

Castle Acre Parish News

The Parish Council (PC) met on Thursday 10 January for the usual monthly meeting with six residents in attendance.

Norfolk Constabulary – the Council was pleased to hear from PC Ryan Kerr who introduced himself as the new police Beat Manager for the local area which includes Castle Acre. PC Kerr talked about neighbourhood policing, explaining that he will engage with the community to solve local policing issues and keeping the village a safe place to live, work and visit. PC Kerr will be your first point of contact for any non-urgent policing matters and can be reached on 01553 665170 or SNTDersingham@norfolkpnn.police.uk.

South Acre ford – on 5 January the driver of a car, with her two kids and a dog, returning to Beachamwell with the help of her Sat Nav, wedged her car on the far side of the ford unable to get out or back. A resident kindly summoned help and the vehicle was winched out. Cllrs called for new ‘deep water’ warning signs while backing the PC’s demand to our County Cllr for a second Highways public consultation on restricting vehicle access to the ford, the first consultation in 2016 being highly flawed.

2019-20 Budget and Precept – Cllrs reviewed the agreed changes to the draft budget first considered at last December’s meeting. These now include a £400 grant to CAPFA for work on draining the playing field as well adding a further large litter bin next to the one by the play equipment. Also an allocation for strimming once a year, in early summer, the paths from the ford to the Priory and onto Common Lane. Cllrs approved a 3% rise in the Precept which equals an extra £1.19 on the current £39.93 Band D rate of the village portion of your Council Tax.

Castle Acre Primary Academy - Cllrs recorded their appreciation and thanks to the Headmistress Mrs Kelly Scott, the staff and Governors for taking the school to one of its highest ever levels of achievement at its recent Ofsted inspection while continuing to develop the school for the greater benefit of the village and nearby communities. Well done!

Calling for volunteers! – small jobs that need doing from time to time, from varnishing parish noticeboards, repairing the bus shelter to strimming footpaths, often can’t be justified by employing contractors at rate payers’ expense. The Parish Council is hoping to encourage a spirit of voluntary help within the village by asking those with DIY or ground maintenance skills and who are keen to be called upon in such instances, to give their details to the Clerk. Thank you.

And calling for more volunteers! As part of the village Neighbourhood Plan, we are undertaking a traffic survey week over a week from 14 February, registering the different types of vehicles coming in and out of Castle Acre at peak times and at different locations throughout the village - on Newton Road, Priory Lane, Stocks Green, Massingham Road, new school/Back Lane, Bailey Street and St James’ Green. We need more volunteers to take a two hour slot (or more!) to record this data. Along with volume statistics from the SAM2 speed monitor, we can build up a clear picture of the traffic issues and make recommendations in the Neighbourhood Plan. Can you please help? Contact me below or directly to Sheila Moister on 755799 or s.moister@btinternet.com Thank you.

Allotment path – It has come to Cllrs’ notice that passage down the main path is restricted by the overgrown bushes from the allotments on either side. Could allotment holders please make sure that you keep the path clear as getting wheel barrows through can be difficult!

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 February** at the village hall.
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