

Castle Acre Parish News

The Parish Council (PC) met on Monday 29 January for a special planning meeting and on Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm for the usual Thursday monthly meeting.

January 29. Cllrs considered an application for a single storey dwelling on a vacant plot on the corner of St James Green and Massingham Road. The PC agreed to support the plan which it feels is in keeping with its surroundings, while being small enough not to make a big impact.

February 8. With eight residents in attendance, the PC reviewed and voted to object to a proposed application for an infill dwelling between 40 and 41 Foxes Meadow, deeming it to be unsuitable for the narrow plot and overshadowing the garden of No. 41. The PC considers that this could encourage more infills around Foxes Meadow, forever changing the nature of the area.

Anne Mason presented the case for making a Heritage Lottery Fund application towards creating workshops and activities to give residents and visitors an understanding and appreciation of the rich built, cultural and natural heritage of Castle Acre and how it has shaped the present-day village and its surrounding landscape. People could learn new skills from this programme. It would foster pride in the community. The PC agreed unanimously to support this project and thanked Mrs Mason for her enthusiasm and her offer to work on the application.

River Nar: the PC supports the proposal by the Internal Drainage Board to create a new 525m long, meandering river channel within Castle Acre Common, which will make for a more natural and sustainable chalk river habitat, and to convert the existing channel, which flows by the Nar Valley Way footpath, into a back water fed by spring water.

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). CPRE are promoting their campaign 'Sign the Pledge!' calling for no new assigned housing allocations until the existing ones have been built on. Norfolk already has in place a 20 year land supply for planned housing. CPRE believes landbanking more development land makes no sense and is hugely damaging to the environment. To support this pledge go to <https://www.change.org/p/breckland-district-council-protect-norfolk-s-precious-countryside>.

Kickstart Norfolk is a new charity working to remove a major barrier faced by younger residents without their own transport to access the labour market and to improve their lives. It provides mopeds to travel to and from their place of work. Kickstart feels this will also strengthen the rural economy by helping micro and small businesses to sustain employment. Go to kickstartmopeds.org.uk for more information.

Allotments. Two plots are now available: the first on the left inside the gate with raised beds and the last plot on the right at the bottom. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

January Nar Valley - apology. The Parish Council would like to correct the misleading impression that the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk ever holds un-minuted Cabinet meetings. This is not the case.

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 1 March** at the village hall.

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