

Castle Acre Parish News May 2021

The Parish Council (PC) held its monthly meeting on 8 April via Zoom with no members of the public listening in. There was a presentation by Pearce Recycling Group on proposals to amend the current restoration plans for the chalk quarry by improving its biodiversity and landscape value, subject to planning permission. The Clerk can e-mail the PowerPoint slides on request.

The Ostrich pub - bottle and paper banks

The PC encourages everyone to continue to use the recycling banks at The Ostrich car park, despite Greene King blocking off the entrance without prior notice while the company seeks a new tenant. The PC has urged Greene King to keep the pub open for local people while pointing out that Castle Acre is a popular visitor destination and if managed imaginatively, the Ostrich should have a successful and profitable future.

Newton Road Trod

The PC learnt the good news that its application to Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership Scheme grant was successful, paving the way for a summer installation of the new footway (trod) down Newton Road, making this safer for pedestrians.

Play area

Sadly, the successful opening of the new children's play area on the playing field has been overshadowed by the thoughtlessness of those visitors parking on Massingham Road, blocking residents driveways, creating serious safety risks to road users and pedestrians and potentially restricting access for larger vehicles. The PC supports the playing field committee in their continued efforts to reduce such risks, through increased directional signage, by encouraging visitors to use the car park by the pavilion. Please point this out to anyone with small children pulling up to park on the road. The PC can loan traffic cones to any resident who wishes to prevent visiting vehicles from blocking their driveway. Please contact the clerk.

Parish Council meeting on 13 May

The PC will hold its May meeting by Zoom, unless the Government doesn't extend the 7 May cut-off date for online council meetings to continue, currently subject to review by 30 April. Traditionally, the May PC meeting is preceded by an Annual Assembly when residents can question Councillors on the past council year, after receipt of the Chairman's annual report (then uploaded onto castleacre.info). Please let the Clerk know if you would like to ask a question at the Annual Assembly and you will be informed of the meeting's final location.

Castle Acre Toddler and Baby Playgroup

For many years the village school has allowed local parents and carers to use their main hall on a Friday morning in term time for a toddler and baby playgroup. The playgroup stopped during lockdown and the school has decided to allow this group to restart from 2 July, as per Government guidelines. We now need a new group leader to run the sessions. If anyone is interested in this role, please contact the Clerk to discuss.

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 13th May 2021** via Zoom video communications if the Government guidelines allow.

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