

## CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Thursday 8 February 2018

**Present:** Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman                      Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice–Chairman  
Mr S Allen (SA)    Mrs S Moister (SM)  
Mr M Tate (MT)    Mr T Hubbard (TH)  
Ms C Williams (CW),

**In attendance:** Ms L Roast (Clerk), Mr J Moriarty (JM - Borough Councillor) and eight members of the public.

**Apologies:** Mr G Middleton (County Councillor), Mrs H Breach (HB), Mr N Patrick (NP)

**91. Minutes of PC meeting Thursday 11 January 2018**– proposed by Mr Laurie Fisher, Mr Martin Tate seconded. All agreed.

**Minutes of Thursday 8 January** - proposed by Mr Laurie Fisher, Mr Martin Tate seconded. All agreed.

**92. Actions from previous meeting:**

**28. Bailey Gate** – the work to move the posts on the Stocks Green side to around 8ft apart is scheduled by Highways but has still not been done. The 1065 road signs promised by Highways are still missing. The Portcullis was knocked down by a skip lorry. It is believed to be in English Heritage's safe keeping. The PC await details on when it will be re-installed.

**6. Dog waste bin at Minns Meadow** – the bin has been ordered at a cost of £152 inc: VAT.

**49. County Council Highways £500 funding** – the proposal for funding work at Archer Lane and restructuring the traffic island at Town Lane/Massingham Road was sent to NCC (GM) on 30/11/17 for consideration – still awaiting a response.

**51. Replacement street signs at Blind Lane and Pales Green** – not yet installed.

**Newton Road Bridge flooding** – MH has contacted Highways - all the grips along Newton Road were dug out but not the two key ones for the flooded area by the bridge. However, Highways has confirmed that the drain grill on the western side of the road will be lowered.

**54. Minns Meadow walk boardwalk** – TH to look for suitable chicken wire for the boardwalk surface.

**60. South Acre Road trees** - the Clerk has reminded Holkham's Harry Wakefield to send the promised works schedule. See comment below under 'Tree Inspection.'

**79. Repairing posts on Stocks & St James' Green, filling Back Lane grit bin** - the post has been repaired on St James' Green. An order to fill the grit bin has finally been issued!

**89. Village maintenance** - the PC considered one quote for repositioning the Stocks Green post, painting the litter bin and seat at the South Acre ford, washing and assessing the three village gates for painting. The PC requested the Clerk to obtain a second quote.

**Pot Holes** - TH to give Clerk a map of potholes.

**Paperbank location** - MH asked if Mr Singh would allow the paperbank to be returned to outside his shop, to the left of the post box. Noted that the volume of papers in the bank has declined considerably since it was moved last year, as have the recycling credits. Mr Singh is reluctant, claiming noise and the bin is unsightly. The Clerk is asking MH White if they will supply a smart new bin which may then be acceptable to Mr Singh. Cllrs agreed that positioning the paper bin by the shop is preferable but if this is not possible, CW suggested making more of a big deal about the recycling area behind the Ostrich and call it 'Castle Acre Recycling Centre'.

**93. Health & Safety matters (including tree report)**

No new issues.

**Tree inspection** – TH in touch with Holkham about a split tree in Orchard Lane and a red ash at the western end of Back Lane. TH has arranged a meeting with Harry Wakefield to look at both trees and will enquire about the timetable to manage the South Acre Road trees. Holkham has signalled that it has a new tree management policy which may have a bearing on the work to be done.

**94. Matters requested by Councillors**

**PC referrals to planning committee.** – MH apologised formally to JM for allowing the erroneous statement in the February edition of the Nar Valley News that the Borough Council's Cabinet conducts un-minuted meeting. MH stressed that his letter sent to the Press on behalf of the PC has made Parish Councils around West Norfolk more aware of the dangers of using a sifting committee to allow or reject their planning objections. Regrettably, the Borough Council has approved setting up this committee.

**Castle Acre Heritage Project – Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid** - Anne Mason gave a presentation on the benefits to the village of applying to the HLF. Information from the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire highlighted that residents would like to know more about the history of their village. The specific HLF "Your Heritage Grant" funding bid would be for between £50,000 to £100,000 (training to make an archaeological survey costs about £12,000) and could include 'in kind' funding i.e. volunteer projects are costed as if they made a monetary contribution. The project would be open to village residents and to any others outside the village. Mrs Mason believes that this project could be valuable for people old and new, fostering pride in their community. New skills could be learnt. Workshops would be arranged: for example, by paying professionals to teach people about the conservation of the water meadows and about its wildlife and fauna. Mrs Mason kindly offered to complete an application on behalf of CAPC, as she has experience of making 15 HLF project applications so far, and stated that the PC need not be involved in running the scheme. There would be a Project Manager post which must be advertised and go out to tender. CW supported the proposal and asked whether an information board of the area could be included within the HLF bid. SM stated that parking might become an issue – Mrs Mason said that Historic England have some parking space. MH proposed that Mrs Anne Mason be asked to proceed with the HLF bid. All Cllrs agreed.

**New data protection regulations** - MH asked the Clerk to attend a training evening on 26 Feb at the Green Britain Centre in Swaffham to learn more about how these new regulations affect CAPC. Cost £25. Approved. The Clerk will summarise her findings at the next PC meeting.

**River Nar Restorations** - MH, TH and the Clerk met with the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) and Charles Rangle-Wilson for an informal presentation on their proposed project on Castle

Acre Common opposite the Nar River Way to West Acre. The existing river channel, which flows through the Common, has been altered by historic maintenance and management practices. As a result, the channel is now unnaturally deep and wide which has negative impacts on the river flows and habitats associated with internationally important and protected chalk streams. Overwide and deep rivers create slow moving water. This allows sediments to deposit more readily covering fish spawning gravels and promoting the growth of undesirable water plants that thrive in slower rivers. The aims of the project are: to create 525m of new meandering channel within the Common designed to create natural widths, depths and gradient; to create a more natural and sustainable chalk river habitat that will allow indigenous species to prosper; to convert the existing channel which flows by the footpath into a back water fed by spring water; to reduce flood risk by improving the connection of the river with its floodplain. Cllrs agreed that the restoration would be a positive move. The work should start in August and although it will look a mess for a while, the ground should recover within 2/3 years.

## 95. Planning

### **18/00086/F – two storey dwelling at land between 40 & 41 Foxes Meadow**

Cllrs considered plans of the proposed dwelling. Cllrs agreed that while the design was sympathetic to the area, they felt that this plot is not suitable for development and will have an adverse impact, in particular overshadowing the patio and garden of No. 41. Cllrs also believe that supporting such an infill dwelling on a driveway would set a precedent for others in the road to do the same that would change the nature of Foxes Meadow forever.

Mr Laurie Fisher proposed to ‘Object’ to this application, Ms Charlie Williams seconded. Cllrs voted to 5 to object, with one abstention.

### **Holkham PA 17/02341/RMM Massingham Road – progress report**

MH requested that Holkham look again at the PC’s alternative site layouts that it considers are superior to the one sent to BCKLWN. James Bracey agreed to look at these with his architect. Highways has commented online, mirroring some of the PC’s concerns, particularly on the positioning of the social houses, while also calling for a footpath on the northern side of the access road.

## 96. Correspondence

**Playing Field** – during the recent severe gales, the cricket cover was lifted over the fence and embedded into the roof of the adjoining bungalow, causing major damage. The other covers have now been moved away from any properties. The insurance claim has been passed for both the repair of the roof and the damage to the cover and table tennis table. CAPFA will try to mitigate any further upset or damage. The football pitch is still waterlogged. Various options are being considered to improve the surface long term.

**Litter Team - refuse bags** – the team has asked the PC to subsidise the £63 cost of purchasing annually 300+ black refuse bags in their sterling efforts to clear rubbish in and around the village. Cllrs agreed unanimously to pay for the bags.

**Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).** CPRE are promoting their campaign ‘Sign the Pledge!’ calling for no new assigned housing allocations until the existing ones have been built on. Norfolk already has in place a 20 year land supply for planned housing. CPRE believes landbanking more development land makes no sense and is hugely damaging to the environment. Cllrs agreed that this should be signed individually and to put details in the Nar Valley News.

**Independent Energy Help – possible links on website** – the Clerk had received emails and phone calls asking for links to be put on PC website. Cllrs agreed that this should not be done.

## 97. Reports

**Highways** – MH reported: still waiting for various request to be actioned, including Archer Lane drainage.

**School** – Valentine quiz on 9 February.

**Village Hall** – LR reported: three more bands will be booked this season and the hall will be redecorated.

**CAPFA** – CW reported: a committee meeting is scheduled on 20 February.

**Neighbourhood Plan (NP)** – MT reported: a meeting is planned next week to discuss other nominated housing in other NPs. A half-day drop-in session is planned for a Saturday in April. A call for first hand information from locals, who can't afford to buy or rent in the village, was published in the Nar Valley News.

**BCKLWN** – JM reported: the Borough Council lost an appeal on its five year land supply in Gayton after an independent planning inspector approved a further 25 dwellings outside the recognised building line. JM intimated that, had Gayton had an Neighbourhood Plan in place, the developer's appeal may not have been upheld. BCKLWN is appealing.

**County Council** – No report.

## 98. Accounts to be paid

Mr Tim Hubbard proposed, Mr Laurie Fisher seconded payments.

Berrymans Glass Recycling Ltd (URM UK Ltd)	£ 35.34 (£5.89 VAT)
E.on Energy (electricity)	£ 75.18 (£3.68 VAT) *
Glasdon Fido 25 dog bin	£152.03 (£22.34 VAT)

*\*Amounts vary from Agenda because of late arrival of invoices*

## 99. Village Maintenance

**New litter bin by village hall.** – it was agreed to move now the litter bin from Stocks Green, where the third Broadband cabinet will be placed, to a new site outside the village hall. It would still be emptied FOC by BCKLWN. The Clerk will ask English Heritage to confirm its offer of £250 that could cover the cost of moving and installing the bin.

**Newton Road hedge:** this has now been cut, four and a half years after the PC first requested.

**East Green - delivery vehicles** – two vehicles were seen trying to get to De Warrenne Place by driving up East Green towards the water meadows. One of these got stuck and needed to be pulled free which has damaged the grass. NP proposed putting three small posts at the end of gravel section to alert drivers that there was no way through. Cllrs agreed.

**Bailey Street banks** – these need cutting back and the soil removed from the road. The Clerk to report.

**Next PC meeting** – noted it is a week earlier on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**100. Public Question Time**

**Bailey Street banks** – although these need cutting back, it is good to keep hedges thick for wildlife. Brambles are overgrown near the exit onto A1065.

**Recycling Bin Area** – this is very slippery and dangerous and needs clearing. TH agreed to look at the area.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The next full Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 1 March at 7.30pm in the village hall.