

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Thursday 11 January 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)

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

Apologies: Mr G Middleton (County Councillor), Ms C Williams (CW), Mrs H Breach (HB), Mr N Patrick (NP)

81. Minutes of PC meeting Thursday 9 November 2017 – proposed by Mr Laurie Fisher, Mr Martin Tate seconded. All agreed.

Minutes of Thursday 14 December - proposed by Mr Tim Hubbard, Mrs Sheila Moister seconded. All agreed.

82. 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. A1065 road signs promised by Highways are still missing.

6. Dog waste bin at Minns Meadow – the condition of the approved licence requires the dog bin to be fixed in the ground at such a height that the operative doesn't have to lift the container bag over shoulder height! Agreed to order and erect the bin.

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. New street signs at Blind Lane and Pales Green – the Clerk to chase.

Newton Road Bridge flooding – MH to contact Highways to complain about their inaction since first reported on 31/07/17.

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

60. South Acre Road trees - the Clerk to remind Holkham's Harry Wakefield to send the promised works schedule.

67. Ward boundary consultation - Cllrs agreed to request that the 'Priory Ward' designation is retained for the new ward area. Letter sent.

70. Little Lane/Priory Road street light – Cllrs agreed to install a timer to turn off this light from midnight at a cost of £70 (2017/18 budget).

Orchard Lane hedges – the Rangers have trimmed them but Cllrs consider insufficiently... requested for the next Rangers visit.

74. Royal British Legion donation – agreed 50p per elector to be donated towards the Menin Gate pilgrimage. As the donation will be in April 2018, agreed to base the amount on the 2017 electoral roll of 706 electors, equal to £353.

79. Pot holes - New ones to report at the junction of Foxes Meadow and Back Lane and all along to the Massingham Road junction.

Post on Stocks Green - the post has been kicked over. The Clerk to get a quote for re-instating it.

Little Lane/Back Lane Grit Bin - still empty. The Clerk to remind Highways for the fourth time that this needs filling

83. Health & Safety matters (including tree report)

St James Road – a dog walker, who moved onto the bank of this narrow lane to let a large HGV pass, lost control of their dog who was killed. Cllrs agreed that this road is not suitable for HGVs (there are warning signs) and that a similar incident could occur at Archer Lane or Orchard Lane. The Clerk will warn residents in the next Nar Valley News to be vigilant and to report any large HGVs to the clerk.

Tree inspection - fallen hawthorn cleared from St James' Green.

84. Matters requested by Councillors

2018/19 Budget and Precept.

The budget proposals were examined in detail at the last meeting and amendments noted. The revised spreadsheet was considered by Cllrs. TH proposed that the budget for tree management is increased from £750 to £1,250 to take account of possible work on the ash trees off North Street. MH clarified that the £200 spend for a bench in the new bus shelter opposite the Spa shop (c/f from 2016/17) is now superfluous since, contrary to promises made over the past three years, Mr Singh of the Spa village shop now declines to pay for a new brick and pantile shelter, using the materials from his new shop build. Cllrs expressed their deep disappointment at this news. Purchasing a manufactured shelter would cost £2000+. The PC will look at fundraising, possibly to pay for a wood or brick structure made locally? The budget also includes £200 for another litter bin near the village hall. English Heritage has offered to contribute £250. Agreed to leave this £200 in the budget and agree what type of bin to purchase at the next meeting. The additional tree work and street light timer expenditures will still result in a bank balance of £7,100 by March 2018.

Cllrs agreed to raise the Precept to £13,130, an increase of 3%, in line with inflation and equal to £1.14 on the current £38.20 Band D Council Tax charge.

85. Planning

Holkham Massingham Rd PA 17/02341/RMM

Following the PC's decision to object to Holkham's planning application, in particular to the cramped site layout (see Planning Minutes of 8 January), MH asked Cllrs to consider two alternative site layouts that could meet the Council's objections and may be acceptable to the applicant.

1. Replace the five bedroom house shown in Plot 9 with a terraced block comprising of three x two bedroom units. This would keep the open space to the south west which is lost in the layout submitted with the planning application. It would retain the eleven plots in a less cramped scheme.
2. Cllrs believe the Conservation Team may object to the two social houses being erected directly opposite the listed Stone Barn, whatever their quality design. The north facing side of the house on Plot 2 appears to be a blank wall which would be visibly unattractive. Cllrs suggest moving these two smaller dwellings into the northwest corner (Plot 10) and to put the dwelling in Plot 4 into an enlarged Plots 1 and 2, either facing Stone Barn or facing north. Place the terraced block into Plot 11. Move Plot 3 into Plot 4 and Plots 10 and 11 into an enlarged Plot 9 (up to the western boundary).

Agreed to put these ideas to Holkham.

86. Correspondence

Grit Bin Stocks Green – the PC received an enquiry asking for a grit bin near Bailey Gate. The Clerk clarified that there is already a bin nearby, outside the old school.

Post Office, local shop – an email was read out from a resident who asked the PC to consider going higher up in the chain of decision makers to get the Post Office at the Spa shop re-instated asap. The PC noted that Mr Singh was onto the IT problem and it would be solved soon.

Dog Waste, Back Lane – the PC received an enquiry asking for something to be done about the increase in dog mess along Back Lane, particularly along the section where children walk to school. The Clerk will highlight this in the Nar Valley News and put up a couple of posters. This problem gets worse in the long dark winter evenings.

Pales Green, fire engine – a resident enquired how a fire engine could attend a house fire along Pales Green, given the cars parked on the adjoining Bailey Street that would block such a large vehicle from manoeuvring round. The Clerk explained that in the past the fire service has assured the PC that access to the fire hydrant at Pales Green would be adequate to cope any fire.

87. Reports

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

School – No report.

Village Hall – Linda Roast reported: the AGM is on 15 January and three more bands will be booked this season.

CAPFA – MH reported: the committee is still in discussion with William Moorfoot about how to drain the field effectively. The remaining container will be moved by the end of March and a third one will be brought in at the same time to store various ground equipment. There will be a fund raising disco on 20 March. The table tennis table has been vandalised and will be moved down to nearer the infant play equipment. The next CAPFA meeting will concentrate on fundraising plans for improvements to the car park and play equipment. Noted that the committee has approved a wedding marquee on the field during the 2019 August bank holiday weekend.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) – MT reported: a meeting is planned next week to discuss targeting particular areas of the plan on which to update the community. The PC is requested to respond to the North Norfolk second homes campaign survey by 7 February. MT said that he had read the report and it wasn't straightforward.

County Council – No report.

88. 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 (£3.58 VAT)*
K&M Lighting (Foxes Meadow light repair)	£ 78.00 (£13.00 VAT)**
Linda Roast (Clerks Salary Oct - Dec 2017)	£ 512.00

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

*** £68 not £78 put on agenda by mistake*

89. Village Maintenance

Pot hole in Back Lane / Foxes Meadow junction – the Clerk to report.

Village maintenance: MH proposed that the PC should obtain quotes to clean/paint the village gateways, repaint the bench and litter bin down by the ford. Agreed.

Paperbank – Cllrs agreed that this must be moved back to outside the village shop as it is underused in its present location in the Ostrich car park. MH believes the perfect position is to the left of the post box on the shop car park . Mr Singh is resisting on the grounds of unsightliness and noise. A new blue bin with minimum lettering could be a solution. The Clerk to contact White.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

The next full Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 8 February at 7.30pm in the village hall.