

Castle Acre Parish News

The Parish Council (PC) met on Thursday 14 September at 7.45pm with two members of the public in attendance and Mr Graham Middleton, Norfolk County Councillor.

Massingham Road housing development – initial design consultations. James Bracey of Holkham and their architects showed Cllrs their proposals for five 3-bedroom properties (inc: two social houses to rent), five 4-bedroom properties and one 5-bedroom property, all in generous plots with flint walled front gardens facing onto an avenue of trees along the new internal tarmac road. The house designs are traditional but with modern features e.g. a mixture of brick finishes, some wood panels or render, recessed porches: finer details are still under review. Cllrs questioned the need for a 5- bedroom ‘executive’ house and the lack of smaller 1 & 2 bedroom properties. Could an attractive three dwelling terrace unit be considered with an initial purchase offer to locals only, noting the danger these could otherwise be snapped up by second home buyers? Before submitting to Borough planning, Holkham is committed to reviewing further the designs with the PC who will consider them in detail at their next meeting on 5 October. Holkham intends to start construction in 2018.

Bailey Gate. When you read this, the Bailey Gate will be repaired and the new portcullis installed, a visual deterrent to large vehicles from trying to drive through. The width between the posts is also reduced. More explicit Highways warning signs on A1065 are critical (on order), though drivers inability to lift their eyes from their Satnavs was again evidenced recently by a large vehicle getting halfway under the Gate, having second thoughts and then reversing all the way down Bailey Street. A quick thinking resident reported this to the police and they and EH are taking action. If you see any large vehicles attempting the same, please either take a note of their license plate or take a photo and pass them to the Clerk.

Litter at the Ford. The PC has re-instated a litterbin at the ford and it seems to be doing the trick. Paul Stevenson and his litter picking team are emptying this regularly– thanks go to you all.

Flooding. Following huge downpours from several mini ‘Irmis’ recently, flooding by the Newton Road bridge and Orchard Lane has been reported for urgent action on flushing the drains and clearing the grips.

Village maintenance. Requests are out to: cut the hedge on the south side of Newton Road, trim back along Blind, Orchard and Archer Lanes and cut the overhanging branches opposite the boardwalk near the ford. Holkham is reminded to thin out the trees and bushes at the top of South Acre Road.

To view past Council Minutes and finances, go to www.castleacre.info/parish_news.htm
The next Parish Council meeting is one week earlier than usual at 7.30pm on **Thursday 5 October** at the village hall.

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