

## CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Thursday 12 September 2019

**Present:** Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman                      Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice- Chairman  
Mr T Hubbard (TH)    Mrs S Moister (SM)  
Mr M Tate (MT)     Ms C Williams (CW),  
Mr S Allen (SA),     Mr N Patrick (NP),  
Mrs H Breach (HB)

**In attendance:** Ms L Roast (Clerk), Mrs L Firth (New Clerk), Mr James Moriarty (JM) (Borough Councillor), three members of the public.

**Apologies: N.A**

**Apologies not received:** Cllr G Middleton (NCC).

**43. Minutes of PC meeting on Thursday 11 July 2019**

TH proposed approval of the Minutes, LF seconded.

**Minutes of PC planning meeting on Thursday 29 August 2019**

TH proposed approval of the Minutes, LF seconded.

**44. Actions from previous meetings**

**28. Portcullis**

English Heritage is looking into new quotes as current costs for repair and reinstatement of the portcullis are higher than anticipated at approximately £14,000 with a large proportion of this associated with traffic management. Update received from English Heritage, on 3 September, explaining the PC's contact has been on extended leave, due to illness, and no further information regarding new quotes has been shared. Clerk to chase.

**51. Newton Road Bridge flooding**

MH chased Highways - still no response, nothing to report. MH to continue to follow up.

**80. Grass footway along Newton Road**

Waiting on Holkham to cut grass verge before surveying if a grass footpath is a realistic option.

**113. Updates on outstanding Highways requests**

Cllrs were informed that Highways maintenance and road-works have been subcontracted to a private company which might explain why the 'Deep Water' sign on each side of ford, along with extra grips at the top of Orchard Lane and Rougham Road, are still outstanding. MH to chase.

**120. Report on North Street alley, behind 109 North Street**

TH will cut back the overhanging bushes once the nesting birds have gone.

**123. Replacement wooded handrail on gate from church to South Acre Road**

New quote supplied for metal handrail to replace the damaged wooden ones which is lower than previous estimates for new wood railings. The PCC agrees with the change and will pay 50% of the cost. Cllrs approved giving the order to the contractor. Clerk to action.

## **20. Extra litter bin on playing field**

A black bin has been delivered. NP to enlarge the picket housing to accommodate this.

## **26. Highways proposals for safety measures on Massingham Road/Back Lane junction.**

Cllrs reluctantly supported Highways' assessment of double yellow lines outside the SPAR shop as the optimum solution. However, an expensive traffic order is required with no indication of when this might be financed. MH to respond to Highways stressing the lines should be immediately past the entrance to the shop car park on Back Lane and round to the footway on Massingham Road, along as far as is legally possible. The PC will attempt to keep the traffic cones in situ until the yellow lines are in place.

## **Holkham public rights of way and open access land – report on meeting 14 Aug 2019.**

TH reported on his site meeting with Holkham's Conservation Manager. Primary purpose of the meeting was to establish a regular line of communication between the village and Holkham in respect of the local environment and access to it. Secondly, to try and resolve some of the ongoing footpath access issues around the village. TH's full report can be shared on request, via the Clerk. Cllrs called for a ninety nine year minimum contract guaranteeing open access on all the current permissive paths, with a draft by end of October. To be reviewed again at the next PC meeting.

## **Ostrich pub outdoor decking and seating area – update**

The Borough's Planning Enforcement Officer has informed the Ostrich's owner that the decking is unacceptable and must be removed. The underlying road surface is in need of repair. Highways are meeting with the Ostrich management on site before the end of September to discuss necessary repairs to the road surface and to agree who is to carry out the work. Decking will be removed to facilitate that work. If the Ostrich then wishes to replace the decking with anything else, the Borough's conservation team must be consulted beforehand. Cllrs pressed JM to push for immediate enforcement.

## **Supporting the Borough Council's long term empty homes strategy.**

SM and JM reported on the BCKLWN long term empty home strategy, the full report can be seen on request, via the Clerk. Concerns were raised that The Old School remains empty and derelict. Cllrs requested that the owner is contacted to remove vegetation overhanging the back flint wall along the shared driveway.

## **38. Sewerage plant - new pipeline to Swaffham.**

MH reported that Anglian Water has yet to find a technical solution to boring under the Nar without damaging the chalk aquifer. The Fishing Club has suggested either using an alternative route or taking the pipe over the Nar on an aqueduct. AW has rejected both options as more costly. A third type of drilling rig is now on site.

## **George and Dragon listing update**

The Ostrich management has enquired as to why the George and Dragon pub is listed on castleacre.info and has asked if the webmaster could make an additional subheading of 'Pubs near Castle Acre' to display the George & Dragon

## **41. Drainage in High Street - update**

Highways are aware of repeated flash flooding as the 150mm outlet pipe can't cope with the volume of water. Jetting out the drains is not an adequate solution. The PC is insisting that Highways find a better-long term resolution. MT is meeting with a Highways technician who also intends to review all the villages drainage issues.

#### **42. Konik Ponies on Nar Valley Way - update**

Holkham reported that the ponies had escaped and have been rounded up while their future on Castle Acre Common is reviewed.

#### **45. Health & Safety matters (including Tree Report)**

##### **Visual obstruction on Blind Lane/Chimney Street junction-**

CW expressed her concern about the overgrown hedge on the north side of Chimney Street is causing a traffic hazard at the junction with Blind Lane. Clerk to contact the property owner.

##### **Dog Fouling**

Dog fouling still remains of great concern to the village. Cllrs requested JM instructs the Borough's Community Safety and Nuisance officers to make regular checks around both Foxes Meadow and the Priory Precinct Meadow, ideally on early mornings and early evenings. The PC is seeking a publicised conviction which will deter others from letting their dogs foul.

##### **Footway outside No.60 Foxes Meadows**

A resident drew the uneven surface to Cllrs' attention. Clerk to check and report to Highways.

##### **Damage to car rear window from grass cutting on St James' Green**

SA reported that a stone thrown up by the grass cutter on St James' Green had cracked the rear window of a car parked in his front drive. Clerk to give SA the contractor's details to make an insurance claim.

##### **Street light report-**

NP to send report of broken street lights to the Clerk.

##### **Tree Inspection Register-**

Updating the Tree Inspection Register to be completed by TH by October's PC meeting.

#### **46. Matters requested by Councillors**

##### **South Acre Ford consultation review**

MH reported on a positive site meeting at the ford with NCC Executive Director, Environmental Services and Highway, who clearly understood the issues and expressed his support for restricting vehicle access. NCC to follow up with MH mid to late September. Full report can be viewed on request, via the Clerk.

##### **Council's Grievance & Disciplinary policy**

MH proposed Cllrs approve the PC's new policy, seconded by CW. To be uploaded onto the PC page of castleacre.info.

#### **47. Planning-**

##### **19/01394/F - planning variation for extension to rear of dwelling and extension above garage – Jokkers, Bailey Street,**

Following a review of the changes to the application that Cllrs had objected to, a proposal to 'Support' was agreed with four Cllrs in favour and two against. The PC's submission included the observations that:

- The 'slim, vertically glazed window panel' proposed for the principal gable of the roof fronting the highway must consist of frosted glass.

- In its original submission, CAPC objected to the apparent retention of the ugly metal up and over garage doors and calls for new ones more in keeping with the Conservation Area. To date, this does not appear to have been addressed.

### **BC Local Plan, site options – Letter from Greene King 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.**

\* TH declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

Cllrs had pre-read Greene King's latest letter which still proposes building eight properties on Further Pond Close in return for giving the rest of the land to the village. Cllrs reconfirmed their determination not to allow any development on this historical piece of land and saw no need to hold a meeting with Greene King to discuss this. MH pointed out that this six acre land is now up for sale as 'solid grazing land'.

## **48. Correspondence**

### **Fly tipping- Little Lane and Old Tennis Court off South Acre Road-**

The offender has been identified, contacted and given a written warning. The Borough's Community Safety Officer has confirmed that further action will be taken should this occur again. The Borough could not prosecute the offender without having 'sight of the evidence' in situ. Cllrs considered there was sufficient photographic evidence to prosecute.

### **Re-painting BT phone box-**

The Clerk has asked BT to repaint the listed phone box on Stocks Green. BT declined but cleaned it instead. Cllrs agreed this is insufficient and asked the Clerk to submit a further request.

### **Replacement village Beat Manager-**

The new police Beat Manager is PC 916 Mark Hills.

### **Parking sign to Priory at the top of Pyes Lane-**

In 2018, English Heritage were asked if they could install a directional parking sign to the Priory car park at the top of Pyes Lane. Clerk is chasing for a reply.

### **Bike for sale on Stocks Green-**

It is Council policy that anyone wishing to use Stocks Green to offer goods for sale should seek permission from the PC first.

## **49. Reports**

**Highways** – nothing further to report.

**School** – report from Mike Dwyer: eight new pupils have started in reception. Deputy Head Kim Stabler is Acting Head while the recruitment for a Head for the whole Nar Valley Federation continues. Interviews are scheduled for end of September, looking to start in January, if successful.

**Village hall** – HB reported: promoting a concert on 21 September, with Ella McCready, at 7pm.

**CAPFA** – CW reported: the AGM is on Tuesday 17 September at 7pm. CW welcomes all those concerned with the location of next year's fete to attend and to join the committee. CW to report back at the next PC meeting.

**Neighbourhood Plan (NP)** – MT reported: welcomes Cllrs comments on the current draft. The next stage will be a more formal consultation, led by the local authority, to statutory bodies, stakeholders and village residents.

Borough Cllr's report – JM reported: he has been actively monitoring bonfire usage in the village, asking for common sense and consideration of others, in particular stressing the effect on villagers with small children, some of whom have struggled with smoke entering their homes. JM advised using brown bins or local tips instead of burning garden waste or rubbish.

**County Council** – no report.

## **50. Accounts to be paid**

Accounts due for payment proposed by Mr Tim Hubbard, seconded by Mr Laurie Fisher.

Berrymans Glass Recycling Ltd (URM UK Ltd)	£ 37.20 (6.20 VAT)
E.on Energy (electricity)	£ 68.29 (3.25 VAT)
TTSR – cutting permissive paths at Priory/Abbey Fields	£180.00
M Hickey – photocopies Holkham open access plans	£9.00
Linda Roast (Clerk's wages July - September)	£587.50
Linda Roast (replacement i-pads for defibrillator)	£ 37.14 (£6.19 VAT)
Compass Point Consultants (Neighbourhood Plan) *	£480.00
CPRE Norfolk Rural Housing Conference (delegate fee) *	£ 35.00

\*Paid from Locality grant

Cllrs agreed that the PC should purchase a printer capable of A3 printing for the new Clerk at £170. Clerk to fund and recharge to the PC for approval at the October meeting.

## **51. Village Maintenance -**

NP supplied a letter from Mr Wells regarding the release of his allotment: he will not be renewing his agreement for allotment 18. The Clerk to respond.

Concerns raised over the metal guttering leaning against the front wall of the Ostrich, worries it could fall and cause harm to public or vehicles.

## **52. Public Question Time -**

No questions

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next full Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 10 October at 7.30pm.