

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Thursday 11 February 2016:

Present: Mr T Hubbard (TH) Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman
Mr N Patrick (NP) Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice-Chairman
Mr S Allen (SA) Ms C Williams (CW)
Mr J Moriarty (JM)

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk), 1 member of the public
Apologies: Mrs H Breach (HB), Mr R Read (RR)

115 Minutes of PC meeting Thursday 14 January.

Mr Jim Moriarty proposed approval, Mr Tim Hubbard seconded. Agreed.

Minutes of the PC planning meeting 1 February.

Mr Neil Patrick proposed approval, Mr Sean Allen seconded. Agreed.

116 Actions from previous meeting:

61 **Bailey Gate posts** – still waiting for Highways to make a site visit.

73 **Transparency code** –the Clerk has applied for 100% funding from NALC. Waiting.

84 **Defibrillator funding** – the funding application was successful and the defibrillator delivered, along with CPR training CDs. Waiting for the housing cabinet with its keypad locking system. LF to look into an emergency alerting procedure. Mr Singh has agreed that the cabinet can be positioned on the outside wall of Costcutters.

112 **No parking on St James' Green** – the warning note in the Nar Valley News appears effective so far – agreed to monitor for another month.

Flood prevention Foxes Meadow, outside number 65 – the new owner has agreed to contact JM if more flooding occurs.

Flood prevention A1065 – MH asked Breckland Highways to take action; soon after extra grips were cut into the road verges. CAPC to advise Highways if these are not effective. Cllrs noted that any run-off from the adjoining pig farm field is the responsibility of the landowner.

Allotment boundary - work to erect a boundary fence is proceeding - Clerk in contact with David Robinson and English Heritage to arrange a site meeting about two structures, one a fruit cage, that would obstruct the new fence. Both allotment holders have been notified.

Bailey Gate repairs - MH has contacted Will Fletcher of English Heritage (Historic England) but still no response.

117 Health & Safety.

North Street Alley - work on pruning the ash trees programmed for March.

South Acre Road - there have been three incidents this winter when small trees/bushes have fallen onto the road. The Clerk to request the responsible landowner – Holkham Estate – to assess the state of all the growth along western tree line.

118 Matters requested by Councillors.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) – After the presentation from BCKLWN in January, Cllrs were asked to consider what the next steps might be. JM confirmed that villages with a NP were taken more seriously by the Borough planners than those without. TH felt that

the process, while instructive, would involve a lot of preparatory work. However, proceeding with a plan should not be shelved as it could be a useful exercise. MH noted that the Borough's Local Plan already included the fifteen Massingham Road properties but that other land in the village could be included in a NP for low cost starter homes. With a NP in place, the village could receive 25% of the new Community Infrastructure Levy imposed on developers that would be invested back into the community. The NP steering committee could be made up of both Cllrs and residents. Agreed that the next step would be for JM to chase BCKLWN for links to NPs conducted by other villages, for Cllrs to read. MH suggested mounting a NP exhibition in the village hall to enthuse residents.

Five year action plan – MH circulated the current plan, adopted in 2011, and noted that to date:

Achieved • Recycling • Five new Freebridge housing association homes • Constant water supply • Massingham Road / Town Lane junction flooding under control • Extended PC page on village website • CAPFA on a sound financial footing • new village noticeboard.

Failures/not actioned • Village Housing Association not set up • North Street / St James' Green gritting not achieved • No leisure facilities at South Acre Ford i.e. picnic tables etc • No youth committee linked to CAPC • No village emergency response team.

Suggestions for the next five year action plan might include:

• Undertake a Neighbourhood Plan • Extended low usage LED street lighting • Though Traffic Scheme support • Native flowers on village greens • Overseeing Priory Meadow with Norfolk Archaeological Trust • Promotion of Castle Acre as a Heritage Village • Supporting new play equipment • Restricting South Acre Ford traffic.

Cllrs to review the options. Agenda item for the May meeting.

Community Speedwatch Group – Seven people have now offered to be team members. The police have requested the return of the equipment as the group hasn't functioned since April 2015. MH asked for Cllrs' guidance. Agreed to give the group one more chance to get started. The Clerk to put a note in the Nar Valley News and to write personal letters to the volunteers.

MH also asked for assistance with the SAM2 unit which he is currently moving around the village while Richard Read is indisposed. The Sporle coordinator, Kalvin, has kindly offered to download Castle Acre's bi-monthly speed data from February.

119 Planning

Mr Jim Moriarty opted out of the discussion.

16/00091/F - first floor extension above existing porch, removal of conservatory and replace with garden room at The Eerie, Back Lane. Plans for the proposed building were displayed and explained. Cllrs voted to support.

15/00942/OM hybrid application, Massingham Road. This was approved by BCKLWN Planning Committee on 11 January and is subject to a section 106 agreement. MH has pressed James Bracy at Holkham Estate to work closely with CAPC on the design of their eleven dwellings and to obtain full planning permission before the plot is sold to a developer. It was agreed that the PC should continue to seek this.

120 Correspondence

Inappropriate new front door on High Street conservation area.– JM has received various representations about the inappropriate new double glazed plastic door at a dwelling on the High Street. The owner has agreed to check again with the Conservation Officer that the door is suitable for the Conservation Area.

Precept adjustment – the Borough’s second homes discount had been cut from 5% to 0%. As a result, Castle Acre’s Band D property will reduce from £33.14 to £33.01. JM stated that there would be a new ‘special expenses’ item on the Borough’s Council Tax bill. JM has requested a map to show village residents where these extra special expenses apply to Castle Acre.

NAT and the Priory precinct – The PC was informed that the lease to NAT cannot be completed until probate is granted on the late Lord Leicester’s Estate.

121 Reports

Martin Hickey – Highways – repairs to the Archer Lane grips and ditch can not be finished without severing a tree root on Holkham Estate’s land – seeking permission. Orchard Lane – road subsidence was reported. Highways is negotiating with UK Power Networks. St Crispins Cottage damaged verge has been repaired. HGV lorries seen to cut through Orchard Lane - both Holkham owned farms and The Wicken have denied that it was their lorries . Residents have been asked to collect vehicle data.

Castle Acre School – report from the Chairman of the Governors:

‘Due to some last minute legal complications the move to Academy Status for the Nar Valley Federation has been moved back one month and we convert on 1st March 2016. We have been working closely with NCC and DNEAT to make the transition as smooth as possible and we are confident there will be no disruption for our children and school activities will continue as normal. As we work closer with DNEAT we have come to recognise what added value we will get by way of support and advice. The focus will be totally on how we support and improve the education and most importantly the experience and fun for our children. Our Head Teacher Kelly Scott, Staff and Governors have all been training on new monitoring and reporting processes that will help us further improve how we work together and we have every confidence that parents will see continuing improvements over the coming months.’

Friends of Castle Acre School – fish and chip Valentines Quiz on 12th February. Duck Race could be 1 May. Friends cake stall over Easter on Stocks Green.

Village Hall – the Community Payback Unit still making improvements to the hall. A series of concerts is being organised for this year – from Jazz to Kora music.

Castle Acre Playing Field – no report.

Borough Council – JM reported that the Borough’s five year housing supply cover was still incomplete. Some speculative planning applications were still being submitted but at a lower level than expected. Devolution: after Borough presentations and instructions, JM now supports devolution of some government services.

122 Accounts

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

FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd £34.90 (includes VAT £5.82), E.on Energy (electricity) £63.37 (includes VAT of £3.02), K&M Lighting Services (four LED replacements) £312.00 (inc £52 VAT) , Linda Roast (new minute book) £ 10.77 (inc £1.80 VAT).

123 Village Maintenance

Orchard Lane – see Reports – Highways.

Lighting – One resident has asked that the light opposite Cuckstool Lane is turned off at midnight. The Clerk to write to neighbours for their views.

Rangers Visit – Suggestions: sweeping/cleaning of Orchard Lane, layby/parking zone in High Street (JM to check about the skip there), Little Lane and South Acre Road.

Spring Litter Pick ‘Clean for the Queen’ – on Saturday 5 March to coincide with the national celebration of the Queens’ 90th birthday.

The Grove – the Clerk to ask for the brambles to be cut out of hedge.

124 Public Question Time – no questions

The meeting closed at 8.50pm. The next full Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th March in the village hall.