

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13 July 2017:

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

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk), Mr G Middleton (County Councillor) and five members of the public.

Apologies: Ms C Williams (CW), Mr J Moriarty (Borough Councillor)

32. Minutes of PC meeting Thursday 12 June 2017 - proposed by Mr Neil Patrick, Mr Martin Tate, seconded. Agreed. MH welcomed Mr G Middleton, Norfolk County Councillor to the meeting.

33. Actions from previous meeting:

28. Bailey Gate damage and signage – no further progress to report on the proposed portcullis. The new highways signs are still not ready for installation as they were not delivered, as previously advised!

85. Ostrich car park sign – Highways quoted £95 to produce a permanent sign to the Ostrich car park but the pub management has declined to pay for it. Cllrs agreed to retain the quote awaiting the outcomes of the Neighbourhood Plan.

108. New Textile Bin – no details.

6. PC donations - new bank account – the Clerk went to Norwich HSBC and completed part of the process. Two further HSBC forms were signed by three signatories.

Dog waste bin at Minns Meadow – waiting for NCC to issue a furniture license.

9. Minns Meadow path – MH suggested obtaining a quote to flatten out the rough sections of the new path. TH thought that a lot of money could be spent in making good the path and that as it is dry, the camber is good and well-trodden, the PC should give the path more time to settle. NP suggested that the gate from Minns Meadow to South Acre Road would have to be moved or altered to pass over any infill on the drop just past the gate. E-mail received from Norfolk Rivers IDB, Water Management Alliance: *“we need to put up a few short bits of temporary fencing and signs to explain it is there in order to help protect the banks at the lower end of Minn's Meadow. Quite a bit of riverside footfall is threatening to undo our work in places and a few months' respite now would help a lot. There's one bit by the swing where we might need to do some repair work. It needs a log and infill behind to withstand the kids foot-traffic. If it is fenced now, it should be robust enough by next year”*. Cllrs agreed to wait until it is clear how the WLMA alterations progress.

16. Temporary Post Office – it is unlikely that there will be a PO at the village hall before the new shop is up and running at the end of August.

27. Hedge on the corner of Town Lane/Massingham Road – been cut.

Ernest Doe tractor damage – the Clerk spoke to Fake & Sons who hired that tractor from Doe and they have assured the PC that their drivers will be instructed to avoid Castle Acre and in particular Bailey Street.

Drones over Castle Acre – LF has investigated regulations on flying drones. Drones are not allowed “*within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft; or within 50 metres of any person unless prior permission has been sought*”. Cllrs suggested that anyone wishing to make a complaint about an intrusive drone over their property should ring 101 and report the infringement as a civil offence. The Clerk to explain this in the next edition of the Nar Valley News.

26. Castle Acre electricity supply – the village’s 34 street lights are on a unmetered supply. Our supplier, E.ON, has raised their electricity price by 85% since June 2015. The Clerk is in contact with K&M Lighting Services. They are updating UK Power Networks’ records to reflect that fourteen street lights are now fitted with lower energy LED bulbs and that twelve street lights are timed to go out at midnight. K&M to report back to the PC when this has been completed. Should this not result in a cost reduction, the Clerk will obtain other quotes for unmetered supply, though not many companies offer this service. For comparative purposes, the Clerk contacted Sporle PC who confirmed their village has 60 street lights on a metered supply, again with E.ON. Their average monthly bill is £207, equating to £3.45 per light against £2.45 per light in Castle Acre.

30. Priory Field path cutting – Holkham promise to do this soon.

Tree at 25 Town Lane – TH is still investigating this tree which is right on the boundary of No. 25 and the playing field. As it is in the Conservation Area, any agreed work to the tree must be sanctioned by BCKLWN’s Tree Officer. TH will meet the resident to review.

33. Pot Holes at South Acre ford – Highways have promised to repair these soon.

34. Health & Safety issues.

Bridge at the ford – the first two handrails on the Castle Acre side are loose and rotting. The Clerk to contact Highways to determine if it is their responsibility.

Stocks Green, nearest lime tree to the Church – SM pointed to a growth (ash?) between the two limbs. TH to examine and report back.

35. Matters requested by Councillors

Programme and costs to clear the container area of the playing field – following a complaint from a resident about kids climbing on top of the containers which was reported officially to Castle Acre Playing Field Association (CAPFA), CAPFA has moved quickly to obtain quotations for the removal of the two garage structures, clearance and leveling of the whole area as well as moving the two onsite containers across to by the boundary trees with Lower House. As the PC owns the playing field, MH proposed that the PC pay the gross amount for the clearing work and re-invoice CAPFA for the net cost, as the Association is responsible for the management and maintenance of the playing field under the 2013 Service Agreement with CAPC. Agreed. The next stage will be to resurface the car park, possibly with crushed building materials. SA expressed his intention to site a third container next to the others. LF suggested that it would not be right for PC Cllrs to use any Council land for personnel business use. All agreed.

Draining the playing field – it has been ascertained by the contractor who undertook the initial work last year that he must return w/c 21 August to: ‘*access the lateral drains (that tee off the main drain which we have confirmed is clear) and to jet them to ensure they are running or, if blocked and unable to be jetted, what work will need to be carried out to clear the blockage & what remedial work is required should that one pipe be blocked.*’ This will mean some temporary damage to the centre of the field. Both the cricket and football clubs have amended their match schedules to allow for this. Again, any gross charges will be invoiced to

CAPC, as the owner of the playing field and CAPFA re-invoiced for the net cost, being responsible for the management and maintenance of the playing field under the 2013 Service Agreement with CAPC. Agreed.

36. Planning

Planning application 17/01276/F - variation of condition 2 of planning permission 14/01143/F, proposed single detached dwelling at The Foundry, Newton Road. The new and old plans were laid out to allow Cllrs to examine the variations. MH proposed that the planning application be supported, all seven Cllrs voted to support. HB asked for a note to the Borough requesting that the two dormer windows on the South elevation be replaced with Velux windows.

37. Correspondence

Heritage litter sign at South Acre ford – this has been stolen. The replacement cost is £49+VAT. MH proposed that a replacement be ordered – Cllrs agreed. The PC has also received a request to re-instate a litter bin at the site as visitors are not always taking their rubbish home, as requested. Those residents suggesting this indicate that they would be prepared to replace the full black bin bag on a regular basis (BCKLWN litter lorries cannot get down to the road to empty the bin). Cllrs agreed to move the red bin, formerly at the Castle car park, to the ford on a trial basis. If effective, it could in the longer term be replaced by the large bin on Stocks Green that will be redundant once the third fibre optic broadband cabinet is put in its place.

Holkham new allotments – E-mail read out from Holkham. *'I was contacted by a Castle Acre resident last month who showed me an area of land which used to be used for allotments, (south of church going down Chimney Street cut through – first plot on the left). She asked if they could be put back into allotments and I thought I would ask about the demand for allotments in Castle Acre? There are three redundant sheds on site which would need to be removed which would come at some cost and so I wonder if you could let me know, firstly, if you think there is enough demand to use this site for allotments and secondly, if the Parish Council would consider taking them on if cleared?'* Given there is demand for allotments, Cllrs are in favour. The Clerk to contact Holkham.

38. Reports

Highways – Highways have cleared Archer Lane ditches but not lengthened them. Orchard Lane surface is still not leveled.

School – Mike Dwyer reported: *'Castle Acre school is progressing well and children showing consistent learning improvement over the year. The intake of new pupils for September 2017 is highest for many years with 13 new children in reception (that's 2 more than NCC normally allow us to take) and 3 older children transferring in. That means the school roll will reach 71 and our overall capacity is 72. We have one teacher returned from maternity leave and another new teacher starting in September.'*

Village Hall – HB reported: a concert by Neil Cousin is scheduled on 9 September.

CAPFA – In CW's absence, MH reported: the fete on 9 July was a great success. Gross takings are around £3,000, net around £2,500, compared to last year's net takings of £1,300.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) – MT reported: the main focus has been on the Questionnaire which was designed, printed and now circulated to all households. Collection is due on Friday 21 July after which the questionnaires will be divided for analysis. John Roff will receive any completed footpath maps. The questionnaire responses will be checked for their viability and whether there are any conflicts with BCKLWN's strategic plan. A second public event is planned, this time as a whole day informal drop in session to encourage as many residents as possible to attend at some time. The next task will be to manage the expectations of the community in the light of all their responses. MT thanked the NP Committee who have managed to hit the tight deadlines which should see the completion of the final plan just over a

year away. Cllrs expressed their appreciation at Martin Tate's Chairmanship of the Steering Group.

Borough Council – no report

39. Accounts

Payments proposed for approval by Mr Tim Hubbard, Mr Laurie Fisher seconded.

Berrymans Glass Recycling Ltd (URM UK Ltd)	£35.34 (£5.89 VAT)*
E.on Energy (electricity)	£77.89 (£3.71 VAT)*
Martin Tate (CAPC budget for Neighbourhood Plan)	£224.98
Martin Tate (Locality Fund budget for Neighbourhood Plan)	£110.00
Linda Roast (Locality Fund budget for Neighbourhood Plan artwork)	£400.00
Linda Roast (April May June Clerk's Salary)	£512.00
Price & Co (Parish Council Internal Annual accounts)	£50.00

** Amounts vary from Agenda because of late arrival of invoices*

40. Village Maintenance

Chimney Street sign at the junction of South Acre Road - needs re-fixing.

St James Green damaged manhole cover – the Clerk to report to Highways.

Clearing litter from the playing field after the fete – MH to contact CW.

St James Green trod – weed killer required. SA to buy and spray.

Superfast Broadband – HB asked for simple explanation of how it will work throughout the village which she could pass on. A resident kindly explained: the cabinets are fibre optics but these fibre optics do not extend to residents properties. The closer a property to one of the three Broadband cabinets, the higher the speed. Speeds are not guaranteed but should be better than current speeds. The new boxes being put in place by BT are joined to the old cabling and boxes i.e. they do not run in isolation but join the existing circuitry. Residents will not automatically get faster speeds unless they contact their internet supplier to move onto an unlimited or infinity broadband tariff at a higher monthly cost. Otherwise households will stay with their current low provision.

41. Public Question Time

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire – residents from the area of Lodge Farm asked why the whole of Lodge Farm had been highlighted for possible housing development rather than just the proposed building area? MT apologised for the oversight and for causing them concern and assured the residents that Holkham's plans were only for a specific building area and not across the whole farm.

Playing Field containers – residents next to the area where containers are to be repositioned need to be told of the CAPFA intention. The Clerk to write a letter.

Litter bin at the ford – can it be arranged that the full black bin liners are left at Chimney Street on Fridays for collection by the refuse collectors? Does Health and Safety permit this?

Graham Middleton, new Norfolk County Councillor – Mr Middleton introduced himself and stated that he would come as often as he could to Parish Council meeting despite having eleven PC's under his review. If there are any particular concerns that the PC wish to bring to his attention, he suggested pointing these out when the Agenda is sent out and he will do his best to attend. If any item needs his attention during the weeks in between meetings, please cc him into e-mails.

The meeting closed at 9.0pm.

No PC meeting in August.

The next full Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 14 September at 7.30pm in the village hall.