

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Thursday 8 October 2015:

Present: Mr T Hubbard (TH) Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman
Mr Richard Read (RR) Mr Jim Moriarty (JM)
Mr Neil Patrick (NP) Mrs H Breach (HB),

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk), 3 members of the public

Apologies: Mr Sean Allen (SA), Ms Charlie Williams (CW), Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice-Chairman

69 Minutes of PC meeting Thursday 10 September.

Amended – 61 – fairy lights on Stocks Green to go on three small trees by Bailey Gate, not on the large lime trees. Mr Richard Read proposed approval, Mr Neil Patrick seconded. Agreed.

70 Actions from previous meeting:

15 Code of Conduct, Pecuniary Interest and Election Expenses forms.

Ms Charlie Williams' forms still not completed – Clerk to deliver the form.

23 **Litter Bins, Stocks Green/Castle car park** – JM reported. BCKLWN has two types of bins they could offer FOC to the village to replace those on Stocks Green that do not comply with Health and Safety and also at Castle car park where the bin is too small. Cllrs agreed that the metre high black bins on the Green and the larger green wheelie bin sized model at the Castle car park would be the most suitable. Installation costs would be down to the PC. JM to liaise with BCKLWN.

34 **School Garden allotments boundary update** – work to put in boundary fencing ongoing. RR has inspected the allotments boundary – very overgrown but only with bio-degradable matter. Waiting for a firm date for fence installation. **Playground Cottage allotment fence** – suggested that the boundary fence south of the cottage be removed to make plot 29 within the allotments area. Agreed.

40 **Pruning trees at the playing field entrance, removing vegetation along North Street alley** – Awaiting timing

61 **Bailey Gate Posts** – Highways to have a site meeting to review.

Christmas tree lights – To be positioned on 3 small trees on bend by Bailey Gate Mr Neil Patrick offered to donate funds above the £100 budgeted for tree/lights and to install them. Cllrs expressed their appreciation. Clerk and Mr Patrick to liaise over the purchase.

64 **Remembrance Sunday Wreath** – Chairman to lay – Cllrs to meet the cost of the wreath personally and not from PC funds.

67 **Rangers visit/ Priory Field verge** – Highways, not the Rangers, are now tasked with cutting the verge – date unconfirmed. Little Lane still needs sweeping .

71 **5 Year Action Plan/Through Traffic Plan.** The SAM2 flashing speed sign is up and working well in Massingham Road. It will be transferred to Sporle for the month of November. RR will upload the SAM2 data on speeding vehicles. This will be reported to each PC meeting and in the Nar Valley News. RR purchased 2 padlocks to secure the unit – invoice for payment at the next PC meeting. Cost of unit is £4044 with VAT to be claimed back of £674. NCC funding 50% ex VAT £1685, Sporle paid £842.50 ex VAT. Net cost of the unit to Castle Acre PC is £843.

The Community Speedwatch Group. No response to the appeal in the Nar Valley News for more volunteers – Clerk to put a second call in next month's edition.

Newton Road Speedbump – In response to an earlier enquiry, MH confirmed Highways would never permit the installation of a speed bump on that road.

72 Health & Safety. In response to a large branch breaking off one of the lime trees on Stocks Green, Mr Barnfield reminded the PC that all large village trees needed visual inspection after bad weather and that he was happy to this on the PC's behalf. The PC agreed and MH thanked Mr Barnfield.

73 Matters requested by Councillors.

Transparency Code for Small Businesses – This new financial code became law in April 2015 requiring all PCs with a turnover of less than £25,000 to post on their website, and retain for six years, all annual expenditure of over £100, minutes and agendas, annual accounts, governance statement, internal audit statement and a schedule of all council owned land and building assets. This can be achieved by a series of PDFs on the Parish Council page of castleacre.info The cost of amending the website will be reimbursed. MH and the Clerk are attending a briefing on the new code at County Hall on the 12th October.

74 Planning

LDF Update – JM reported that the Local Development Framework public examination resumed on Wednesday 30 September with Castle Acre on the agenda for 4th November. Attending on that day would be Green King, Holkham Estate and two named Castle Acre residents. On completion, there may be more open days for invited representations, then the Inspector's report and recommendations for public consultation. TH commented that the process was slightly confusing and noted that the enquiry would only accept new evidence, not evidence previously submitted. JM said that the examination was looking for evidence of soundness from BCKLWN's process. The hybrid planning application for Massingham Road would probably go to the planning committee in November. MH reported that he intends to meet with Lord Leicester to seek assurances that Holkham Estate will submit a full planning application that sets out agreed designs and materials for all eleven dwellings before the land is sold to a developer.

JM reported that the lack of 5 year housing land supply had opened up the possibility of encouraging the Norfolk Diocese to build low cost housing, designated for local people, on the land it owns adjacent to the churchyard. JM to liaise with the Diocese.

MH had written to local MP Henry Bellingham and read out a letter in reply from Bandon Lewis which stated that 'West Norfolk has an adopted local plan and that there is nationally agreed methodology in estimating five years housing land supply' – the Borough Council disputes this.

75 Correspondence

Excessive weed growth in the Nar. Resident's email received stating that the weeds should be cut back in some areas of the Nar. Clerk contacted the Norfolk Rivers Trust (NRT) who clarified that it does not undertake such maintenance and claims that the weeds supported habitat diversity. However the weeds will die off in winter. Noted that the Fishing Club also cuts back some of the excess weeds.

76 Reports

Martin Hickey – Highways – Massingham Road finger post issue resolved with an extra sign now in place. St James Green post had not yet been re-fixed. Highways to look at the directional signs positioning at Town Lane/Massingham Road as it blocks vehicle sight lines.

Friends of Castle Acre School – Quiz and supper had been well supported.

Village Hall – latest concert raised money. New chairs and tables delivered and are in use – thanks to all Sponsor a Chair supporters. Community Payback Unit to be employed by the hall

to do some maintenance work. MH again stressed the need for acoustic specialists review the hall's acoustics. He offered to assist with grant funding.

77 Accounts

The following cheques were signed - payments were proposed for approval by Mr T Hubbard and seconded by Mr R Read: FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd £ 34.90, E.on Energy (electricity) £61.32, Clerk's Salary (July to September) £478.76, Westcotec (SAM2 flashing road sign) £4,044.00 (includes £674 VAT). Martin Hickey (repair to sound system lead) £7.50.

78 Village Maintenance

Faulty street lights in Pales Green and Bailey Street – technicians have been informed.
Castle Acre Playing Field – need to verti- drain all the field at a cost of £285 + VAT, the work to be paid by the PC and the net cost re-charged to CAPFA.

Paper Bank – Full for four weeks. Perhaps look at a different contractor?

79 Public Question Time – Mr Steve Barnfield asked that the Castle Acre website be updated by removing the Church Gate Tea rooms. MH to arrange.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next full Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 November in the village hall.