

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the village hall on Thurs 12 Sept 2013:

Present: Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman
Mrs H Breach (HB)
Mr T Hubbard (TH)
Mrs G Thorneywork (GT)
Ms C Williams (CW)
Mr S Barnfield (SB)
Mr J Moriarty (JM)
Mr M Dwyer (MD)

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk), 16 members of the public.

Apologies: Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice – Chairman, Deborah Pearson PCSO

55 Police Crime Report.

The Clerk read out the crime report - 4th August 2013, Theft from motor vehicle x 2, in The Castle car park. Ms Pearson met with Andy Wallace of Norfolk County Council Highways who agreed that the signage for the Bailey Gate is insufficient and has submitted an application to have this corrected.

56 Minutes of Previous Meeting of 11 July.

Agreed. Mr Steve Barnfield proposed and Mr Tim Hubbard seconded.

57 Actions from Previous Meeting.

109 **Holkham Agri Allotments.** MH & JM met with Mr James Bracey of the Holkham Estate on 24th July who stressed that the estate would be in no hurry to change the tenancies of Mr Wells and Mr Sandle. and that they would receive 12 months notice from this harvest. 2013 PC charge for these tenancies would cease from 1 October.

41 **School Gardens Allotments.** The Tenant of allotment has not replied to the clerk. The council proposed that the tenancy rules of the allotments had been breached and he should be asked to relinquish the allotment. SB proposed, MD seconded. Agreed.

41 **Seat at South Acre Ford.** Bench is repaired. Councillors to contact Clerk if interested in painting it.

53 **Long grass along Nar walk.** The Clerk to remind Holkham to cut it.

54 **Village Greens.** The cutting edge has been raised so as not to scar the grass so much. Mr Lake to cut the lower branches of the trees at the entrance Playing Field in lieu of one cut.

58 5 Year Action Plan

CA Notice Board. MH, GT, CW and the Clerk met on 30th July to discuss the boards. £681 left from the Jubilee, £200 in the Parish Council budget, £100 from selling Jubilee mugs means total budget is £981. A tender for a 12 A4 poster size board in oak for playing Field put out to 2 carpenters. Stocks Green notice Board to be Village guide and should be re-sited.

CW contacted graphic artist for quote on village guide - £600 for panel design, £260 for panel printing. £120 to renovate and fit panel, £120 to resite the board, £60 for oak posts. MH to look at getting a grant. MH and CW to get in costs for Playing Field board.

Village groups. A list is now on Stocks Green and on the Castle Acre website.

Transport Survey. 20% of 369 households returned a form. There was a demand for Swaffham busses – Demand Reponse service agreeable – support for Fakenham service – less support for Downham Market service – support for Tourist Hopper. The results have been submitted to the County Council. The NCC told us that no funding available for evening or weekend services and a Hopper unviable - trying to get busses self sufficient. New Flexibus in operation although Castle Acre had been missed of the advertising. MH insisted that the NCC improved information to the villages – he informed them that grant funding might be available.

Website. Has been improved with Dominique Garry updating it a couple of times a year. Councillors to have their portraits on site – please send to the Clerk.

59 Health & Safety

SB reported that BT Openreach would only tend to wires going into branches of trees on East Green if there was a failure.

60 Matters requested by Councillors

23/24 Pyes Lane. MH met with Pam Lynn of BCKLWN planning and Freebridge representative. Freebridge did not get planning permission for the change of appearance to these houses in the conservation area, whilst insulating them. BCKLWN had asked that the wood cladding be replaced. JM to ask tenants if they agreed with the decision. Would not be acceptable to set a precedent for not seeking planning permission.

Rural Fair Share. MH presented a petition for councillors and others to sign, trying to get more funding into rural areas. This was passed round.

Village Hall Road Signs. 3 options were shown. 1) brown Castle sign with English Heritage plus Parking symbol, and the Village Hall £40, 2) a revised pointer for the finger post on Stocks Green £50, 3) Black & White sign. SB proposed 1 & 2, MD seconded. Agreed.

Gritting/North Street & St James Green. Despite many conversation/emails with Highways, NCC declined to grit these roads. MH suggested PDF of conversation be put on website for residents to read.

Food Caddy Liners. BCKWN would sell these to PC but it seemed a complicated process to get them into a shop. Residents to be informed that 50 liners can be purchased on line for £3.50 from Amazon. The PC agreed they should not get involved in the process.

Ranrevir – Bailey Street. Bungalow appears to be running a scrap metal business which had been looking very untidy but seems now to have been cleared up. The PC had received many complaints about the level of scrap metal. However, as the site had now been tidied, no action was deemed to be necessary at the moment.

Pales Green Old Playground triangle. The PC soon to take control of the triangle of land below the old playground. SB proposed that a clearing and tidying up process be put in place and asked whether the area should be a grassed area or allotment. Opened to the floor. After much discussion MH concluded that the green would not be allotment – the tidying process should start ASAP – nothing to be done about the green parking strip until after the house had been built on the playground.

Victory House/ Stocks Green donation. £200 received from electrical contractors as compensation for inconvenience. SB proposed this pay for the Village Hall signs and for surplus money to go towards the Village Hall funding for access.

De Warrenne Street name. Road sign down and BCKLWN have been informed – could take up to 3 months to get it erected.

Village Paper Bank. Was full for a long time due to the driver passing by because the car park was full. M H White have been written to and given Costcutters phone number to call in advance so Rash can make sure the parking area is clear for emptying.

Bottle banks. The Clerk to ask for a bigger mixed bank to stop unsightly dumping of bottles when it is full.

61 Planning.

Local Development plan – site specific options. MH summarised both the two year history and the current position of the Borough Councils' proposals for developing new housing in the village from between 2014 and 2026. JM went through the process of the housing policy and confirmed that 11 houses, 3 of which are destined for affordable housing are to be built in Castle Acre as part of the overall county wide scheme. He confirmed that the houses would have to be built somewhere and there was no other available site. Anglian Water acknowledge

that the water pressure could not support more than 11 new houses. Residents from the top of Massingham Road opposed any building there citing the narrow road and poor access. After much debate it was agreed that the PC should respond by stating that the Parish Council was surprised to note that the area of land proposed for these 11 dwellings was much smaller than indicated in the draft proposal of October 2011, comprising of approx. 0.75 acres of site 1131 (of which approx. 40% is within the current boundary of the conservation area), plus, to the north, a small section of 508 measuring approx. 0.39 of an acre, giving a total of 1.14 acres or 0.46 of a hectare. The Parish Council is of the view that it would be impossible to place 11 dwellings on that designated land and still meet the Borough Council's imposed condition (which the Parish Council fully supports) that *'the sensitivity of the site will require careful design to ensure that the site makes a positive contribution to the Conservation Area and the setting of the nearby Listed Buildings. Standard housing designs are unlikely to achieve this'*. Any number of dwellings on that designated land cannot face east onto the Massingham Road as the road is extremely narrow at that point, placing exiting vehicles in danger and also competing with HGVs and large farm vehicles that are turning right from St James Green. The Parish Council therefore considers that a larger part of site 508 must be allocated. In that area, the frontages of the 11 dwellings would have to face west onto a new road, up to 4.5 metre wide, with vehicles exiting higher up the Massingham Road, just past Stone Barn. The overall visual approach to Castle Acre village from the Massingham direction must be preserved through careful landscaping and perhaps by building a flint stone wall around the north of the development. The whole site specific issue is complicated by the apparent private sale, subject to contract, of Alberma House and Rose Cottage (the derelict buildings in 1131) - for what purpose and to whom the Parish Council are currently unable to determine.

East End Cottage 13/01106/F

JM and MH declared an interest and stepped out of discussion

Plans were shown and discussed. Cllrs objected to the balcony railings on planning application as it overlooked the neighbouring garden. PC to support but suggest 'Juliette' style balcony.

76 Foxes Meadow - Freebridge

Plans shown to Council for a one bedroom and a 2 bedroom dwelling - Freebridge asking for feedback - PC to comment at planning stage.

Albert Victor Frontage – 13/01210/LB. No Objections.

15 St James green 13/01283/LB. Listed building consent to replace window. No Objections.

62 Correspondence

Footpaths across Priory Field, English Heritage.

Postponed discussion until October meeting.

Norfolk Rivers Trust ditch at South Acre Ford.

The PC agreed there should be no posts put in place along the ditch.

Walkers Welcome – Nar Valley Way.

MH asked if Castle Acre should become a member of Walkers welcome which receives funding from Rural Development Fund. PC agreed to take 1 years free membership.

63. Reports.

MH reported on Highways. St James' Green/Archer Lane kerb reduction: not done yet. South Acre Ford traffic prohibition order: going through. White lines Bailey Street/Stocks Green: chasing. Chimney Street/Blind Lane lines: chasing. Massingham Road grips: done. Pyes Lanes Posts put in but no reflectors placed and passing place sign completed and two of the excessive number of grips will be filled in to facilitate car parking. Rangers asked to cut hedges in Little Lane.

HB reported on Village Hall / Hort Soc. WREN funding application gone in and had meeting with representative. Goes to regional panel then if successful goes to national panel. Will know the outcome in November. Sponsor a chair campaign on the go. AGM Sept 19th.

Hort Soc annual show a success with more entries.

MD reported on School - He will be attending Nar Valley Federation meeting and will stand as Chairman of the Governors.

JM reported on Borough Council. BCKLWN trying to persuade NCC not to adopt waste strategy before February when the King's Lynn Incinerator issue is decided.

CW reported on Friends of school . Autumn Quiz to be on 1st November. 2014 Summer Ball planned on Playing Field supporting Children's Diabetes and Cystic Fibrosis.

64. Accounts. The following cheques were signed; payments were proposed by SB and seconded by MD: FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd £ 34.90, E.on Energy (Electricity July) £46.36, Gary Lake (6 green cuts) £ 342.00, CAPFA refund of 50% of pavilion electrical work £1,041.50, Nigel Drew (mending bench) £80.00.

65. Village Maintenance.

After building at Town lane completed, drain will be cleared and reinstated.

66. Public Question Time.

Church Gate Tea Rooms. Permission sought to erect scaffolding. Agreed

The meeting closed at 10pm.

The next PC Meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Thurs 10 Oct at the Village Hall.