

Castle Acre Parish News

The Parish Council (PC) met on Thursday 14 February for the usual monthly meeting with just our Borough Cllr in attendance.

Holkham housing development site off Massingham Road – Cllrs considered a new planning application, 19/00148/F, for an additional four semi-detached, 2 bedroom houses in the north western corner of the site. These are in response to the Parish Council's request for smaller, less expensive homes to be available for villagers. James Bracey from Holkham was on hand to detail the application and to explain that Holkham will look into Help to Buy / Starter Homes schemes as well as offering a first right to purchase to residents and their families. Cllrs welcome the revised house designs which are more in the vernacular of Castle Acre. Holkham will be developing the site themselves and hope to start work on all 15 dwellings in the spring/summer 2019. Cllrs unanimously agreed to support this application.

Dark skies policy- the PC maintains a dark skies policy when reviewing new housing applications to minimize light pollution (and save energy); for instance, there will be no street lights on the new Holkham housing development. Many of the village street lights go off at midnight. Could we please ask householders to join in by ensuring that their external house lights are equally timed to turn off before midnight. Thank you.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) – Despite the amazing efforts of Anne Mason who worked so hard on Castle Acre's application for a HLF grant to undertake an exciting programme of archaeological investigations, activities and wildlife surveys to aid residents, families, primary and secondary school children in understanding and appreciating the rich built, cultural and natural heritage of Castle Acre, the PC's bid was regrettably refused due to limited HLF funding. However, the PC may bid to a new HLF fund later this year.

Carers Matter Norfolk – this is a Norfolk wide service, working in partnership with many organisations and community groups, to support unpaid young carers, young adult carers and adult carers. Local Carer Connectors provide face-to-face support within a carer's own home or a place of their choice. If you know of young carers in need of support, please point them to the Advice Line team on 0800 083 1148 (from 8am– 8pm Monday to Friday, 4pm – 8pm Saturday, 8am – 12pm Sunday) or to visit their website www.CarersMatterNorfolk.org.uk

Dog Fouling – Please note that new dog fouling notices are being displayed around the village in an attempt to persuade dog owners, who currently don't pick up after their dogs, to clear away their dog's mess rather than leaving it anywhere in the village or on open access land. You can use any plastic bag to pick up and dispose it in any of our dog poo bins or in your black bin at home. Would the person who keeps removing these notices, screwed onto gate posts, and then throwing them to one side, please desist.

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 March** at the village hall.

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