

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023**

Councillor Mrs M Wilmer (Chair)

Councillors D Gordon and Mrs J Welch

Also Present: 2 residents

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Crute and Denali.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. POLICE REPORT

There had been 16 reported incidents in the area from 15 December to 15 January 2023, of these incidents, 10 were road or A19 related. There had been no reported instances of ASB, theft, criminal damage, burglary or vehicle crime. There had been instances of reported poaching down towards the border with Cleveland. The PCSO had attended some of these incidents and through investigation and intelligence received from the community, issued 3 Community Protection Warnings in regard to suspicious behaviour.

6 Poaching Warning Letters had also been issued which highlighted to those receiving that they had been seen in suspicious circumstances which gave concerns that they MAY be involved in poaching or other rural crime. Since issuing these, there had been no further calls in regards to this behaviour.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

- 4. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **17 November 2022**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Village signs – no response had been received.

Brown Visitor Signs – it was suggested that the Cricket club be approached and a sign requested.

Remembrance Soldiers – a single soldier could be purchased from the Royal British Legion.

Parish Councillor – Electoral services had advised that there had been no candidates who had expressed an interest. The Parish Council could opt to co-opt.

Speed Visor – no response had been received.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There were no County Councillors present.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A local business had requested the Parish Council's support in erecting signage to advertise a craft fayre at the village hall. It was suggested that they be erected close to the date of the event but taken down once the event had taken place. However, the final decision would be with landowners and the highways department. It was suggested that position 1 on the plan be re-considered due to traffic accidents reported in that area.

RESOLVED that the business be advised of the comments.

8. PLANNING PROPOSALS

There were no planning applications to consider, however the Chair advised that some residents had been contacted regarding a tank being added at Hulum which was just over the border. As far as she was aware there were no objections from residents of Castle Eden.

9. FINANCE

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO
Clerk	Microsoft renewal	£59.99	000710
Castle Eden Village Hall Association	Hire of the hall	£200	000711

Balance as per bank reconciliation as £35,472.92

Bank statements were viewed by the Chair

10. PRECEPT 2023/24

The Clerk advised that the notification of the Tax Base and request for Precept for 2023/24 had now been received from Durham County Council. The Clerk circulated an estimate of income and expenditure for 2023/24. The Clerk advised that the LCTRS grant applicable to the Council was £0.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the 2023/24 budget be set at £10,000 comprising a Precept of £10,000 which equated to a Band D charge of £31.90.

11. VILLAGE MATTERS

- (i) ACE – ACE had started the litter picking again in the area. Some of the paths were crumbling and had deteriorated since they were last reported. The worst areas affected was from the War Memorial towards Blackhall.

RESOLVED that the footpaths be reported.

- (ii) Salt bin – residents had requested a salt bin on the main road opposite Mill Hill Farm.

RESOLVED that the request be made to DCC.