

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021**

Present:

Councillor M Wilmer (Chair)

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

Also Present:

1 resident, PCSO Goodwin

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Martin declared an interest in item 7a.

3. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Goodwin advised that there had been 8 incidents in this area. Of these,

A19/Road related - 5 calls

Suspicious calls – 2 (these were both Covid-related incidents).

There have been no reports of ASB, Burglary, Theft, Vehicle Crime or Criminal Damage within the period.

The Police had carried out various operations and patrols in the area over the past month. Officers now had access to handheld devices on which they could access Police systems. These were being used by officers in public areas, whilst parked up or on foot patrol. This allowed for a more rapid and efficient updating of incidents along with on-the-spot checks.

Operations would continue around those who cause harm to the community and residents and those individuals would be targeted by local Beat officers as well as by Response officers on a regular basis. The police would work with partners at Durham County Council and the ASB Team to ensure that appropriate action was taken to those causing the issues.

Incidents recorded across the beat were down by 17% at present, with crime reduced by 9%. Whilst the current lockdown may have played a part in this, it nonetheless was a positive sign for the residents of Castle Eden. Anti-social behaviour remained negligible in the area, with a year on year increase of 1 call.

Officers had issued poaching warnings, along with covid warnings to those suspected of being involved in rural crime. They continued to work with local farmers and landowners, via various communication devices including WhatsApp and Keep In The Know. Please feel free to join by going to KeepInTheKnow.co.uk and signing up. Don't forget to click on the authentication email.

Councillors reported that there had been some unusual activity in the village. For eg, vehicles stopping, passengers walking then going back to their vehicles. There was nothing specific but other residents walking their dogs had reported they had seen people in the village who don't live there. PCSO Goodwin explained that it could be due to Covid exercise but resident should not be travelling.

A resident advised that there had been more motorbikes on the walkway that week at odd times. PCSO Goodwin advised that he would keep an eye on this and if all times could be reported.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **21 JANUARY 2021**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

Police Report – following a conversation with the Lead Inspector, PCSOs were now reporting issues on local groups. It was very important including the public.

Broadband – Digital Durham had confirmed that Youfibre were only working in some parts of the village.

6. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

There were no County Councillors present.

The Chair advised that she had raised concerns regarding the caravan that had been placed on the garden centre. Planning was now investigating this issue.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

7. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the following planning applications:

- a) **DM/21/00332/FPA Erection of a two bedroom single storey holiday let at Eden Vale Cottage, Stockton Road, Castle Eden**

Councillors advised the concerns had not changed from the previous applications at this location. It was felt that this was infill housing which would have a detrimental impact on neighbouring properties and lead to a significant encroachment into the countryside in the conservation area.

Bleachery Lane which leads to the property was also in an extremely poor state of repair. Any increase in traffic would affect the access and movement around the village.

A holiday let would need to demonstrate a need for it in the area. It was felt that this need was already met as there was an existing holiday park within Castle Eden.

The Parish Council had a number of questions they would like clarified:

- How would restrictions on a holiday let be monitored and by whom
- What would be the consequences if restrictions were not adhered to
- Will there be any conditions attached which prevents a change of use in future

RESOLVED that an objection be made and a number of queries be raised.

- b) **DM/21/00379/FPA Construction of single storey pitched roof garage to side of dwelling with 2 no. roof lights at 3 High Winning Cottages, Castle Eden**

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

- c) **DRC/21/00034 Application to discharge of conditions no. 3 (organ insulation details), 4 (tree protection) and 5 (Archaeology) pursuant to DM/17/02618/FPA. at St James Church, The Village Castle Eden**

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received.

9. **FINANCE REPORT**

Balance as per bank reconciliation as 3 February 2021 was £26,197.76
Bank statements were viewed by the Chair

10. **LOCAL ELECTIONS 2021**

The Chair reminded Councillors to apply for their nomination packs if they wished to continue being a Parish Councillor.

11. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

ACE Report

It was explained that she had been asked by the Covid Co-ordinator at DCC to provide information about Castle Eden as the Covid rate was high. Castle Eden was categorised with Wingate. The Clerk advised that she had also spoken with her.