

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 10th May 2012

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

In attendance: The Clerk, 2 members of the public. Janet Murphy (NCC)

Apologies: Ms. C. Williams (CW)

12 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2012

Spelling changed of John Rolfe to Roff.

Agreed. Proposed by Mr S Barnfield, Seconded by Mr Mike Dwyer

13 Allotments – brought forward in the Agenda to include public

GT informed the meeting that no contracts for the large allotments had been found although previous Clerk Mary-Anne Garry thought there had been at some point. TH to pursue enquiries into legality of allotments rents for these and to keep The Clerk informed.

There was discussion on how long the rents had been at £6 per year and whether this sum should be increased. The PC was concerned that if this action was taken, allotment holders would expect better facilities. JM suggested that rents should stay at same rate unless Holkham asked for an increase and stated that the allotments are a village amenity.

After further discussion it was agreed to leave the small allotment rents as £6pa, payable in arrears in October.

14 Actions required from previous minutes

73 (a) Diamond Jubilee meeting planned for Tuesday 15th. Possible Cake stall planned. Flyer being worked on to inform residents of festivities schedule including: village ramble, Quiz Night, Football Matches, hog roast & disco. No pig has been donated for the Hog Roast but the cost would be as low as possible. Cost of Hog Roast £425.

78 (a) Fly tipping on St James Road. JM reported that although Fly Tipping dept showed good intent on removing tyres from St James Road, the tip in question cannot be removed by the BCWNKL. JM emailed James Bracey at Holkham to see if they may move it.

98 (a) Grass Cutting Contract – runs out March 2013. Mr Ellis fixed fee for 3 years. **(c) Ash Trees** – no progression

104 b) Snow clearance of school path – Reply received from Head teacher at school who was sending a letter to John Roff. Discussion ensued on the public liability issue and whether this would fall into the schools jurisdiction or the PC's. Janet Murphy to send The Clerk reassuring wording from Council. MD to check out the schools boundary and insurance.

4 c) Wherry Housing. The Clerk has made contact but no meeting agreed as yet.

10 a) Jubilee Bridge. To be painted and restored by 25th May

b) Rangers. To repair Costcutter verge. Highways had not responded to the Clerks request for contact information.

15 5 year plan

GT stated that she had understood that the PC would pick one issue from the list

and se it through to completion, rather than having many issues on the go at one time. MH stated that there was a list on the website which once commented on could be prioritised. JM presented the Village Questionnaire taken in 2005, and suggested this was very useful and that these comments could be fed into the 5 year plan priorities. MH expressed his concern at taking only one item and hoped to progress a few items at each meeting as all the PC currently has is a set of ideas. GT expressed her concern at things getting lost.

Village parking: GT stated that Holkham had been asked whether they could help us with a car park area. MH referred to the continuous parking problems on Stocks Green and offered the Holkham land by the Priory as a possible solution. TH stated that planning permission would be required if the area was used for parking more than 26 days a year and that planning had been refused in the past on the grounds of Highways and environmental concerns.

MH presented costs for parking matting of £6,400. Mr Jolly-Bowers letter was referred to. It was reported that St James's Church was looking for a Car Park which might help. MH asked the council whether they would like him to continue to look into the matter of a village car park – the PC declined. SB had been taking a photographic record of Stocks Green and reported there were only short periods of time when the area was busy. He also stated that to make Stocks green a residents only parking area would jeopardise the existing businesses. Discussion also went on to include signage, the Castle Car park, the Playing Field Car Park and the Ostrich Car park which seemed under used and a reduction of the speed limit. SB asked for a long term commitment from the PC that Stocks Green would not become residents only car park and JM agreed. General observation was that parking in the Stocks green area and priory road was better than a few years ago and that the council would monitor the situation. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Jolly Bowers and to ask the Holkham Estate representative to the September meeting to discuss general plans.

16 **Matters requested by Councillors**

a) Internal Audit. The Clerk presented that an anomaly of £100 had crept into one of the figures and although the money was still in the account, this £100 was proving difficult to trace. This was ongoing but as the audit needed to go to the External Auditors by the end of May, GT signed off the internal audit with a proviso that the £100 be traced. Pre-School monies to be re-invested for a further 6 months until schools plans finalised.

b) Letter received from a resident asking to hire Stocks Green for a plant sale. It was decided that this might set a precedent for other businesses to use the Green. Thus the PC refused to allow this and keep the green for charity events.

17 **Correspondence**

All councillors had seen the correspondence file.

18 **Reports**

Highways – MH reported on meeting with Highways. Newton Road subsidence , Highways had agreed to put up bollards until this was repaired. Tractor movements along St James Road much reduced and the road would be tidied up. A change of priority at Town Lane/Newton Road/North Street, Highways to investigate possibility. TH thought this might impair vision. SB asked that residents on North Street to be asked before anything was finalised. Janet Murphy said that there was now more money for road maintenance. HB stated that the Town Lane, Costcutter flooding was forcing water into pipes around the village hall which was then coming out of the ducts. Anglian Water should investigate. MH agreed to ask and to prioritise this item because of the possible ongoing

damage to the Village Hall. Janet Murphy stated that there would be a review of Speed Limits in 2012 – 20mph.

School – MD reported that the mobile classroom required for Pre-School is to be donated but will need planning permission. Things progressing. The Friends had made £800 at the Duck Race before costs.

Local Politics – JM reported that the localism bill allows communities to try to buy assets so there may be a possibility of purchasing the old school. Will keep PC informed. JM also stated he was disappointed that Janet Murphy representing NCC is not with the PC in it's objection to the Incinerator.

Ransom Strip – Janet Murphy asked how this was progressing. The Clerk agreed to ask Bill Corochan how things were going with the registration of the land.

Village Hall – HB reported that the hall intended to put up their hiring rates. £170 allowed in the PC budget for rental. HB also reported that the hall would be applying for a grant to restore the end wall and cut down the trees there, the existing fence would be moved to include the area to the right at the back. JM wondered about the legality of doing this as this has been used as a path for a long time thus may have become a right of way. HB reported that English Heritage had been asked about this and the steps, now in disrepair, leading down to the moat did not belong to them and that they were happy with the fencing being moved. As they do not see this as a functioning route to the village.

Playing Field – AGM went well. Committee agreed with PC's idea to put a Village Notice Board up at it's entrance. Discussion ensued on the ownership of the land which still seemed to be Holkham. Bring this point up at meeting with Holkham.

19 **Planning**

34 Town Lane – The councillors discussed the design which they unanimously felt inappropriate. The council was split on whether the bungalow should be retained. After some length, the PC agreed to invite Freebridge to a special meeting on 7th June to discuss the project with them in detail.

9 **Accounts**

Mr Tim Hubbard proposed & Mr. Mike Dwyer seconded the following payments

Harry Stebbing Workshop (Village Sign)	£1,029.89
Mr A Ellis (3 green cuts March/April)	£ 210.00
Norfolk Rivers IDB	£ 23.25
Environment Agency (General Drainage)	£ 32.74
AON (Local Council Insurance)	£ 445.90
Waste Recycling (Bottle Bank Rental)	£ 69.80
M Coates (Jubilee Hog)	£ 100.00
G Thorneywork (Jubilee Disco deposit)	£ 50.00
E.on Energy (Electricity February) March	£ 45.49

Agreed.

10 **Village Maintenance**

Village Sign – This was now back in place. SB asked for agreement to repair the base of the main beam at a cost of £30. Agreed.

11 **Questions from the public**

A comment was made that if the large allotments were handed back to Holkham, this would be a possible loss for the village for the future.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm

The Parish Council AGM will be at 7pm on Thursday 10th May 2012 before the next Parish Council meeting will be on at 7.30pm in the Village Hall