

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JULY 2015**

Present:

Councillor B Turnbull (Chair)
Councillors D Martin, B Robertson and Mrs V Robertson

Also Present:

Mrs A Moon – ACE, PCSO Goodwin

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Colborn, Mrs M Wilmer and B Nutter

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Goodwin advised that there had been 20 incidents since the last meeting, 9 of which were A19 related. There had been 1 ASB and 1 vehicle crime. There had been an incident where a male had been seen near The Village with an air rifle. He had been employed by the Golf Club.

Late night patrols were to be undertaken with Natural England in the Dene.

Councillor Martin referred to the A19 slip road junction with the A181 and explained that there had been a number of accidents and motorists going down the wrong sliproad. PCSO Goodwin advised that the junction arrangement had been looked at on numerous occasions. The only solution was to change the layout of the road and was unsure how this could be achieved given the constraints with land availability around the area. It would be a decision made by DCC Highways and the Police Traffic Management Section.

Discussion ensued around the number of recorded accidents and the possibility of erection cameras to assess the level of the problem. Councillor Crute advised he would contact DCC to ascertain if there was anything further that could be done.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **19 JUNE 2015**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Crute explained that a query had been raised regarding whether DCC could refuse to consider the planning application for the Crematorium as it was the same as the previous application. There was a time limit for resubmission of applications unless they were significantly different. Clarification had been sought from DCC. DCC had agreed to extend the consultation deadline for acceptance of representations until 17 July although representations could be made up until the scheduled County Planning Committee. Officers had agreed to visit the Golf Club to view the safety aspects.

Sunderland and Durham Crematorium Managers were to provide an update on the need issue although nothing had changed and they both had plenty of capacity.

Councillor Turnbull explained that an initial meeting had been held with Councillor Wilmer, Phil Barclay and Sam Grant to discuss the way forward.

Councillor Crute explained that the street lights were still out at Dene View. He had been informed that it was an underground cable fault and specialist contractors were required.

Councillor Robertson queried when the AED would be installed. The Clerk explained that all the relevant documentation had been completed and funding obtained. The AED was scheduled to be installed in September.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

8. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the following applications:

DM/15/01841/FPA Erection of new cremation facility comprising a crematorium building, new access road, car parking facilities, ancillary external areas including gardens and pond at Land To North Of Castle Eden Brewery Castle Eden for Dignity PLC

Following a lengthy discussion whereby Councillor Martin commented that not all the residents of Castle Eden were opposed to the Crematorium and he did not support the objection made by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to submit the following objection:

“The Parish Council for Castle Eden objects to the proposed crematorium and they are fully supported by almost the entire Parish.

The resubmission by Dignity is barely different from the previously rejected proposal which was rejected by both the County Council and the Planning Inspector at the appeal. The Planning Inspectors report stated that there were two main areas of concern but in a number of areas he did not feel that there were problems however we, and the Parishioners, still feel that there will be.

The Parish Council object to the proposal on the following grounds:

Safety

It is well established that golf balls from the immediately adjacent golf course are frequently driven across the proposed site. These are not gently falling objects but are flying at some speed and can cause substantial damage to both people and property. They also ricochet from hard surfaces and do not simply fall to the ground. The revised proposal does not address this issue.

Fear of Crime

The proposal has a gate which will give access to the abandoned road during the bulk of the day. Unmanned CCTV and cutting back hedges will do nothing to prevent the sexual activities which were previously experienced there as they occurred at all times of day and were highly exhibitionist.

Landscape value

The removal of two trees within the area adjacent the conservation area is unacceptable.

Secondly there are two very large established trees (one in the Conservation Area) adjacent the road to the site which will inevitably be damaged and probably destroyed when the entrance is constructed. Dignity state that there will be a no dig policy to prevent damage but this is clearly impossible if a road and footpaths to highways standard is to be constructed.

CCTV masts and street lighting columns will clearly adversely affect the amenity value as will the cutting back of the hedgerows.

It is also noted that the major feature for the crematorium, namely the chimney, is not shown on any of the vistas nor indeed is its size and construction details but it will clearly be intrusive.

The additional cars using the area and indeed parking outside the site when it is closed to visit the memorial garden will be intrusive.

DDA

The proposal includes a number of grass paths which will not be compliant with DDA legislative requirements.”

A letter had been sent to Natural England asking them to support the objection. There was also a need for the highways Strategic Manager to look at the impact the additional traffic would have on the A19.

RESOLVED that an objection be made as detailed above.

9. **FINANCE REPORT**

Balance at Bank as at 16 July 2015

Balance at Bank as at 18 June 2015	£16,295.02
Clerks Salary	480.26
HMRC	120.06
Gromore Gardens	<u>208.00</u>
Balance at Bank	£15,486.70

10. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

(i) **ACE Report**

Amanda Moon circulated the key points from the last ACE meeting and gave an update on progress.

(ii) **War Memorial**

Councillor Turnbull explained that there had been no responses from the proposals that were put in the noticeboards. The pointing was breaking away and this would be reported. A two people pathway could be laid. Free standing pyramids cost in the region of £150 each.

(iii) **Conservation Area**

Councillor Mrs Robertson explained that satellite dishes were being erected on the fronts of houses and tiles replaced which changed the roofscape and queried what it actually meant to live in a Conservation Area. It was suggested that DCC be approached for an Officer to attend a future meeting to provide information in relation to Conservation Areas.