

Castle Acre Parish News – August 2020

Being aware that not all residents are online and may have missed the Parish News, dated 16 June, an edited version is shown below, along with some updates from the 9 July PC meeting which was held via Zoom with just our Borough Cllr in attendance. The PC meetings in May and June were equally via Zoom, the Minutes of both are posted on castleacre.info., the latter also on the PC noticeboard. Please ask the Clerk if you would like a printed copy. Equally, if you would like a copy of the Chairman's Report on the previous parish year which is customarily read out at the May Annual Parish Meeting which had to be cancelled under the current lockdown restrictions with the village hall closed.

At the June PC meeting, Cllrs unanimously voted Martin Hickey as Council Chairman and Laurie Fisher as Vice-Chairman for this parish year. Only Liam Manson, of Arch House, Bailey Street, submitted an application which met residential criteria to fill the vacant seat on the Council and was duly elected onto the Council. Cllrs welcomed Liam who will make a significant contribution to the workings of the Council. Liam's contact details will soon be on the village website.

Cllrs approved the annual accounts statements which are posted on castleacre.info. Thanks to Richard Price who audited the PC accounts. If residents have any questions on the accounts, please contact the Clerk.

Cllrs objected to the planning application for 14 glamping pods by the primary school but supported those applications for the Coach House, Herb's Cottage and Willow Cottage. You can read the detailed PC submissions on the Borough's planning portal or ask the Clerk for a copy.

As residents may have noticed, English Heritage's portcullis is back under the arch of Bailey Gate. It is set higher than before and should so remain in place, providing large trucks and farm vehicles take notice of the many height restriction signs on the A1065 and coming into the village, including the new warning sign at the bottom of Bailey Street to 'turn round' which appears to be effective.

Village litter bins.

Recently some village litter bins have been used to dump parcel wrapping or cardboard boxes from home deliveries. Could residents please dispose of these in their own domestic bins, recycling if possible. Thank you.

Visitor numbers – social distancing controls

Castle Acre is a popular village with visitors. Over the late May Bank Holiday, the first weekend after some restrictions were lifted and the sun shone, it seemed everyone had one idea – let's go to Castle Acre! Our dedicated litter team emptied the bins by the ford four times in five days, fished portable BBQs out of the Nar, collected dog poo bags thrown from cars onto the verges, watched the traffic chaos down at the ford from ignoring the 'no parking beyond this point' sign and counted 27 cars parked in the Castle car park and along Pyes Lane! Above all, they watched the crowds ignoring the social distancing guidelines. Until these change and you are concerned at visitors' behaviour, call 101 and ask the police to intervene. The Parish Council has contacted our local police Beat Officer who confirmed that they had been regularly patrolling the village and would continue to do so.

Thanks to our PC volunteer Len Rye for repairing the broken slat on the footbridge by the ford, for painting the village entrance gate sprayed with graffiti and for taking over management of the SAM2 speed warning sign. Thanks to Frank Moister for painting over the graffiti on the bus shelter and for offering to both replace the broken Perspex windows and repaint the shelter.

Cllrs welcomed the very generous offer from two residents of a cash donation towards the PC's share of the substantial costs of laying a footway trod from the bottom of East Green down the grass verge of Newton Road to opposite Sandy Lane. This is conditional on the PC being successful in its bid to the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme which will subsidise 50% of the cost. The trod should be laid in Spring 2021.

At the July meeting Cllrs gave their full endorsement to the Reg.15 version of the Neighbourhood Plan in meeting the three main criteria of following the relevant procedures and legislation; producing a document which takes account of the research, assessments and consultation findings and making judgements and decisions in terms of policy that are reasonable in relation to the findings of the research, assessments and consultations. The NP now goes to the Borough Council for review.

Cllrs also agreed to support a review of the outdated Conservation Area Character Statement and the designation of the village as a Rural key Service Centre.

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 10 Sept 2020** at the village hall, if Covid-19 restrictions allow safe use, if not by Zoom.

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