

Castle Acre Parish News – March 2020

The Parish Council (PC) met on Thursday 13 February 2020 for its usual monthly meeting with five members of the public in attendance.

Co-opting a village resident onto the Parish Council.

Following the resignation of Cllr Charlie Williams, the PC wishes to encourage a village resident to join the Council. Cllrs are looking for someone who is keen and prepared to get fully involved in Council business. If you would like to make a difference, please send your brief resume to the Clerk, explaining why you want to be on the Council and what key issues you are keen to address. The deadline for submissions is 6 April 2020.

Castle Acre VE Day Celebrations, Friday 8 May 2020

The Royal British Legion, the Church and the Parish Council are working together to ensure the VE Celebrations in the village on Friday 8 May are a day to remember! We hope the whole village will join in with the day's commemorations and festivities which will include a 'street party' on Stocks Green. We are keen to find an **Events Coordinator** as well as lots of volunteers to help by preparing food, by entertaining - singing, dancing, playing instruments – or in creating something with a 1940s theme. We want all age groups to be involved. Can you help in some way? Do you have any suggestions for particular events? Please contact: s.moister@btinternet.com. Tel: 75579 or smmckenna@btinternet.com. Tel: 07775 878696

English Heritage's proposed charging to park at the Castle car park

Shortly, English Heritage (EH) will introduce paid parking at the Castle car park. Both the PC and the village hall committee have expressed their very strong objections to any charging. They believe this will be a detrimental step and will damage the village environment in the sensitive Conservation Area. Offering the parking spaces (maximum ten) free to EH members only will mean that other visitors, unwilling to pay a charge to park (by mobile phone only) on grounds of cost or inconvenience, will just park on the grass by the car park or along the narrow Pyes Lane – assuming spaces are available, given the competition from those visiting the village hall for events. The result will be more unpleasant signage at the car park, more congestion around the village hall, Pyes Lane and further into the village centre.

The PC asked English Heritage if it has or will conduct a full environmental appraisal of the effect on the Conservation Area, both from additional signage and inappropriate parking on the grass verges, as a result of charging. Further, to explain what research was carried to conclude that this car park is being, quote, 'used by a range of people visiting the village as additional free car parking' To which there has been no satisfactory reply. The PC regrets that English Heritage is not prepared to listen and act upon local concerns.

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 12 March 2020** at the village hall.

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