

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the village hall on Thurs 12 June 2014:

Present:

Mr T Hubbard (TH)	Mr S Barnfield (SB)
Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman	Mr J Moriarty (JM)
Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice-Chairman	Mr M Dwyer (MD)
Mrs G Thorneywork (GT)	Mrs H Breach (HB)

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk), 5 members of the public.

Apologies: Ms Charlie Williams (CW), Deborah Pearson PCSO

27 **Police Crime Report.**
Unavailable – PCSO on holiday

28 **Julie Enefer – English Heritage Castle Acre Priory Site Manager**
Ms Enefer introduced herself, saying she had been with EH for 18 years, this being her third season at Castle Acre Priory. She detailed events that may have an impact on the village: 29th June Open Day. 26/27 July medieval life and times. 13/14 September medieval falconry. Ms Enefer thanked James Bracey of Holkham Estate for the use of the overflow car park and the Clerk for the Open Day poster. The car park grass will be cut by EH before the Open Day. During questions, JF advised that the Priory had 19,000 visitors last year. She needed clarification from Peter Wade-Martins of NAT as to whom would maintain the newly seeded grass around the exposed precinct walls. JF will be on the NAT working group for overseeing the Priory precinct and she would ask her area manager whether a reduced entry fee for villagers might be possible.

James Bracey and Joanna Stapleton from the Holkham Estate
Cllrs welcomed both and debated the agreed agenda of subjects.

Higher Level Stewardship / Castle Acre Common

Ms Stapleton explained that Castle Acre Common is recognised as a site of particular interest and has been put onto the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. The Common is split in the middle by the River Nar. North of the Nar will be dealt with in thirds, mowing in rotation each year. South of the River will be stock proofed by a barbed wire fence running to the south of the rivers edge, grazing being a recognised way of maintaining the land naturally. The programme was put together by Natural England. Mr Bracey confirmed that the Parish Council would be consulted on any decisions made and that the grazing would not affect the Nar Valley Way path to West Acre. Grazing rights will run from 20th May to middle of October each year. The area has not been managed for many years. Along with the SSSI, the High Level Stewardship will put the area into a recovery state through proper management.

JM & MH asked about the padlocked gates off Common Lane blocking both ends of a walking path approved by the DEFRA Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Ms Stapleton assured the council that these should be slap gates and that pedestrian access would continue. The slap gates will be installed in the next 2/3 weeks. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme in this area has now lapsed but Holkham Estate will allow continuing access. TH asked if the PC could be given a map of permissive paths around Castle Acre. Mr Bracey confirmed that one would be supplied.

Agri -allotment Land

Mr Bracey confirmed that the PC had surrendered the land back to Holkham Estate. Ms Stapleton has found the original tenancy agreement and will contact Mr Wells and Mr

Sandle separately, who are still the tenants. Mr Bracey noted that the PC pays or has paid peppercorn rents to the Estate for three areas – the Common, the Allotments and a parcel of grazing land. The Estate is unclear where is this grazing land and asked the PC for clarification. Clerk to contact Jean Joyce and Mary-Anne Garry who may be able to shed light on its position.

Pales Green lease and grass strip registration

MH stated that the PC was still waiting for the lease/land registration. Mr Bracey explained that the delay was due to the Estate changing solicitors but that the agreement should arrive by the end of June. The Pales Green grass strip will be re-registered to Castle Acre at the land registry and will be included in the agreement. Mr Bracey asked if the PC would prohibit parking on the grass strip. MH explained that as the strip was/will be in ownership of the PC, it will decide on its usage.

Massingham Road Development (LDF)

Mr Bracey confirmed that Holkham Estate are in contact with Mr Alan Gomm, the LDF Manager, but noted that the LDF process in West Norfolk is behind schedule. The site outline off the Massingham Road has been incorrectly drawn and that it would be best to consider the site as a whole, rather than in two parts i.e. Alberma and Rose Cottage (site 1131) and the Holkham Estate land (site 508) to the north of 1131. The Estate has produced a draft outline development scheme. Cllrs agreed to consider now the LDF – a later agenda item. MH confirmed that the LDF task group visited Castle Acre on 13th May and their conclusions had been deemed confidential, unless subject to a freedom of information request which HB kindly submitted. The task group has favoured part of site 1131 and 508 for the development of 11 houses. The decision will go to the Cabinet on 28th July. MD felt that Mr Gomm's response to the 1131 developer, Mr Grange, appeared to contradict the committee's recommendations. As with the new dwelling on Pales Green, MH asked Mr Bracey whether, should Holkham Estate develop site 508, planning permission would be sought for the dwellings in situ or just for the land? Mr Bracey referred to past successful collaboration on other Holkham/LDF sites – eg. at Wells - and confirmed that the Estate are happy to consult with the PC about design. He would also contact Mr Grange to collaborate in their joint use of appropriate building designs and materials. SB suggested the PC look at a new development at Blakeney which is excellently designed. He felt it is the responsibility of the developers to produce good designed buildings, not the PC's.

AOB for Holkham Estate

TH asked for confirmation that the strip of triangular land abutting the new dwelling on Pales Green will be made over to the PC as allotment land. Mr Bracey agreed that if Nigel Chambers (the developer) makes good that piece of land (as offered), then the Estate would surrender it to the PC for allotment use.

29

Minutes of previous meetings of May 8th and 20th (extraordinary).

JM asked for one correction to the May 8th Minutes that 'Norfolk County Council would attempt to buy back the land that had been destined for the King's Lynn Incinerator'. Noted.

8th May Minutes - Mr Laurie Fisher proposed and Mr Mike Dwyer seconded. Agreed.

20th May Minutes – Mr Laurie Fisher proposed and Mrs Gwyneth Thorneywork seconded. Agreed.

Actions from previous meeting.

- 118 Letter to Lakenheath about aircraft noise.** Unusual aircraft activity is continuing. LF to draft a second letter to Squadron Leader Neild
- 137 Flooding at Jubilee Bridge.** Norfolk Rivers Trust and Highways held a site meeting: their solution is a new drain on the garden side, a pipe under the road to drain water into the opposite field with a filtering system to take the water back into the Nar. Also to look at the original drain as an alternative option. The resident of the affected house suggested that the original drain would be the most direct and cost effective option. MH to contact Highways to arrange another meeting.
- Friday Food Market signage** – Market now discontinued.
- Playing Field litter bins** – bespoke housing construction now completed – MH to order bins from Jack Daniels.
- Allotment Moat trees** – MH read out the email forwarded from Gus Stafford Alan from NCC. NCC said they were not formally qualified to make a judgment on whether or not specific trees are safe. *“Given the Parish Council’s concerns and the need to secure Conservation Area Consent for future tree works, it might be worth considering commissioning an arboriculturalist to produce a tree survey. In theory this is something the Norfolk Monuments Management Project could help you with, both in terms of guidance and funding. However, at this moment in time, the Project does not have a grant budget for this financial year. I am hoping the funding request submitted to English Heritage will be successful but (given the nature of discussions earlier this week) it may be a few months before I know.”* The PC agreed that a letter should be sent in reply confirming the PC’s concerns and requesting that NCC accept all liability should any tree fall in the meantime.
- 19 NAT working group for Priory precinct.** Mr & Mrs Bowers-Jolly and Ms Anne Mason have responded to request for residents to be on the working group. Mr Laurie Fisher and Mr Mike Dwyer volunteered to be PC representatives on that group.
- 21 Foxes Meadow – Freebridge sign.** Replaced by smaller version.
- 24 Bailey Gate damage.** Mr Jerry Ball was a witness at Norwich Magistrates Court for the case of Brennan – a lorry driver who pleaded guilty to damaging the Bailey Gate. SB requested a note of thanks to go in the Nar Valley News. The Clerk will email English Heritage with details. Discussion continued as to whether posts on either side of Bailey Gate, reducing the road width, might deter further damage from lorry drivers. MH to contact Highways to see if 7.5 tonne limit sign could be installed and to ask advice on any other measures.
- 31 5 Year Action Plan - CA Notice Board.**
Notice Board for Playing Field should be ready by June 13.
- 32 Health & Safety**
SB asked that the agreed work on the trees at Stocks Green be progressed. The Clerk to contact the arboriculturalist to see if the quote supplied last November was still current. Decision to be made at July meeting.
- 33 Matters requested by Councillors.**
Castle Acre Through Traffic Plan (CATTP)
SB reviewed progress of the plan - village gateways on Newton Road and Massingham Road are now in place and there is anecdotal evidence that approaching vehicles are slowing down. SB requested that the plan is progressed by deciding whether the PC wants to: 1) apply for a grant for a vehicle activated sign. 2) to join with other villages to buy one or to buy exclusively for Castle Acre’s use and 3) whether the sign should be static or mobile. TH suggested that a mobile sign would not have long term use and SB

confirmed that the cost of £4,000 for one permanent sign to be positioned on St James Green would not be sufficient or affordable. SB's alternative suggestion is to copy other villages by placing council supplied 20mph stickers affixed onto the black and green wheelie bins of all the households in the through roads which, when the bins are put out, would send a strong message each Friday. The PC agreed to ask for residents' views in the Nar Valley News and to inform them that the PC is considering, but has not yet decided on, further gates at Jubilee Bridge and Rougham Road and in the long term flashing road signs. The continuing damage to the verges on East Green and St James Green are under review and the Council has asked Highways to consider placing small posts along the edges.

Costcutter bus shelter.

The PC agreed that a replacement bus shelter was necessary but positioned on the opposite side of the road to the present one. It should be set back from the road side to maintain traffic sight lines along the Massingham Road. Councillors to hold a site meeting. The PC agreed to a brick and flint construction as opposed to a modern perspex design.

Shipping Container – Massingham Road

It was agreed to ask the owner whether the container could be moved back to its original position. It was noted that it is in the Conservation Area.

Fir tree on allotment

TH to look at the state of the tree and report back

34

Planning

JM had already left the meeting

Amendments to Stocks Barn 14/00726/F

The Councillors studied the plans. Agreed to support the amendments as they faced away from the road.

35

Correspondence

River Nar projects.

Norfolk River Trust had offered to place shingle as opposed to extending the wooden footbridge/boardwalk at the bottom of South Acre Road, due to budget constraints. Cllrs agreed NRT should stick to its original plan.

New Bowls Club grant application

MH was contacted urgently by Keith Hubbard and had agreed to put its Sport England grant application into the PC's name as PC own the land, otherwise the bid would have lapsed. The PC concurred.

36

Reports.

Martin Hickey - Highways. South Acre Ford vehicle prohibition order is going through – one road sign already erected. White lines on Stocks Green not done. Finger post at Massingham road awaiting new aluminium signs. Question posed as to vacant signpost at Archer Road.

Mike Dwyer – Castle Acre School. New Deputy Head appointed.

Helen Breach – Village Hall. Non material amendment planning application gone in to the Borough Council because adjustments have to be made to the village hall entrance as the manhole cover could not be repositioned.

37.

Accounts.

Annual Audit of Accounts. The Parish Council's annual external audit return, checked by its internal auditor, was presented to Cllrs. Mr Mike Dwyer proposed and Mr Steve Barnfield seconded. Unanimously approved. Signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The following cheques were signed; payments were proposed by SB and seconded by TH:

FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd	£	34.90
E.on Energy (Electricity)	£	41.87
K&M Lighting (The Grove)	£	72.00
Castle Acre Playing Field Association Insurance	£	1,126.14
G&G Fencing Ltd – Entrance gates to village	£	846.74
BSD (accountants)	£	50.00

38.

Village Maintenance

Trees at St James Green – TH to inspect

Fir tree at Foxes Meadow – the Clerk to email UK Power Networks

The Grove Hedge – had been trimmed this Spring. Brambles are growing through again.

Recycling – TH requested a breakdown from the Clerk of the annual credits received from bottles, paper and textiles

39.

Public Question Time

LDF – resident upset about the 11 houses on 508

Speed sign – resident suggested a moveable sign that flashes the vehicle speed is a good idea

Nar River A1065 pigs – concern was raised over the effluent from Manor Farm pigs flowing across the A1065 and into the River Nar.

South Acre Road walkway – rather than gravel, would a board walk be more appropriate and less costly?

The meeting closed at 10pm.

The next Parish Council meeting is Thurs 10 July in the village hall at 7.30pm.