

Castle Acre Parish News

Welcome back to the Nar Valley News and best wishes for a peaceful 2018.

The Parish Council (PC) met on 14 December at 7.30pm, 8 January for a special planning meeting and on the 11th for the usual Thursday monthly meeting.

December 14. On behalf of the British Legion, Pat Clark asked the Council to donate to their £1,000 appeal to cover the cost of sending two people to the Menin Gate pilgrimage to commemorate the loss of 43 village men in WW1. To make it on behalf of all residents, Cllrs voted to donate 50p per the 706 people on the electoral roll.

January 8. While Cllrs reviewed the second part of the Massingham Road development (eleven dwellings) at a public meeting on 30 November, at which Holkham presented variations to the site layout, mix and design of the houses, the Council formally considered their planning application 17/02341/RMM. Cllrs voted by a majority to 'Object' in particular to the cramped site layout and the individual designs. You can view their application and read the Council's submission on the Borough website. Discussions continue with Holkham to meet some of the Council's objections.

January 11. The PC agreed to make strong representations against a potential change to the West Norfolk Borough's planning process. Currently, PCs who object to a planning application that Council officers, under their delegated authority, then recommend for approval, automatically have their objections submitted for review by the planning committee at which Parish Cllrs (and others) may speak and at times successfully overturn planning officers' decisions, thereby democratically upholding the views of their village or parish.

To save money, the Borough Council's Cabinet, meeting in an un-minuted session, and without **any** consultation with Parish Councils, has now decided to set up a 'sifting committee' of a cabal of Borough Cllrs who will decide in secret which contested planning applications are referred to the planning committee, thus acting as judge and jury. We are asking all Councils to lobby the Cabinet not to go ahead with this abuse of democracy. You may wish to contact the Leader at cllr.brian.long@west-norfolk.gov.uk

The PC approved the 2018/19 income and expenditure budget and voted to raise the village Council tax element by 3% in line with inflation, equal to £1.14 on the present £38.20 Band D rate. For more details, see the December PC Minutes on castleacre.info.

Police Officers will be targeting speeding drivers early in 2018 as they have received confirmation from the Camera Safety team that the compliance with the speed limit is very poor. So don't be surprised if you come across a camera van parked up in the village!

Dog mess. Owners are again letting their dogs foul the footpath along Back Lane where children walk to school. Please clear up after your dog – even when it's dark – take a torch!

To view past Council Minutes and finances, go to www.castleacre.info/parish_news.htm
The next PC meeting is at 7.30pm on **Thursday 14 December** at the village hall.

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