn was Mrs Lancaster.

RESOLVED that the Action Plan be agreed.

11. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

(i) **ACE Report**

The key points from the last ACE meeting were circulated.

(ii) **War Memorial**

The stone for the path for the war memorial had been ordered.

(iii) **Public Right of Way**

Councillor Martin commented that the PROW Officer at DCC had been querying when the maintenance work would take place on the footpath from the Masonic Hall to the A19. This work would be carried out when it was required. Member wished to thank John Brydon for the work he had done on footpath no 1.

(iv) **Entrance to the old A19**

This was discussed earlier in the agenda.