

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Thursday 14 April 2016:

Present: Mr T Hubbard (TH) Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice-Chairman
Mr J Moriarty (JM) Mrs H Breach (HB)
Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk) and two members of the public

Apologies: Mr R Read (RR), Ms C Williams (CW), Mr N Patrick (NP), Mr S Allen (SA)

1 Minutes of PC meeting Thursday 10 March.

Mr Laurie Fisher proposed approval, Mr Jim Moriarty seconded. Agreed.

2 Actions from previous meeting:

73 **Transparency code** – software has been updated, awaiting for MH to review before going live.

84 **Village defibrillator - emergency alerting procedure** – the key code number cannot be given to 999 callers. Agreed that the unit's cabinet will display all CAPC Cllrs contact phone numbers who, along with shop staff, can give out the code. Include a reminder to ring 999. The Clerk to check the DVD training disks for instructions. The cabinet has arrived. MH to check with Swaffham Ambulance station on procedure.

112 **Parking on St James' Green** – a draft letter was read out and approved for delivery to St James' Green residents; any responses to the Clerk to be put in writing. TH suggested creating a parking area on the grass to the right of the playing field entrance (protected with grass netting). It is an area where visiting teams already park. Cllrs agreed this is worth considering.

Allotment boundary - the fence is now up. The allotment holder whose shed crosses the fence line is prepared for it to be demolished. The Clerk to confirm to him that the Historic Environment Service can dismantle his shed and will then realign the fence.

131 **Minns Meadow: Nar River work – board walk fundraising**. Agreed that a decision to proceed should be made once the river bed work is complete. Clerk is checking with NCC who is responsible for the path's upkeep. Noted that in the 1980's walkers sued because of the state of the Minns Meadow river path.

3 Health & Safety – no reports.

4 Matters requested by Councillors.

Future of Speedwatch – given the lack of volunteers and a coordinator, MH proposed that the group be disbanded. Agreed. The Clerk to contact the volunteers and Richard Read's son to return the equipment to the police.

Bailey Street / Cuckstool Lane light – Fifteen adjoining houses were asked to approve or object to that street light being turned off at midnight each day. Seven replies, six in favour and one against. Installing a timer is quoted at £60. Agreed. The Clerk to inform K&M Lighting Services.

Date of June PC Meeting – the village hall is booked for a wedding on 9 June. MH proposed moving the usual PC meeting to 16 June. Agreed. Notice in the Nar Valley News.

5 Planning

District Local Plan. The Government Inspector has now concluded his findings. Castle Acre has evaded major changes and the plan for fifteen houses on the Massingham Road remains. The Inspector did add the words “at least” in front of amount of dwellings which could be read as ‘more’ or ‘no less than’. JM clarified that the original core strategy document contained the words ‘at least’. MH asked whether the PC should respond officially to this change in emphasis, given there is no proposal to increase the land area, four dwellings already have planning permission and a layout of eleven dwellings, including two social houses, was approved in the hybrid application. Councillors agreed not to respond, noting that any proposal by Holkham Estate to add two or three more ‘affordable’ houses’ would not necessarily be opposed.

Five year land supply. JM noted that thanks to the apparent lack of five years housing land supply, other towns and villages were unable to prevent unplanned housing developments, such as Gayton whose allocation will increase the whole village settlement by 30%. To date, Castle Acre is not affected. JM explained that hopefully by next week, the supply quota will be filled and normal planning restrictions will resume.

BCKLWN changes in planning procedure. From 1 June 2016 the Borough Council will only consult Parish Councils on planning applications electronically. There is an option to delay until 1 January 2017 but the Parish Council will be invoiced on a monthly basis for any applications printed and sent in paper format from the 1 June. The PC agreed that the Clerk could run out on A3 the critical sheets of any plan. The Clerk to note the number and cost of printing and charge to her expenses accordingly.

Government planning consultation. MH summarised the worrying intentions of the Government to incentivise and commercialise the planning system, taking away the legal requirement to consult with Parish Councils on specific details and reducing the time to process applications from eight to five weeks, rendering local parish reviews almost impractical. NALC has objected on behalf of all Norfolk parishes. Cllrs can read the full document in their wallet.

6 Correspondence

Charity walk for Friends of Castle Acre Church on Saturday 6 August – permission is sought to hold a BBQ on Stocks Green after a 21 mile coast to Castle Acre walk. 50% of the funds raised to go to Kids with cancer charity. The organiser has spoken to residents of the Green who have no objections. The PC asked that the BBQ be finished by 10pm. Agreed.

Back Lane burglary – a Back Lane house was burgled on 20 March and some jewelry and other personal effects were taken. Mention that residents should be vigilant in the Nar Valley News.

Field adjacent to Priory and dogs - report received that there is an increasing problem with dog faeces being left either in the pathways, or in bags near the pathways or elsewhere. Recently bags of faeces were thrown from the old tennis court into a resident’s garden. There are two frequent offenders who throw the bags aside rather than take them to a bin only yards away. The field next to the Priory, and the adjacent meadows, have become a magnet for non-village walkers with one individual bringing six or seven dogs. The PC suggested that offenders could be caught on camera and subsequently fined. Put in Nar Valley News.

7 Reports

Highways – still waiting for Holkham Estate to approve the cutting of tree roots for grips along Archer Lane.

Castle Acre School – integration with DNEAT still proceeding.

Friends of Castle Acre School - no report

Village Hall – the Community Payback Unit are making further improvements to the hall, repairing and painting windows and resurfacing the area at the back of the hall. Painting will commence in May and scaffolding erected which will need signage on road to alert drivers of

road narrowing and people at work. A series of four concerts has been organised for this year – first on Friday 6 May with Kora player Sefo Kanuteh.

Castle Acre Playing Field – Fete to be on July 10th. Charity relief forms have not yet been completed and returned..

Borough Council – the Community Infrastructure Levy charges are out for consultation. It is proving difficult to get 23 councils across three counties to agree on devolution and to accept an elected Mayor.

8 **Accounts**

The following cheques were signed - payments were proposed for approval by Tim Hubbard, Laurie Fisher seconded. Agreed.

Berrymans Glass Recycling Ltd £34.90 (includes £5.82 VAT)

E.on Energy (electricity) £63.37 (includes £3.02 VAT)

Gary Lake (playing field, first installment) £ 950.00 (no VAT)

Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board £24.07 (no VAT)

Environment Agency £34.62 (no VAT)

Borough Council King's Lynn & West Norfolk (dog bins) £482.98 (includes £80.51 VAT)

Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) £175.81 (no VAT)

Borough Council King's Lynn & West Norfolk (litter bins) £194.74 (no VAT)

Linda Roast (Clerk wages) £478.76 (no VAT)

9 **Village Maintenance**

Bailey Street to A1065 – Breckland has cut in many grips to help flooding.

Damaged verge St James' Green – now the time to re-seed. TH volunteered.

Paint scrapings on Town Lane – in the road. PC agreed to leave and see if time and nature deals with the problem

Dog Fouling Massingham Road – still an issue here.

Car park at Playing Field – looks very messy.

South Acre Road, ivy on verge – the Clerk to inform Holkham Estate.

10 **Public Question Time** – no questions

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting is at 7pm before the next full Parish Council meeting on Thursday 12 May at 7.30pm in the village hall.