

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the village hall on Thurs 10 Oct 2013:

Present: Mr L Fisher (LF) Vice – Chairman Mrs H Breach (HB)
Mr S Barnfield (SB) Mr T Hubbard (TH)
Mrs G Thorneywork (GT)

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Mr M Hickey (MH) Chairman, Ms C Williams (CW), Mr M Dwyer (MD),
Mr J Moriarty (JM), Deborah Pearson PCSO,

67 Police Crime Report.

LF read out the crime report – No crimes or anti-social behavior reported.

68 Minutes of Previous Meeting of 12 September.

Agreed. Mrs G Thorneywork proposed and Mr S Barnfield seconded.

69 Actions from Previous Meeting.

41 **School Gardens Allotments.** Notice of Withdrawal letter sent to tenant who has not worked their allotment. Final date to show an improvement to the site is 18th October.

41 **Seat at South Acre Ford.** Bench is repaired. No councillors have contacted the clerk about painting. Bench is behind the bars until the work of Priory wall completed therefore leave the item on the agenda until work is completed

53 **Long grass along Nar walk.** The Clerk had reminded Holkham and the path should have been cut.

60 **Village Hall signs.** The signs have been ordered from IRS Signs but as yet no date given for installation. SB has cleaned the existing signs on the fingerpost.

60 **Pales Green.** SB contacted Mr Ellis and has commissioned work to be commenced on clearing the green. Growth in centre of area is ant hills which will require several levelling cuts: Mulch on lawn mower, 3 further cuts, hedge trimmed and cut into shape and seeding – price £540. Centre hedge very overgrown as it has not been cut for 3 years.

60 **Bottle Bank.** The Clerk reported that the mixed bottle bank is the biggest FCC offer and the clear bank is not currently on hire.

70 5 Year Action Plan

CA Notice Board. Possible funding available up to £1500 through the Post Office Scheme. MH to speak to Mr Singh at the Post Office. TH expressed concern over high quotes received. Leave item on agenda for next meeting.

Flexibus. The Clerk reported on the bus services which is very good. Allows people to visit nearby villages as well as get to Swaffham and then onto further afield.

71 Health & Safety

SB reported that a fire engine had been unable to get to a chimney fire in Pales Green and instead ran hoses down the road. The Clerk to email the fire service to investigate the incident and ask what plans were in place if a bigger fire occurred in Pales Green: what plans they have in place.

The windy weather had caused some branches to fall but these had been cleared by residents. Resident reported that the trees had been creaking in alley from North street to playing field. TH confirmed that these trees had been cut and inspected and had been reported to be fine by CGM Garden maintenance.

72 Matters requested by Councillors

Playing Field Litter. Two litter bins, one on the toddlers playground and one on the skate board park have been emptied for some time by Mrs Wendy Askew. The Clerk to email the Borough Council to find out if these could be included on the regular Borough bin round.

Chaff Cottage and Garage. It was reported that the red car outside the garage had been moved. Discarded oil container still obstructing the footpath out side the cottage. Deborah Pearson PCSO to be involved after her leave finished on 17th October.

73 Planning.

Local Development plan – site specific options. This item to be left on the agenda. Receipt of Castle Acre’s comments received from council. No reply received as yet by the Borough Planning Department.

76 Foxes Meadow 13/01367/F - Freebridge

Councillors viewed the plans put forward by Freebridge for 2 semi-detached house – a 1 bedroom dwelling and a 2 bedroom dwelling., The proposed construction is excessively large for the size of the plot. The design of the building was basic and without imagination.

Although Foxes Meadow has an overall feeling of utilitarianism, being of post-war construction, there is no an excuse for twenty-first century bland design.

The mass of brickwork to the north elevation would be overbearing on the existing property no. 77 Foxes meadow. The Parish Council has concerns as to the safety of the highway.

The curved access crossing in front of the existing entrance to no. 77 Foxes Meadow is hazardous. Consideration does not appear to have been given to the residents of 77 Foxes Meadow. Foxes Meadow consists of a series of semi-detached houses alternating with semi-detached bungalows. The Parish Council would suggest that one bungalow would be more appropriate on the site. A single bungalow would provide an opportunity for adequate practical space to be provided for a wheelchair user on a single level. One single bungalow would also be in keeping with the existing street scene and not be as intrusive as the proposed two-storey semi-detached.

Somer End Cottage, back Lane 13/011306/F. Councillors viewed the plans to erect a two bay single storey car port in front of the existing garage. No Objections.

74 Correspondence

Footpaths across Priory Field, English Heritage.

The Clerk read out the email from Peter Wade-Martins (Trust). Waiting for the Holkham Estate to give full details of what the Natural England grants will cover, but seems that the public access gates have not been included because of a budget shortfall under that heading. If there are no kissing gates into the field, there is a possibility of not fencing it at all and leaving the whole field as an open access hay meadow with cut paths. If it is to be a hay meadow paths would need to be cut through. Could be something which the Trust and the PC work on together: regard the field as a community open space. The Clerk to email reply saying PC in broad agreement with the proposals.

Polling Districts and Places Review.

Councillors viewed the map on Castle Acre polling area and agreed that there would be no need to comment.

Pales Green Strip.

Form received just before meeting from Sine Garvie McNally, SGM Solicitors stating that costs for work on this issue would be around £400. Letter to be passed to MH. PC believe that costs do not lie with the PC. The Clerk to send a holding email to SGM, telling them not to undertake any further work on behalf of the PC until contacted.

Norfolk Putting People First Consultation.

Running for a period of 12 weeks from 19th September to 12th December 2013. Since August, they have revised upwards the figure of total savings that need to be made to £189million over the three years commencing April 2014. The Clerk to put details in Nar Valley News and suggest that St James Gritting be a subject people might wish to raise.

Drainage Gully / footpath Massingham Road/ Town Lane.

NCC appear to be insisting on a footpath, starting on the corner of the junction of Town Lane and Massingham Road and then continuing all the way across our frontage up to and terminating at the bus stop. If this is the case then there will be no small drainage ditch. It will improve access, but NCC Highways needs to be contacted about the gully and broken pipe on the junction of Town Lane/Massingham Rd? The Clerk to email highways and ask what their intentions are.

Mayor's Civic Awards for Voluntary Service 2013.

BCKLWN are inviting nominations to acknowledge the efforts made by the "unsung heroes" in the Borough. The Clerk to put this in Nar Valley News asking for residents to nominate and to send form to Councillors by email.

Water Meadows.

No information received from resident as to proposals for nature reserve.

Wreath for British Legion Sunday 10th November.

Letter received from Judith Norton, inviting the Parish Council to lay a wreath. The Council decided that it seemed more fitting that donations be given personally by the councillors and not from the Parish Council, cost £17. A Councillor will be nominated to lay the wreath.

75. Reports.

No reports given.

- 76. Accounts.** The following cheques were signed; payments were proposed by SB and seconded by GT: FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd £34.90, E.on Energy (Electricity September) £44.87
Mazars (annual audit) £120.00, Linda Roast (Clerks Salary) £325.26

77. Village Maintenance.

Beech hedge at Little Lane needs to be cut as it is intruding on the highway making vehicles mount the verge on the opposite side of the road. The Clerk to contact the Rangers.

78. Public Question Time.

Resident David Usher asked if there could be more signs at the Castle asking that people clear up after their dogs. The Clerk to email English Heritage.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

The next Parish Council meeting is Thurs 14 November in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.