

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12th January 2012

Present: Mrs. G. Thorneywork (GT) Chair
Ms. C. Williams (CW)
Mr. L. Fisher (LF)
Mr. T. Hubbard (TH)
Mrs. H. Breach (HB)
Mr. M. Dwyer (MD)
Mr. M. Hickey (MH)
Mr. S. Barnfield (SB)

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr. Janet Murphy (NCC),
5 members of the public.

Apologies: Mr. J. Moriarty (JM)

81 Minutes of the meeting on 12th January 2012

Mr. L. Fisher proposed and Mr. M. Hickey seconded that the minutes of the meeting on 8th December be accepted. Agreed. The Chairman signed the minutes.

82 Actions required from previous Minutes

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(a) Re-confirmed Cllrs request to receive a ruling in writing from HMRC that the Parish Council can or can not reclaim VAT on any capital purchases made and paid by the Parish Council for the benefit of the village hall. **LR to investigate the process.**

(b) The Bottle Bank needs to be included on the Parish Council insurance for 3rd Party. **LR to phone the broker.** The new Bottle Bank has been emptied and the two previous banks supplied by BCKLWN have been removed. CW has found a textile bank supplier who deals with all the processing, grading & recycling – East London Textiles - £500 per tonne payments to the school plus recycling credits, via the Parish Council. CW to phone them on Council's behalf to arrange delivery. MH presented the recycling letter to go out to Castle Acre residents. A5 agreed as size. **LR to send artwork to CW.** Agreed to publicise recycling in Nar Valley News and emphasize that money from recycling units could go to village organisations. **LR to send article**

(d) Janet Murphy said that the planning consultation period for Anaerobic digester is 21 days. Application will not be through until end of January/February.

(e) There was discussion on the viability of the white entrance gate to the village on Newton Road and whether it would be effective. MD proposed, MH seconded a vote on whether to go ahead - 4 for, 1 against, 3 abstained. Motion carried to proceed.

73 (a) Diamond Jubilee. Nothing moved forward as yet. MD has 2 people interested to be on sub committee.

(b) Parish Council 5 year plan focusing on 1 or 2 ideas a year. MH has already circulated a number of suggestions. Other ideas include:

TH: Affordable housing, Housing Association for village

CW: Amenities for the young/youth i.e. cinema nights

GT: Formation of a youth committee to be involved with council

MD: How to finance and sustain amenities like the Playing Field.

HB: Set up an Emergency team in village in case of snow etc.

CW: Give the village a notice board

GT suggested that an item be kept on the agenda each month

Fly tipping on St James Road – nothing been cleared yet. **LR to ask the fly tipping officer at West Norfolk Borough Council to arrange removal**

(b) Crime prevention. Noted the local CPSO Jackie will attend meetings whenever she can.

83. Playing Field Committee – Sarah Brown (Secretary)

The team presented the case for financial assistance from the council and presented figures which showed that the playing field would not be sustainable in 3 years time, highlighting the difficulties on running an essential village amenities on just donations and voluntary fund raising. Costs from the various groups that hire the playing field were discussed plus costs of insurance, grass cutting etc. CW thought it was outrageous that the playing field lay in the hands of only 3 volunteers. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to help in the first instance by charging the full cost of grass cutting to the parish expenditure budget in 2012/3 and for a further two years and to determine if further support of £500 could be allocated from the recycling credits, as a donation (Clerk to check the legality). This would be reviewed annually. TH proposed both the above, seconded by MD.

84. Precept

SB presented a document on how to calculate the Precept and explained the procedure. MH presented an alternative method to review the income and expenditure and then to determine the precept level. Agreed to raise the allotment rents from £6 to £10 per annum, effective from October 2012. TH suggested that the 2012/3 Precept be increased back to the level set in 2010/11 before it was erroneously reduced. SB proposed that the Precept should be the amount required to fund the village for the year. The Precept was set at £7,903, making £23.24 being the amount collected from Council Tax for Band D Housing. MD seconded.

85. Correspondence

GT read letter received from Jackie Steel about a sum of money left from the now defunct Play Group which stated after 2 years these funds would go to the Playing Field if no pre-school had formed within this time. Further investigation into this required as there may be a pre-school in the near future at the school.

LR to look back in the minutes and send a letter to Jackie Steel.

**Land and property breakfast invitation from Holkam Estates 17 January.
MH to attend on behalf of the council and to raise in particular village maintenance (hedges)**

86. Reports

Highways (MH): Traffic direction sign at Newton Road should be in place in 3 weeks. South Acre Council need to be chased to obtain their comments on the proposal to declassify the road through South Acre ford.

Tree Maintenance on Stocks Green (TH): David Macklin removed dead wood on trees last summer. He will get a figure for trimming the overgrown Ash trees on the east side of the playing field.

Website: MH purchased software to enable him to upload agendas and minutes on Castle Acre website for Parish Council. Agreed to pay the £23.29 cost.

Friends of the school (CW): Holding a Valentines Quiz on 10th Feb

87. Planning

Albert Victor revised plans submitted for review. SB declared an interest. New build unit 3 will now be altered to single storey. Toilet block positioning now to be where existing toilets are with a revised roof pitch. This discussion was opened to the public. The council requested sight of revised plans before sending its comments prior to submission of a formal planning application to BCKLWN.

88. Accounts

Mrs Breach proposed and Mr. Hubbard seconded that the following accounts be paid:

E.on Energy (Electricity December)	£ 45.49
Mr. W.J. Corcoran (Salary and Expenses)	£ 235.26
HMRC (PAYE)	£ 45.00

Agreed.

89. Village Maintenance

(a) Letter received by Jim Hughes about the tractors running up the banks around Archer Lane. Photographs included with letter.

LR to contact Manor farm and Holkham Estate to see if it is their drivers who are doing the damage.

(b) Fig tree on the corner of High Street and Massingham road becoming a problem. SB to pass address of owners to Clerk.

LR to contact owners and asked for them to be trimmed

90. Questions from the public

Frank Moister presented update from Anglia Water. Water main replacement was presented to the Board but was refused on the grounds that there has been a regulator fitted and that there have not been any recent bursts.

Frank Moister would like the street lamp by the church put back on temporarily but would like the light shielded or re-sited if possible.

LR to speak to the West Norfolk Council street lighting dept and to pass contact over to Mr Moister.

Frank Moister presented a letter asking for continued permission for the Church Gate Café to have chairs and tables outside the front of the property. The Council agreed to this request

With no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 9th February 2012
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**