

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Thursday 10 November 2016:

Present: Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice-Chairman
 Mr S Allen (SA) Mr J Moriarty (JM)
 Mrs Sheila Moister (SM)

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk) and four members of the public

Apologies: Mrs H Breach (HB), Ms C Williams (CW), Mr T Hubbard (TH), Mr N Patrick (NP)

67 Public Question Time

Attendees raised no questions

68 Minutes of PC meeting Thursday 13 October 2016

Proposed by Mr Laurie Fisher, seconded by Mr S Allen. Agreed.

69 Actions from previous meeting:

- 84 **Village Defibrillator** – contact phone numbers of those trained to do CPR will be left in the Defib case.
- 6 **Priory Precinct meadow and dog fouling** – NAT met on 11 October to make a final decision on taking over responsibility for the meadow. They are worried about Brexit and its effects on finance as the Trust is relying on European funding for the 50 years lease. For the time being, management of the meadow will remain with Holkham. Prominent dog fouling signs are currently displayed at the South Acre Road entrance to Priory Field and at the gate by the Priory. The Clerk will put up an additional sign by the path leading from the ford.
- 25 **South Acre Road board walk repair** - NRT has replaced the new mesh and tacks.
- South Acre Road trees** - Holkham's head forester is being chased for his assessment.
- 28 **Orchard Lane parking bays** – waiting on the availability of a mini-digger.
- Bailey Gate damage and signage** – no further damage to the Gate has been reported. Historic England is in contact with Highways over new signage.
- 43 **Minns Meadow / Nar River restoration** – the new river path is closed as it needs to bed down. The work on the river is complete with new riffles in place to enhance the flow of the water.
- 48 **Police speed checks** – MH requested the police undertake radar gun speed checks. The first occurred on 1 November between 8.30 to 9.30 am, no offenders. The police has also installed a black box speed monitoring device at the junction of Newton Road and Town Lane, despite being advised by the Council that this is an inappropriate location as traffic naturally slows down at that point. SAM 2 October speeding stats show nearly 40% of incoming drivers exceeded the 30 mph speed limit along Newton Road, the highest being 70 mph.
- Old School easement document** – probably not required as the school has now been sold as a private dwelling.
- 55 **Loss of Parish Rights of Way** – John Roff of Back Lane has volunteered to undertake research and the Clerk has put him in touch with Helen Chester. The PC thanked Mr Roff for stepping forward.
- 55 **BT public phone box update and repair** – Castle Acre is not included in the list of villages to lose their public phone line. The Clerk has reported the broken glass. The latest update from Better Broadband Norfolk explained that the initial siting of the second cabinet by Bailey Gate was refused by Historic England. They suggest putting it in place of the first litter bin on Stocks Green. Cllrs agreed and will consider the best

location for the displaced litter bin. A third cabinet is planned opposite the telephone exchange in Back Lane

70 Health & Safety – No issues raised.

MH proposed that the Council's annual inspection of trees on its lands (Stocks Green and the playing field) is officially recorded on a spreadsheet rather than on an ad-hoc basis, as designed by former Cllr Mr Steve Barnfield. MH to review with TH.

71 Matters requested by Councillors

Pollarding Stocks Green trees – The Council had agreed to go ahead with pollarding in this financial year. The risk of wind damage to any trees left un-pollarded may indicate pollarding all five together as the best option. TH and the Clerk have requested revised quotes from the four potential contractors. The Clerk has asked for planning permission from the Borough. Pollarding the trees would take 4-5 working days, the best time being w/c 13 February to minimize disruption to local businesses as the road may be closed (Highways to arrange signage FOC). Wood chippings could be stored temporarily on Holkham's field adjacent to the Priory (subject to permission). JM cautioned the Council on making a decision until the Government's consultation on restricting future Parish Precept increases to 2% without a village referendum is known. Given the considerable impact of the tree work on Council finances, Cllrs agreed to postpone any decision until the December meeting.

72 Planning

Mr Jim Moriarty stood down from the discussion.

16/01848/F - variations to Water Tower – variations include replacing the frosted glass by clear on the ribbon window around the south facing corner of the tower and siting a permanent shipping container in the south west corner of the site to store a biomass boiler and pellets. The PC agreed to Object to both these proposals on the grounds that the frosted glass had been included in the approved application so that nearby neighbours would not be overlooked; the inclusion of a permanent shipping container on the site would make the site look more/too industrial.

16/01823/F - Fiddlers Hill Cottage, St James Road – plans were inspected. The PC agreed to Support the application on the grounds that there were no objections from near neighbours and the grouping of materials and style of design seemed adequate.

72 Correspondence

GHG Letter - A letter from GHG loss adjusters was circulated to Cllrs stating that a cherry tree on East Green is causing damage to and subsidence at one of the houses in Newton Road. The plaintive is demanding that the PC removes the tree in question and pay for both the existing internal repairs and for future underpinning that may be necessary. The PC agreed to pass the claim onto Holkham as owners of East Green.

War Memorial– Historic England has nominated the memorial for listing, noting it may be of particular historic interest.

School Gardens allotment lease – The PC had already noted the new lease's heads of agreement months ago; this arose when the former land lease expired after Holkham took back the agricultural allotments. MH is reviewing the new draft lease for the 29 garden allotments with Holkham's solicitors. It will then be circulated to Cllrs. MH obtained assurances that each party will pay its own legal costs. Noted CAPC should hold £5.0 million public liability insurance for the allotment land as a whole but that each tenant must cover their plot through their household insurance policies. The Clerk to ensure that this condition is added to the terms and conditions when the new rent agreements are issued next year.

Mayors Civic Awards – nominations due back by 13th January. Cllrs to consider and discuss at next meeting.

Summer Ball 2018 – three members of the committee attended the meeting to ask for the Council's support for the next Ball to be held on the village playing field, notwithstanding the circumstances around the unforeseen, extreme weather events at the 2016 Ball. The Council congratulated the committee for getting such a huge undertaking off the ground and agreed to support the next Ball. The Council also thanked the members for considering now what could be done to improve the parking facilities and management inside and outside the field as well as providing matting to protect the grass from vehicle damage during the construction and removal of the large marquee, in case of wet weather.

73 **Reports**

Highways – Highways' work to relieve the flooding on Archer Lane by lengthening the ditch has still not started. High Street drains along Massingham Road and North Street are marked for work but no action reported. Orchard Lane surface not yet leveled. Pyes Lane drain still flooding – the Clerk to report again. Rangers have trimmed the hedges back along Little Lane.

Castle Acre School – no report.

Friends of Castle Acre School – no report

Village Hall - next event on 25th November Steppin' Out young Jazz quintet. Community Payback Unit still working on improvements to the hall.

CAPFA – committee meeting next week

Borough Council – JM reported: Borough Cllrs are voting in one weeks' time on the devolution proposals – should any council pulls out, the merger will flounder.

Neighbourhood Plan – Martin Tate, Chairman of the Steering Group reported: the group held its first meeting to plan the next steps forward. A Neighbourhood Area submission statement will be sent to the Borough Council for a six weeks consultation period before the group can approach locality.org.uk for up to £9,000 of support funding. The group will keep residents informed of progress through the Nar Valley News from January 2017.

74 **Accounts**

The following cheques were signed - payments were proposed for approval by Mr Laurie Fisher, Mr Sean Allen seconded.

Berrymans Glass Recycling Ltd (URM UK Ltd)	£34.90 (£2.42 VAT)
E.on Energy (electricity)	£71.21 (£3.39 VAT)
Mazars (external audit)	£150.00 (£25 VAT)
K&M Lighting (Street Light)	£156.00 (£26 VAT)
Holkham Estates (Land Rent)	£ 13.00

75 **Village Maintenance**

Road Sweeping before Memorial Day – The Borough Council was requested to sweep up the leaves on Stocks Green.

Paperbank move – MH has still to obtain the pub's permission to site the bank on its car park during the shop alterations. SM requested that residents are reminded via The Nar Valley News about using the paperbank and bottle banks, explaining the financial benefits to the village.

Bus Shelter – JM raised concerns about the dilapidated state of the bus shelter and offered to assist in fundraising for its replacement. MH reminded Cllrs that Mr Singh at the Premier store intends to keep to his commitment to build a new shelter using surplus bricks, flints and pantiles from his shop extension.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next full Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 8th December at 7.30pm in the village hall.