

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Thursday 10 January 2019

Present: Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice-Chairman
Mr S Allen (SA) Mrs H Breach (HB)
Mr T Hubbard (TH) Mrs S Moister (SM)
Mr M Tate (MT) Ms C Williams (CW)
Mr N Patrick (NP)

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk), Mr J Moriarty (JM) (Borough Councillor)

Apologies: None

96. PC Ryan Kerr – new Beat Manager for Dersingham & Gayton Area

PC Ryan made a brief presentation. In recent years, neighbour policing (PCSO) was cut. However new teams of police officers (Beat Managers) have been allocated to increase police presence and accessibility within local neighbourhoods. While calling the non-emergency 101 will generate a fairly quick response, Beat Managers can be phoned directly. PC Kerr promised regular patrols of the village and can make vehicle speed checks, if requested. MH commented that Castle Acre was right at the bottom edge of a large policing area while the village is only four miles from Swaffham that comes under different policing responsibilities. Will there be coordination? PC Kerr left his contact details and some display posters.

97. Minutes of PC meeting on Thursday 13 December 2018

Mr Laurie Fisher proposed and Mrs Sheila Moister seconded. Agreed.

98. Actions from previous meetings

28. Bailey Gate –English Heritage is obtaining quotations to repair and then re-instate the portcullis on Bailey Gate.

51. Newton Road bridge flooding – MH is assured that the work will be carried out very soon.

28. Directional sign on Stocks Green to the Ostrich car park – waiting for Highways for draft designs for Stocks Green and also revised signage on the Town Lane island.

56 South Acre Ford road closure consultation in September 2016 – no response from our County Cllr on the PC's call for a second Highways consultation to be undertaken and to be run properly. E-mail report of a car on 5 January which was returning to Beachamwell with the help of a Sat Nav and became stuck at the far side of the ford unable to get out or back as the front of the car was wedged onto the road at the far side. A resident called in help and the vehicle was winched out. Cllrs agreed to call for better warning signs to deter such drivers by asking Highways to erect 'Ford –Deep Water' signs on each side of the ford, as close to the river banks as possible. MH to contact Highways. Highways should be aware of the driving conditions through the ford.

60. Hedges along south side of Bailey Street - the Clerk has contacted the landowner to trim asap the south facing hedge on Newton Road between the A1065 junction and the bridge .

66. Rights of way and open access land – no further update from Holkham.

70. Pot holes in De Warrenne Place – Highways has re-instructed the contractor and the work should be finished in January. Not done yet.

80. Grass footway along Newton Road – Holkham to cut in the next two weeks.

94. Back Lane surface sweep – scheduled for January.

Newton Road potholes – dangerous potholes filled.

Foxes Meadow potholes – reported but not yet filled.

Orchard Lane – the Clerk to ask Highways to send a gang with shovels to clear the road of all the mud and detritus. Holkham has been requested to cut the hedges on both sides of the lane.

Water Tower roof railings - the owner has confirmed that the railings are of an upmarket galvanised structure, maintenance free, and will be used only for protective access to service the solar panels. JM is in touch with Borough Council and has asked for a Planning Enforcement Officer to check these railings and that the windows have frosted glass, as specified in the approved planning application. JM also referred to a non-material amendment for a 1.5 metre high clock hands on the west side of the tower which was submitted and approved within 48 hours, without any prior PC consultation. JM intends to complain about this process and ask for clarification. Cllrs agreed. JM to report back at the next meeting.

99. Health & Safety matters (including Tree Report)

TH stated there is nothing to report on village trees.

Day-Glo strips are in place on the Bailey Gate posts to aid pedestrians at night..

100. Matters requested by Councillors

2019/20 Parish Budget & Precept.

MH e-mailed both the revised budget spreadsheet and explanatory notes to Cllrs prior to the meeting. He highlighted those expenditure items that still require Cllrs' approval, namely:

Street light electricity supply. The negotiations with a new supplier for a lower price is still ongoing. Based on the latest cost comparisons circulated to Cllrs, Mr Tim Hubbard proposed that SSE should be appointed for a fixed price two year contract, Mr Laurie Fisher seconded. All agreed. The Clerk to sign a supply contact, once the final details are resolved.

Drainage work on the playing field. £400 was confirmed as the budgeted amount to be paid as a grant to CAPFA, subject to final approval of a submitted invoice. CW stressed the importance of this work, though TH continued to express his doubts as to its effectiveness. Noted that further grant requests for this programme of works over a five year period, as recommended by a field drainage expert, should be submitted annually and judged against the success of the drainage maintenance programme when re-assessed in two years' time. CW assured Cllrs that the Football Club is willing to assist financially towards these costs.

MH recommended that the 2019/20 Precept should be raised from its current £13,130 by the previously agreed 3% annual inflationary rate to £13,525 to cover the extra expenditure and retain a satisfactory bank balance. This will equate to £1.19 extra on the current £39.93 Band D village Council Tax.

A £13,525 Precept was proposed by Mr Laurie Fisher, seconded by Mr Tim Hubbard. All agreed.

Parking issues Massingham Road/Back Lane.

By placing four cones on the road by the corner of Massingham Road/Town Lane, Cllrs acknowledge that this is deterring vehicles from parking there and not blocking the sightlines for drivers exiting from Back Lane. However, Cllrs believe this is not a long term solution and that Highways should be formally requested to propose alternative safety measures, not only for vehicles but also to consider the potential issues of children crossing to the playing field. TH proposed that the PC go back to Highways for a permanent answer. All agreed.

101. Planning

18/02166/F. Two-storey extension to existing dwelling with single storey element at 28 Town Lane. Comments by 12 January.

Cllrs studied the plans, then MH opened the meeting to the floor. The applicant presented her take on the written objections from neighbours which include: windows overlooking their gardens; front extension not in keeping with other properties along Town Lane; party wall boundary issue with the neighbouring property. Cllrs consider that clarifying the boundary is a key issue, though this is a civil rather than planning matter. Cllrs called for Highways to confirm that there is enough hard standing available for three vehicles. They noted that the new windows on the extension are similar to those already facing the neighbouring property and that Town Lane is a road of mixed dwellings.

Ms Charlie Williams proposed that the PC support the application, Mr Neal Patrick seconded. All agreed.

Holkham Massingham Road reserved matters planning approval developments.

No planning application has been submitted. No further review of different site options/house designs until the application is received (February PC meeting?).

102 Correspondence

None received.

104. Reports

Highways – nothing further to report apart from those matters minuted above in Actions from Previous Meetings.

School – the Chairman of the Governors reported : ‘the school is on top form achieving good with outstanding elements from Ofsted in November. Highest number of pupils in the school for many years and school is at full capacity. In the process of further extending and enhancing the curriculum with greater emphasis on Mathematics, already proving successful. The school has a benchmark for good quality education and creating a really happy set of young people wanting to learn and achieving it. I hope the PC joins me in thanking Headmistress Mrs Kelly Scott and the staff for taking the school to one of its highest ever levels of achievement and continuing to develop the school for the greater benefit of the village and nearby communities’.

Village hall – HB reported: the hall is getting booked up for 2019 with dance classes starting on Mondays and Tuesday evenings.

CAPFA – CW reported: there is a fund raising Tropical Beach Party disco on Feb 1 in aid of CAPFA.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) – MT reported: plans for a traffic survey and housing needs assessment are in hand. Sections of the draft plan are coming together whilst other research is being sought with assistance from a freelance Planning Consultant. MH raised whether the Plan’s draft section on infrastructure, which includes litter and dog poo bins, should state that

there are no plans to install more of either in the future. Cllrs thought the wording should be ambiguous. This led to CW showing a photo of dog bag dispenser fixed to the side of dog poo bins which she thought might encourage owners to make greater use of the bags. Cllrs thought the opposite, believing it is the responsibility of dog owner to behave correctly.

BCKLWN – JM reported: JM is no longer on the Planning Task Group. The draft Local Plan to 2036 is incomplete and the Borough Council are not yet ready to go out to consultation. JM asked for a copy of the plan to date but this was refused. The words ‘at least’ inserted by the Inspector into the current Local Plan in respect of the number of new builds has been unsettling. The draft Local Plan to 2036 will be put out for consultation before or after the 2019 May elections. The final Plan is due to be adopted in October 2020. JM expressed his concerns about what Borough Council officers are actually doing. Planning officers are civil servants and have to abide by national laws to avoid charges of corruption. Some Borough Council activities seem undemocratic, specifically planning sifting panels and Local Plan meetings taking place without advance notice or an Agenda.

County Council – no report.

105. Accounts to be paid

Berrymans Glass Recycling Ltd (URM UK Ltd)	£ 35.34 (£5.89 VAT)
E.on Energy (electricity)	£ 82.69 (£3.94 VAT)
Castle Acre Parochial Church Council – churchyard maintenance	£1,000

Mr Tim Hubbard proposed the payments, Mr Laurie Fisher seconded.

106. Village Maintenance

Uneven concrete surface outside the Ostrich pub – the Clerk raised this with the Ostrich’s Manager who explained that this will be fixed before April/May as The Ostrich has permission for seating to be placed there outside the front of their premises on Stocks Green.

Little Lane – this needs clearing. The Clerk to ask Highways Rangers.

Foxes Meadow drains – need jetting. The Clerk to ask Highway Rangers.

Jubilee Bridge – NP asked if the brambles on the south side of the road north of the bridge could be cut back. The Clerk to ask Highway Rangers.

Car Parks on the village website – Cllrs questioned why there isn’t a list of visitor car parks on the village website. MH to check.

107 Public Question Time

Residents stated:

Bus Shelter – by law this requires a NO SMOKING sign.

Dog waste bins – Bag dispensers may just led to more bad habits by dog owners i.e. just dropping the bags and not putting them into the bins.

South Acre Ford – do not want Highways to repair the road edge on the Ford if this works out cheaper than closing it. Vehicle access is detrimental to both the SSSI area and to the Nar River.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next full Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 14 February at 7.30pm.