

Castle Acre Parish Council

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Minuted record of Parish Council business conducted via Zoom video online meeting 11 February 2021.

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

In attendance: Mrs L Firth (Clerk), Mr J Moriarty (JM) (Borough Councillor)

80. Apologies:

Both Mrs H Breach and Mr L Manson informed the Clerk that they would join the meeting after the official starting time.

Apologies not received: Cllr G Middleton (NCC).

81. Minutes of online zoom PC meeting held 12 January 2021

Item 41. MT requested the first sentence to be amended to 'more pumping took place opposite Priory Court which seems to alleviate flooding on High Street and Massingham Road'

TH proposed approval of the Minutes and SM seconded.

82. Health and Safety - reports on any new H&S

SM reported that a section of the damaged carriageway repairs outside No.98 Foxes Meadow on Massingham Road had been missed. Clerk to follow up with Highways.

TH reported: a fallen tree down South Acre Road which Holkham removed expeditiously and cleared the debris.

Lime trees on Stocks Green: - Crown, thinning of the epicormic growth of approx. 25 -30% and the removal of any dead wood. Trunks to be pruned as appropriate. Out of the four companies TM contacted, only two have submitted quotations to date. TH is chasing the others. If neither of the other two quotes are more competitive, TH recommends Cllrs approve the lowest quote from The Norfolk Arborist. Cllrs agreed and asked TH to place a contract for the work with them to start in March and to be completed prior to nesting season. MH reminded TH that the company must accept payment in April, being in the next financial year.

TH to contact the donor to determine if her generous donation towards supporting village trees includes the limes on Stocks Green.

*LM joined meeting at 7.40pm. SA joined meeting at 7.42pm

83. Updates on actions required from previous meetings

41. Surface water flooding

MT reported: Natural England (NE) is being slow in giving Holkham permission to carry out the work needed to clear the blocked drain on Minns Meadow. NE has asked that the

works try to mitigate surface sediment / pollution from finding its way into the Nar. This is taking time to set up.

Surface water is entering the Nar at the south side of the Jubilee Bridge as a result of recent grip clearance work. MT asked the Clerk to report this to the appropriate authorities now that the PC is aware of NE policy of preventing surface sediment. Cllrs raised similar concerns regarding the Newton Road bridge.

29. Traffic safety mirror Massingham Rd junction

Awaiting improvements in the weather before the mirror can be erected.

34. Damaged bench on St James' Green

SA to assess and report back to PC.

54. Purchase of litter bin at Castle Square.

MH explained that the litter team kindly offered to finance a second litter bin from the balance of their Waitrose grant (the first is for the ford) and to charge the PC the balance of just £12. MH counter-suggested £50, keeping the rest of the fund to be spent on equipment for the team. This offer was accepted. Cllrs agreed with MH's proposal. Before placing an order, the team will first check this type of litter bin is both suitable to be placed by the entrance gate into the castle, and is easy to empty,

84. Matters requested by Councillors

Report on Cllrs' review on funding new infrastructure from CIL receipts

Minuted summary of recommendations and actions arising from an informal Zoom meeting of Cllrs on 4 February. MH presented a paper indicating that the PC expects to receive CIL receipts totaling £3,685 (confirmed) and potentially a further +/- £15,000 from new house builds (windfalls) within the next few years. Noted that CIL funds must be spent on new village infrastructure within five years of receipt. The Borough Council has launched its first CIL funding round (bid deadline 30 April). The PC could bid for up to £10,000 (with match funding). The BC funding rounds will continue each year. Other grant funders can be approached. A resident has kindly offered to identify suitable sources.

General agreement that any project should first and foremost benefit Castle Acre residents. Potential projects identified are:

- Trod (footway) down Newton Road. PC to contribute £1,150 towards the build costs from confirmed CIL funds.
- Improved car parking facilities: (a) leasing Holkham field off Priors Road with investment in surface meshing and separate in/out. (b) new surfacing of the playing field car park to encourage more vehicles away from Massingham Road (play area). A CAPFA led project, possible funding from Sport England?
- Replacement chain link fencing along Massingham Road. Lower priority and could be financed in stages.
- Additional equipment for a Youth Club in the village hall. Subject to demand.
- Tennis Court or MUGA on the playing field? A longer term initiative led by CAPFA? Proving demand might hinder funding efforts.
- New village sign on Stocks Green. The current sign is damaged.
- New brick bus shelter with two unisex toilets replacing the existing shelter opposite the Spar shop. NP presented initial design drawings. Agreed to obtain outline costs.
- Traffic bollards on each side of South Acre ford after introduction of TRO. Highways may finance these.

Institutions such as schools can also apply to the Borough Council for CIL funding. NP suggested this might apply to the village Primary Academy to add on a new classroom. MH to pass details to the Chair of the Governors.

*HB joined the meeting at 8.14pm

85. Planning

Ref: 20/02047/F- Cuckstool Cottage, Cuckstool Lane

In response to PC enquiry whether the proposed wood structure is in keeping with the Conservation Area, the officer stated *'the current building is in a bad condition, adjacent to the highway and therefore very visible, and has a negative effect on the street scene and the character of the conservation area. The proposed building will be set back from the street frontage, will be made of natural materials and will therefore be an improvement.'*

Ref: 21/00033/LB - 1 Baileygate Cottages, Stocks Green

Listed Building Application: removal of modern plasterboard / waterproof lining system at ground floor level and replace with 2 coat lime plaster system 'Limecoat' lime plaster finish. Removal of concrete floor to reception room and kitchen and replace with 'Limecrete' breathable flooring system.

Confirmation of Cllrs' unanimous support gathered by e-mail to meet Borough Council deadline of 8 February. MT queried why the work has already started prior to the planning application consultation/approval.

Ref: 21/00083/F Orchard Bungalow, Orchard Lane

Demolition of existing single storey garage and rebuild as single storey extension to enlarge bedroom accommodation.

*HB declared a personal interest to this application and therefore did not comment.

All Cllrs were in support of the application. LF proposed and SA seconded.

20/00573/FM - siting of 14 glamping eco pods adjacent to school behind Back Lane

MH expressed the PC's frustrations that after 44 weeks since validation, no decision has been made to refuse this application. JM explained that the officer dealing with the application has been unwell since Christmas and that staff shortages precluded another officer from taking over the case.

86. Correspondence

Request to support objection to proposed erection of five new BT telegraph poles along St James' Road.

Local resident notified the PC of BT's plans to erect new telegraph poles along St. James' Road, asking for the PC's support in objecting to this application on the grounds that they will be unsightly in open countryside and will cause inconvenience to Highways and the local estate in verge/hedge cutting. Most significantly, they are a cheaper way of upgrading the current underground cables which function perfectly well. Cllrs are happy to support the objection. Clerk to send a letter of objection, copy to Holkham.

New site road name - Holkham development, Massingham Road.

Holkham's suggestion of 'Sir Edward's Place', is seen by Cllrs as too urban - 'Place' usually applies to a small town residential area. Cllrs favour 'Bricknel Close', following TH's discovery of an old Holkham field map so naming this field. The word 'Bricknell' (with two lls) comes from the Olde English pre: 7th century word 'brik' - meaning bright - and 'halh, a place, the bright place, a place open to the skies – entirely appropriate for its situation adjacent to undeveloped open fields. MH to propose this to Holkham,

87. Reports

Highways

MH reported: no new updates.

Village hall

HB reported: currently looking into possible replacement of defective storage heaters

CAPFA

NP to call for a committee meeting to present his designs for a new brick bus shelter with public toilets and to explain the Council's thinking on CIL funding for resurfacing the pavilion car park and for investing in a tennis court/MUGA.

Neighbourhood Plan

MT reported: the Borough Council contacted the NP Examiner who has agreed to accept the Steering Group's comments on the Reg.16 stakeholders' submissions. Covid lockdown has prevented the Examiner making a site visit which will delay the six weeks' timetable. No issues on the written Plan raised to date.

BCKLWN

JM reported:

- Local elections will take place on 6 May 2021. Voting in the village hall.
- Sifting Panel. Disappointed, when monitoring a meeting, to see Parish Councils' planning objections ignored and applications not sent to the Planning Committee but instead for a delegated decision by officers, as was feared would happen. JM feels very strongly that the public has been misled and the guarantee given by the Borough Council at a public meeting in July 2020 broken. JM will be communicating to PCs about this.
- Two village residents on their way for a Covid injection were unfortunately let down by the local bus service last weekend when, despite even having called to check that the service would be running on 6 February, the bus did not show. JM investigated as to why this happened and was informed the error was due to a new driver who incorrectly assumed it was a request only stop from the village bus stop into Swaffham. The driver is now aware.

88. Accounts to be paid:

Berrymans Glass Recycling Ltd (URM UK Ltd)	£37.20 (£1.20 VAT)
E.on Energy (electricity)	£68.29 (£3.25 VAT)
Clerk's expenses - Zoom monthly account	£14.39 (£2.40 VAT)
K&M Lighting- Bailey street light repair	£84.00 (£14.00 VAT)
Pearce Marchbank – artwork fee CA Voice	£100.00

TH proposed approval of the accounts and LF seconded.

89. Village Maintenance

Hedge cutting – debris along Lower Lane towards A1065.

Debris has now been cleared by Narford Estate who own the land.

Potholes repairs – general and at De Warrenne Place.

Highways slowly making progress on various pot hole repairs in the village. The BC has confirmed a team are coming out to assess the work required at De Warrenne Place.

Water seeping up through road surface, North Street.

Clerk reported to Anglian Water a potential underground pipe fault causing water to leak up through a join in the road surface from a previous repair, as highlighted by TH. Despite

Anglian Water initially denying any responsibility, the Clerk is pushing for a second call out as water continues to flow along North Street to the drain.

Loose kerbstone on Town Lane.

TH reported a loose kerbstone on Town Lane, outside The Cottages. Clerk to report to Highways.

Jubilee Bridge debris/flooding - clearance work

Highways have cleared the grips at Jubilee Bridge and the flooding has gone down although Cllrs consider Highways could have taken further steps to improve the condition of the road surface. PC to monitor as water subsides and to review at a later date.

Sweeping mud off Blind Lane and Orchard Lane

Highways contact has confirmed that Blind Lane will be cleared of mud and debris as and when they have the capacity to send a team to carry out the work. Clerk to request that Orchard Lane is also cleared.

Newton Road grips

Clerk to request Newton Road grips be dug out.

Grit bins

Cllrs reported the village grit bins were empty or very low. In fact Council workmen refilled all the bins that day.

90. Public questions

Meeting closed at 8.53pm

The next full Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11 March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom video communication.