

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14th June 2012

Present: Mrs. H. Breach (HB) Mr. L. Fisher (LF),
Mr. M. Hickey (MH) Vice Chair Mr. T. Hubbard (TH)
Mr. S. Barnfield (SB) Mr J Moriarty (JM)

In attendance: The Clerk, 5 members of the public.

Apologies: Mrs. G. Thorneywork (GT) Chair, Ms. C. Williams (CW),
Mr. M. Dwyer (MD), Janet Murphy (NCC)

26 PLANNING

Presentation by Freebridge Housing Association

Mr Jeremy Mason and Mr Robert Clarke presented proposed elevations drawings of 34 Town Lane and local criteria document.

Local Criteria presented: The Affordable Housing Units shall be granted to applicants in High or Medium housing need bands in the following order of priority:

1. Existing residents of Castle Acre who have lived in the village for more than 12 months needing separate or alternative accommodation.
2. Past residents of Castle Acre who lived in the village for a minimum period of 5 years and who moved away within the last 3 years because no suitable accommodation was available
3. People who need to live in Castle Acre due to their permanent employment or offer of permanent employment.
4. People who are not resident in Castle Acre who need to live near family members currently residing in the village.
5. Existing residents of the adjoining parishes of Great Massingham, and West Acre .
6. Existing residents who have lived in the Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk for a period of more than 5 years

The council had issues with High & Medium bands and wanted Low included.

The Parish Council also requested 1) to be moved to a lower priority; 2) moved away within the last 3 years to be a longer time; 3) & 4) would like to see these switched in the priority listing; 5) Discussion of Brecks boundaries ensued.

The Council highlighted the need to have families to keep the school. Freebridge agreed to present these ideas to the Borough Council. The discussion was opened to the floor and a suggestion was put forward to always have the housing for local people. Freebridge said this would be a constant.

Discussion then moved onto the elevations presented.

The council in general were happy with the revised plans for the two semi detached houses at the back of the plot, but were disappointed with the replacement property proposed for the bungalow which was said to be like many houses seen on estates everywhere and did not reflect the existing property at all. Freebridge said they had taken in design features from the village but the Council still felt the design to be very basic.

The Council restated that it supported in principal for the social housing development but asked Freebridge if they could tweak the property to give it a little more character. Freebridge said they would do this and also stated that the choice of materials would be looked at by the planning officer in charge. The next stage would be to present the adjusted plans to the planning officer with the Parish Councils views and then there would be a 21 day formal consultation period.

MH thanks Freebridge for their presentation

Meadow House, Back Lane (Priory Road)

Helen Breach declared an interest and opted out - Jim Moriarty had a conflict of interest and opted out of the discussion.

New plans were shown. The Councillors voted unanimously that the previous objections should be sustained. Totally inappropriate building for the area and the new design not sufficiently different. Encroaching on built environment Type B restrictions which apply to this area. Removing hedgerow, 6 trees plus part of the mediaeval bank not acceptable.

27 Minutes of the meeting on 10 May 2012

Mr S Barnfield proposed and Mr Laurie Fisher seconded. Agreed.

Minutes of the meeting on 7 June 2012

Mr Laurie Fisher proposed and Mr Jim Moriarty seconded. Agreed.

No Matters arising apart from thanking the Jubilee Committee for their wonderful work over the weekend which had been a success.

28 Actions required from previous Minutes

78 (a) Fly Tipping in St James's Road JM had sent a photo of the Holkham but had not heard anything back from them

98 (c) Ash trees. TH not progressed this yet

104 (b) Snow clearance of school path – Postponed until Mike Dwyer present

4 (c) Wherry Housing – the Clerk had contacted again but had no reply

10 (b) Rangers – Costcutter verge reported to Rangers who would be visiting the village w/c 25 June

18 Reports – Pales Green playground strip – Bill Corochan had made initial processing and would continue.

29 5 Year Plan

This had been put on website for 3 months but The Clerk had had no responses.

MH posed the question of how to move forward and read out the list of ideas.

1) Better Public Transport for the village – an important point which could not be forwarded at present but should not be lost sight of.

2) Encouragement of Social Housing – moving forward through Freebridge.

3) Improved water supply – SB had talked to Henry Bellingham about this.

Although there had been no recent difficulties, compensation for loss of water was not in line with that of, for example, electricity. Town Lane/ Massingham road problems repair still pending.

4) A1065 sign sending traffic along Bailey Street. This was not seen as a problem.

5) Gritting North Street – a request had been made to the Borough Council, outcome still pending.

6) South Acre Ford Road – Changes to make this traffic prohibited with local access only underway.

7) Ford Area – Upgrading facilities. The need for picnic tables etc., at the ford had mixed support as it could spoil the site's charms.

8) Street Lighting – more or less. To be agreed.

9) Youth Committee as part of Parish Council to encourage non- exclusion.

Although there had been difficulties in the past, The Playing Field is having success with youths as part of a sub committee.

X 10) Village Notice Boards. Sites agreed for one at Stocks Green and one at the entrance to Playing Field. MH suggested asking locals for quotes in Nar Valley News. Also that this could be requested as part of the 34 Town Lane site.

JM suggested looking at funding from May Gurney.

30 Matters requested by Councillors

Playing Field

Sarah Brown (Chair) and 2 others from committee presented facts. Concerns had arisen from discovery that £5 was to be paid to Holkham Estate every year and that the lease would run out in 16 years. This had provoked further investigation into the Playing Fields status. It had then been confirmed that the field had been gifted to the Parish Council in 1977 by The Earl of Leicester which stipulated that it would remain their property as long as the field was always to be used as a playing field. This knowledge then altered the way the Playing Field should be run and changed the burden of responsibility. Discussion continued on how this responsibility might be changed so that the Playing Field committee could use it's fund raising to provide new and improved facilities rather than paying for essentials i.e. grass cutting, insurance etc. JM stated that this had been addressed in earlier minutes of the Parish Council and he offered to look into these which are held in Norwich. He also asked in the Playing wanted the Parish Council to carry more of the financial burden. Sarah Brown stated that the way the field is run at the moment does not reflect the legal status. SB suggested that the Parish Council take on the responsibility gradually and that the precept would be a way to procure some of the money required an outline being created for the next meeting. The rest should come from the clubs that use it wherever possible. MH asked if the Council were in agreement. The Council agreed in principal but with clarification needed on how this could be moved forward.

31 Correspondence

Email from Phil Norris received on Nar Valley Way walk stating it needed maintenance. JM had answered but not had reply. Further investigation on who maintains the walk to be investigated.

32 Reports

Highways – MH discussed the issues which have not yet been addressed and stated that Janet Murphy would be having a meeting with Highways to help address their tardiness.

Farmed Allotments – TH had made enquiries - would keep the council informed.

Village Hall - A storage unit was being sought for furniture storage. MH suggested a microphone system would be a good addition to the facilities.

Borough – JM stated that although a new waste recycling programme was discussed, which allowed waste reduction from 100% to 2%, the Borough Council had seen this as just a cynical attempt to divert the Incinerator plan.

33 Accounts

Mr Laurie Fisher proposed and Mr. Tim Hubbard seconded that the following

Mr A Ellis (3 green cuts March/April)	£ 210.00
Charlie Williams (Jubilee Mugs)	£ 191.04
FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd	£ 34.90
E.on Energy (Electricity February) March	£ 46.36

Agreed.

34 Village Maintenance / Questions from the public

The alleyway between Playing Field and North Street needed maintenance.

The clerk was asked to get a quote from Mr Ellis

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 12th July 2012
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**