

CAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 15 JANUARY 2015
DRAFT MINUTES

At the meeting of the Cawston Parish Council held at the Bowls Club, Norwich Road, Cawston on Thursday 15 January 2015, the following members were present:

Mr P E Soanes (Chairman)
Mr B Schuil (Vice Chairman)
Mrs J M Buttifant; Mrs T J Durrant; Mr J Livingstone
Mr N Milton; Mr D Noble; Mr G Sinclair; Mrs S Spencer

In Attendance

Mr J Joyce (District/County Councillor); Mr LR Mills (Clerk of the Council)
and one member of the public

096/161 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PCSO Bridges

096/162 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Mr Milton, item 9 Planning

096/163 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 December 2014 having been circulated to all members were approved as a correct record by the Council and signed by the Chairman

096/164 MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

(i) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: The Council wished to thank all parishioners who had put up Christmas lights and instructed the Clerk to write a letter to the Parish Magazine expressing its views.

(ii) SUBSTATION: Mr Livingstone reported that the operators will be holding an open day at the Village Hall. To this end the operators have distributed a leaflet to all households in the village. Mr Livingstone's group had also issued a leaflet expressing their views. The Chairman reported he had received a letter from the operators inviting all councillors to the exhibition.

096/165 PUBLIC

Mr Rossington asked whether all obsolete street lights were to be replaced with LED lights. This was confirmed by the Clerk.

He also asked for more information regarding the gateposts at the Chapel Street entrance to the Playing Field. Mr Schuil explained they had been cut down and reused to save costs.

096/166 POLICE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

The Clerk tabled the report on behalf of PCSO Bridges.

096/167 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr Joyce said that the County Council will be setting its budget next month. In a general review of Children's Services he said that 72% of Norfolk schools have been judged 'good' or 'outstanding.' There are over 1,000 looked after children in Norfolk. Most are in foster care. In other matters he reported that the road budget will be discussed tomorrow and that the Northern Distributor Road inquiry is continuing.

096/168 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing further to report

096/169 PLANNING

Mr Milton, having declared an interest, took no part in the discussion and did not vote

App no 20142029, 2 Marshall Howard Close, single storey side extension
The Council agreed to SUPPORT this application. The Clerk to inform Broadland District Council of its views.

096/170 FINANCE

(i) The Clerk tabled the report for the third quarter along with the bank reconciliation. These were accepted by the Council. It was also agreed that the third column of future quarterly reports are to show the expected expenditure levels as at the end of the year.

(ii) PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS: The invoices and cheques were scrutinised by Mrs Durrant. It was AGREED that the following payments totalling £2970.15 be approved and the necessary cheques signed by two authorised members.

Garden Guardian: Grounds maintenance: £699.80
E.On: street lighting energy: £213.57
L. Mills: Salary/expenses: £497.35
T. Lubbock: Safety inspection/litter clear: £43.80
C Mead: cemetery upkeep: £50.00
Berryman: glass recycling: £29.17
Norfolk Pension Fund; Pension; £138.16
TT Jones Electrical: street lights maintenance: £1298.30

(iii) BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2015 – 2016

It was proposed by Mr Milton, seconded Mrs Durrant, that the draft budget (as appended to these minutes) be adopted for 2015-16 and the precept demand fixed at £30,000. AGREED unanimously.

096/171 REPORT OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

(i) CAWSTON CHAMPION: notices have been placed on the noticeboards *noted*
(ii) NOTICEBOARD: the doors now stick and are very hard to undo. Is anybody willing to try to mend/alter them? *Noted, under review*

096/171 REPORT OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL(continued)

(iii) DEFIBRILLATOR: Mrs Spencer has taken over the weekly and monthly checks *noted*

(iv) BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL have published their "Draft Broadland Housing Options Allocations Scheme Policy 2014 – 17". The Allocations Scheme policy sets out how successful applicants will be prioritised and selected for nomination to accommodation by the Council. Amongst the proposed changes to the policy are significant changes relating to the eligibility criteria to join the housing list following changes to Government guidance. They are asking for comments from individuals and interested organisations by 23 February 2015. The full document can be found here http://www.broadland.gov.uk/housing_and_planning/4787.asp *noted*

CORRESPONDENCE

NORFOLK RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL, newsletter

NORFOLK RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL, petition against withdrawal of government funding to ACRE (the network of rural community councils)

NALC, Norfolk Link December 2014

CLERK & COUNCILS DIRECT, January 2015

RURAL HOUSING ALLIANCE/RURAL SERVICES NETWORK have republished their document "Affordable Rural Housing: A Practical Guide for Parish Councils" It can be accessed online from rsnonline.org.uk

096/172 PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Following consideration of the costs of the project to upgrade the pathway along Chapel Street it was AGREED not to apply for funding under this scheme.

096/173 EMERGENCY PLAN

Mr Milton reported that he had been unable to contact Mr Gilbert and asked that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

096/174 BEECH TREE SEATING AREA

Mr Sinclair said he will inspect the benches to see whether it is practical to remove them.

AGREED that Clerk should write to the owners of the nearby property to sound out their opinions on ownership. Also to contact the Council's solicitors regarding ownership documents

At this point Mr Livingstone raised the matter of the area on High Street at junction with Church Lane. Clerk reported he had heard nothing further from the Wherry Housing Association. Clerk instructed to follow up.

096/175 CHARITIES

Following consideration of the report prepared by the Clerk it was AGREED to form a Working Party consisting of Mrs Spencer, Mrs Buttifant and Mr Noble. Mrs Carman was also proposed in her absence. The group will report to next meeting.

096/176 S106 FUNDS

The Clerk confirmed that £1770 was available and if not spent by September 2015 it would be returned to the developers.

Mr Joyce left the meeting at this point

Mrs Spencer informed the Council of her discussions with the manufacturers of playground shelters.

At this point the member of the public present, Mr Rossington, interrupted the meeting by questioning a statement made by Mr Schuil. He then left the meeting.

It was proposed by Mr Schuil, seconded by Mr Livingstone, that a 2m square wooden shelter for the Playing Field should be procured. The Clerk to also ascertain from the manufacturer costs of flooring for the shelter. This was AGREED by a majority vote.

096/177 SITE ALLOCATIONS

Mr Livingstone spoke regarding the Gayford Road site. It was AGREED to instruct the Clerk to write to the owner (or his agent/architect) if they would be prepared to meet with the Parish Council to hear what the Council believes is needed. Council hopes a dialogue would lead to them being able to support any future development.

096/178 RECYCLING

AGREED to instruct Clerk to contact recycling firm to see if they would be willing to site can banks at the Council's three sites. If so, to also write to the present contractor instructing him to remove his banks within seven working days.

096/179 NORFOLK CONSTABULARY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Mr Schuil declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote.

It was AGREED to not participate in this scheme.

096/180 PARISHIONERS' CORRESPONDENCE

Two letters from Mr Des Cook, chair of the Village Hall Committee, having been received by the chairman and distributed to all members, were discussed.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should respond on behalf of the Council to the secretary of the Village Hall Committee (see minute 096/077)

It was AGREED to say that at the present time unfortunately no councillor was in a position to take over the role of chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

096/181 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

INFORMATION:

(i) It was agreed that the new LED street lights outside the Village Hall are a vast improvement. Clerk to write to Parish magazine to inform parishioners of developments

(ii) Mr Schuil raised the problem of rabbits on the Playing Field. Mr Noble said he would consult a professional expert in the matter.

096/181 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA(continued)

Mr Schuil also mentioned that he and his wife had collected eight bags full of rubbish from the Playing Field.

FUTURE AGENDA

Charities

Benches

Churchyard Wall

Playing Field

Bust stop

096/182 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19 February 2015 at the Bowls Club, Cawston

096/183

To exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission of Strangers) Act 1960 during discussion of the following confidential items relating to employment matters. AGREED

096/184

AGREED to await further advice to clarify the legal situation.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm