

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2021**

**Present:**

Councillor M Wilmer (Chair)

Councillors D Martin, M Carling, Mrs J Welch and Mrs L Taylor

Also Present:

1 resident

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None were received.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Martin declared an interest in item 6.

**3. POLICE REPORT**

The Clerk advised that there had been 18 incidents in this area.

Burglary x 2 – These were both burglaries which have occurred in The Village area. Both of these were attempts on outbuildings or sheds.

Road /A19 related – 12

From figures, crime was DOWN 18% year on year with incidents DOWN 3%.

There had been a number of Covid warnings issued to various persons in the area over the past month. Although they attempted to use Engage, Educate, Encourage, unfortunately, they have had to Enforce on a number of occasions with offenders given fines when found in breach of the current Covid legislation.

Various Community Protection Warnings had also been issued to those deemed to have caused a persistent nuisance to neighbours and other residents. These could be escalated to fixed penalty notices with a fine of £100.

Poaching letters had been issued to males who were suspected of trespassing on farm land in the area.

Councillor Martin raised concerns about how crime was being recorded. He had spoken to the Lead Inspector for rural crime regarding his concerns.

A resident had asked for the police report to be placed on the noticeboards. The Clerk advised that the noticeboards were not being updated during the lockdown period.

**RESOLVED** that a notice be placed in the noticeboard advising that all information would be placed on the website.

**4. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **17 DECEMBER 2020**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

There were no County Councillors present.

6. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the following planning applications:

DM/20/03747/FPA Proposed side extension, insertion of roof lights and roof balcony to rear, extension to existing dropped kerb, replacement of front boundary hedging with timber fence and re-siting of detached outbuilding door to rear at Restalrig, Stockton Road, Castle Eden

**RESOLVED** that no objection be made.

7. **PRECEPT 2021/22**

The Clerk advised that the notification of the Tax Base and request for Precept for 2021/22 had now been received from Durham County Council. The Clerk circulated an estimate of income and expenditure for 2021/22. The Clerk advised that the LCTRS grant applicable to the Council was £43.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the 2021/22 budget be set at £10,000 comprising a Precept of £10,000 and Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant of £43 which equated to a Band D charge of £32.15.

8. **FINANCE REPORT**

Balance as per bank reconciliation as 3 December was £26,197.76

Bank statements were viewed by the Chair

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO
Clerk	Expenses	£37.20	000673
Clerk	Microsoft renewal	£59.99	000673

9. **LOCAL ELECTIONS 2021**

The Chair advised that the local elections would be held in May. The election would cost around £3500 if the election was contested. There were currently two vacancies, therefore unlikely to be contested.

10. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

**a) ACE Report**

It was explained that no events had taken place due to being in lockdown therefore ACE was not asking for any financial support this year. Members commented that if anything required funding then this could be looked at again.

**b) Broadband**

A resident had queried if there was any possibility of faster broadband being installed in the village. The Clerk commented that she was aware there was a company called Youfibre who was currently installing faster broadband in the village. She advised she would speak to Digital Durham and enquire if it would be available throughout the village.

**RESOLVED** that further information be sought from Digital Durham.