

# Castle Acre Parish News

The Parish Council wishes a happy new year to all its parishioners and hopes it will be a prosperous one for all.

The Council met twice over the festive season, in December and January. The main discussion in January was the setting of the Precept, the money collected towards the Council's budget as part of the Council Tax. After lengthy discussions it was decided that the amount should be put back to the level where it should be anyway, as last year there had been a drop in the amount charged. With a slight increase in line with inflation the sum of £23.24 for each household in band D will be collected and be adequate to keep the Council's duties running for the next year.

At both meetings, revised plans for the Albert Victor were put forward. As yet, nothing has been finalised between BCKLWN Planning Committee and the developer, but the good news for the village is that the plans now include keeping the front building as a pub which had been the main objection of the Parish Council's in earlier planning versions. We will keep you informed of any further developments and whether these latest plans are given permission.

The Playing Field Committee came along to the January meeting with a financial projection for the next three years. After an excellent presentation from their secretary Sarah Brown which highlighted the difficulties of keeping the Field running on just voluntary support and fundraising, the Parish Council agreed unanimously to take on the complete cost of the grass cutting, at £1,900 per annum, for the next three years. The Council also made a commitment to help if it could with further costs and will review this on an annual basis.

Recycling was discussed at both meetings. In December there was a presentation from NCC with suggestions of how to get Castle Acre residents supporting this important issue. The new Paper Bank at Costcutter's is getting quite full now – don't forget that you can fill it with office waste, junk mail, telephone directories, magazines and brochures as well as newspapers! A different Bottle Bank has been placed in the Ostrich car park and the two supplied by BCKLWN have been taken away. Over Christmas this new bank was filled to the brim! Please try your best to use both banks as the money the Parish Council receives from recycling credits will go towards helping all of Castle's Acre's amenities. The planned Textile bank has been ordered and should be in place soon too!

Finally, the Council would like to thank Bill Corcoran for all his hard work over the past seven years as Parish Clerk. He resigned in December and the place has been filled by Linda Roast.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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