

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2024**

Councillor Mrs M Wilmer (Chair)

Councillors D Gordon and Mrs J Welch

Also Present: 1 resident

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apoloiges for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor L Taylor

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest/

3. POLICE REPORT

There had been 20 recorded incidents in the area. of these incidents, 17 were road or A19 related, 0 ASB calls, 0 Criminal Damage, 1 theft from a property, 0 burglary, 0 vehicle crime.

Statistics showed a 28% fall in crime and a 16% fall in recorded incidents month on month and a drop of 9% in both crime and incidents year on year for the E5 sector, including Blackhall/Hesleden.

Off-road bike calls had seen a decline, but it was expected that these would start to rise as the weather improved. Work had been carried out at the Crimdon site, near to Ponyworld to prevent access and egress from the beach to the carpark area, which had proved to be very successful. It was hoped that this would continue to provide a deterrence from the south. The Police were also working with counterparts in the Cleveland area to identify and target those who were causing us problems from the Hartlepool area. Further work was planned, through the Durham Coastal Forum and Heritage Coast along with others, to target harden the area at Deneholme Bank, which gave access to the beach. The current gate had been damaged and partners were looking to replace this and strengthen the defences at this area over the coming months. Concerns had been raised around the removal of boulders at Hesleden walkway, which allowed the access of vehicles including 4x4s. It appears that these had been removed by Northumbrian Water due to works being carried out and it was expected that these would be replaced ASAP. Further measures to prevent illegal access were being planned along the Hart-Haswell walkway.

Officers were involved over the past few weeks in an operation which dealt with a large scale cannabis factory in the Peterlee area. Nearly 3000 plants were recovered from the site with 3 males arrested and remanded. The factory itself was only partially in use, with preparations for a doubling in size apparent. It was estimated that the value of the seized plants, when fully grown, would exceed £3million. Equipment was seized and compost and pots were given to local good causes for use in the community.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on **15 February 2024**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

8. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

DM/24/00548/LB Relocate existing effigy to graveyard owned by the DAC at St James Church, The Village, Castle Eden

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

DM/24/00547/LB Removal of existing boundary gates (including lantern and side posts) from the boundary to be refurbished off-site and reinstalled upon completion of the refurbishment at St James Church, The Village, Castle Eden

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

9. **FINANCE**

Balance as per bank reconciliation as £35,752.10

Bank statements were viewed by the Chair

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO
Creative Ape	Railings	£1030.00	000738
Clerk	Salary	£621.92	000739
Clerk	Expenses	£61.80	000739
HMRC	Income Tax	£155.48	000740
St Andrews Church	Donation	£600.00	000741

10. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Consideration was given to the Risk Assessment which had been reviewed by The Clerk. All risks were being managed effectively by the Council.

RESOLVED that the Risk Assessment be agreed with no amendments.

11. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

Community Emergency Plan - a small group would be established to create a plan.