

Castle Acre Parish News

The Parish Council (PC) met on 11 May for its Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm followed by the usual monthly meeting at 7.30.

Annual Parish Meeting. With two residents in the audience, Martin Hickey, PC Chairman, read out his report of the Parish Council's activities over the past year, and asking for questions. To read his report, go to www.castleacre.info/parish_news.htm

Monthly PC meeting. Two more residents joined the audience for the usual monthly meeting. The first agenda item was the annual election of Parish Council Chairman and Vice- Chairman. Both Martin Hickey and Laurie Fisher were unanimously re-elected.

Bailey Gate. Some progress at last on preventing the Gate from further vehicle damage. Highways has installed two more posts on the Bailey Street side of the gate in line with the narrowest part of the structure – to further discourage wide vehicles from trying to force their way through. New warning road traffic signs on the A1065 and near Jubilee Bridge are ordered and should be erected in a month. The PC is writing to the CEO of English Heritage urging action to install the proposed portcullis below the arch of the Gate and to effect the repairs to the stonework, first requested over three years ago!

Orchard Lane parking bay. Thanks to Patrick Grange, the developer of the new houses along Massingham Road, for arranging for his mini-digger to extend the bay and removing the surplus earth to create an extra car parking space.

Priory Precinct Meadow- Holkham sheep fencing. Quite some time was spent looking at further options for keeping some walkway access for visitors and residents alike. Holkham is stressing that this initiative is far from settled and, after further consultation, this could take at least a year to implement. Watch this space.

New dog waste bin – entrance to Minns Meadow Nar River walk. Cllrs approved the purchase of a new dog bin subject to a street furniture licence. Whether you own a dog or not, dog poo affects everyone. It's unpleasant to come across it on footpaths, village pavements, and especially on your shoe! Dog fouling is one of the biggest nuisances blighting public places in the UK- it's an unpleasant sight and smell, unhygienic, spreads disease and becomes a very costly problem. But you can chuck your bag in the nearest litter bin or take it home – it doesn't need to be a designated dog waste bin. **Just bag it and bin it!** It's against the law not to clear up after your dog; perpetrators can be fined up to £1,000.

Dogs seen chasing swans on the River Nar. A dog owner visiting the village let his dogs chase the swans. When confronted, he said they enjoyed it. Dog owners need to act in a responsible manner or else we will lose the swans. If you see anyone else doing this, if possible take a photo and report it to the police as soon as you can by phoning 101.

To view past Council Minutes and finances, go to www.castleacre.info/parish_news.htm
The next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on **Monday 12 June** because of the General Election on the 8th.

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