

CASTLE ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the village hall on Thurs 14 March 2013:

Present: Mr M Hickey (MH) Vice Chair
Mr J Moriarty (JM)
Mr S Barnfield (SB)

Mr L Fisher (LF)
Mrs H Breach (HB),
Mr T Hubbard (TH)

In attendance: Ms L Roast (Clerk), Councillor J Murphy (NCC), PCSO D. Pearson (Norfolk Constabulary), 1 person from the public.

Apologies: Mrs G Thorneywork (GT) Chair, Ms C Williams (CW), Mr M Dwyer (MD).

- 114 **PCSO Pearson Norfolk Constabulary.** MH opened the meeting and welcomed **PCSO** Pearson. Councillor Jim Moriarty had been working with **PCSO** Pearson on helping with Stocks Green proposed white lines and parking issues. The white lines requested denote the edge of the road rather than no parking, but could be enforced under the obstruction to a junction legislation. This would be monitored throughout the summer. **PCSO** Pearson will be visiting Castle Acre for informal surgery sessions open to residents at Costcutters (dates to be emailed to Clerk). The PC requested Speed checks along Newton Road and West Acre Road. **PCSO** Pearson stated that there would be speed checks on the most dangerous sections of West Acre Road, the speed limit would be better if it was reduced to 40 mph. TH also asked for speed checks on the A1065 by the George & Dragon pub i.e. the Castle Acre turn off.
- 115 **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 14 February.** Agreed. SB proposed and HB seconded.
- 116 **Actions from Previous Meeting.**
- 57 **Rubbish Bin by Ford.** Although an email had been received saying the bin had been removed, this was not the case. TH to removed bin. Sign produced by CW to be given to TH.
- 62(e) **Textile Bin** CW found a new supplier called Ragbag. Need to get rid of the old one first.
- 74(g) **QE2 Land Registry.** Document received from QE2 – Clerk to chase to see if question over Holkham servants rights to hunt and shoot on field has been cleared up. Agreed only the Chair and Vice-Chair should sign the agreement.
- 91 **English Heritage.** Jim met with Will Fletcher from English Heritage and he expressed his thanks to the PC. New steps and rail proposed from car park plus replacing stones on the Keep. SB recalled the lorry that hit the Bailey Gate and that English Heritage had this on their work sheet – the road may need to be closed during the repair.
- 109 **Holkham Letter.** MH – the general view is that the PC do not want to get into a long-term lease agreement with Holkham for the Agricultural Allotments. TH said there were procedures for giving notice which Holkham had not adhered to, a process for relinquishing land. JM stated that Mr Wells who works the agricultural allotment in question had been informed. TH said notices would have to be served to move everything on but there was no rush as Holkham had missed the October deadline for this. TH to find out more information.
- 117 **5 Year Action Plan**
- Village bus routes/transport.** The Council has been informed that the NO 32 service is to be terminated. At the moment this is not a well used service as the pick up and drop off times are difficult. J Murphy said that NCC are looking to replace the service with a clustering approach to the villages in the service area. NCC needed to supply the required transport i.e. a service to get to work in the AM and get back in the PM; 9.30 and 2.30 for shopping; linking with the X1 at Swaffham. NCC would like input from the Parish. The Council suggested that NCC come up with a list of questions to be asked by all the parishes involved thus giving them unified

answers. JM stated he would be happy to do a household questionnaire drop. Ms Murphy and NCC would supply questions ASAP.

Village Notice Board. MH to contact The Diamond Jubilee committee about progress.

118 Health & Safety (including Draft Tree Plan)

MH asked if there were any issues – none.

SB had drafted a tree plan, a general survey of all trees in village with a summary of work and timings of inspections. This to be looked at by all councillors. Clerk to include it in correspondence bag. TH to look out the previous tree survey he had produced.

119 Health & Safety (including Draft Tree Plan)

Playing Field – Service level agreement

Meeting to discuss this taking place in Ostrich on Tuesday 21st March

Allotment payments and maintenance

SB had been asked by an allotment holder to find out who should be working the overgrown allotment number 24. The Clerk stated there seemed to be a discrepancy. To be investigated and report back next meeting.

Dog Fouling

SB had asked for this to be included on Agenda as it was unacceptable that owners let their dogs use the front garden of Barnfields café as a toilet as leaving the dogs scent escalates the problem. The Clerk in contact with BCKLWN to see if they have suggestions - report next meeting.

Nar Valley and proposed Pig Unit

An email from Gus Stafford Allen had alerted the council to this planning proposal. The PC had registered its opposition and had supported Tom North's (Rougham PC) letter to Breckland Council. The worry is the pig slurring contaminating the River Nar.

120 Planning. Jim Moriarty declared an interest and opted out of planning discussions

Footpath Cottage 13/00314/F

The amended application and drawings received does not deal with the issue of the proposed dwelling being too big for the plot and fails to appear subservient to the donor dwelling. The PC agreed to OBJECT to the planning proposal as it fails to improve the character and quality of the area and the conservation area as a whole. It was also noted that the front elevation had become very ugly and an inelegant muddle as the architects tried to adhere to the Borough Council's planning departments wishes.

Abbey Fields Summer House 13/00318/F

Plans passed around the Parish Council. No Objections. Agreed

Albert Victor amendments to plans

Plans passed around the Parish Council. SB declared an interest. No Objections. Agreed

121 Correspondence

Mr Jolly-Bowers Letter

The Parish Council have received a letter from Mr Jolly Bowers of Abbey Cottage, Priory road asking the council to approach Highways and include his request for white road lines to be painted opposite the cottages driveway to stop people parking there and thus making exiting the property difficult. The Parish Council not wishing to have white lines anywhere in the village really but being forced into this, decided that a letter should be sent to Mr Jolly asking that first could he try a polite notice on his fence asking people not to park opposite. However JM is due to meet with Andy Wallace of Highways and will ask about white lines in Priory Road. The Clerk to write a letter to Mr Jolly-Bowers.

Mrs Mary-Anne Garry

An email received from Mrs Garry asked whether the Parish Council thought reviving the Castle Acre Conservation Area Committee might be appropriate. HB stated that when this committee had been active, the Parish Council was less listened to than currently by the Borough Council and that the committee would not be relevant now. It was also thought that to deal with another group could be cumbersome.

122 Reports.

MH reported on Highways. Ditch work in Newton Road had been successful and the water was flowing through the pipes.

Town Lane/ Massingham Road flooding: the footpath was under water in torrential rain but having discussed the options with Andy Wallace, it was estimated that major drainage works in this area would cost around £100,000 which is out of the question. Highways would dig more grips on the Massingham Road instead to try to alleviate the problem and will look at cheaper ways to reduce the volume of water flowing down Massingham Road.

Orchard Lane Flooding: MH presented that on inspection during heavy rain, there was only a little water coming off the Holkham pig farmers field or from the top of the agricultural allotment worked by Mr Wells but that there was a deluge of water running from the south edge of the field next to Orchard cottage – a path where people enter the field to walk their dogs. The Clerk has been asked to contact Mr Wells to see if he might construct an earth barrier to stop the water, which the dog walkers will have to go over.

South Acre Ford restricted Vehicle access: This item now on the County Council's budget list for 2014/15.

St James's Road: The Council has received further complaints about the condition of the road which is potholed. The residents blame not the farm vehicles but rather Veolia refuse trucks. MH has contacted Veolia and the MD has asked his team to go down the road more gently. SatNavs also often sent HGV's along the road – MH has asked for more Not Suitable for HGVs notices and 'Narrow bridge' signs to go at either end of the road.

HB reported Village Hall. The Hall now has planning permission for the proposed porch and disabled access ramp at a cost of £40,000. The Hall will be asking local organisations to pledge a small amount of money to indicate local match funding. Next funding round for the Community Building Fund is September. The Parish Council declined to pledge any money as they had not allowed anything in the budget to do so.

JM reported Horticultural Society. The Spring Show is Thursday 23rd March.

123 Accounts. The following cheques were signed; payments were proposed by LF and seconded by TH

FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd (£34.90), E.on Energy (£41.87), Mr S Barnfield (£4.99)
K&M Lighting (Orchard Lane, Back Lane lights – 2 invoices £144.00)

124 Village Maintenance.

Ray Askew has kindly emptied the Castle car Park Bin for a number of years. The Current bin is woefully inadequate and he has asked for a larger bin to be installed. The Clerk to contact English Heritage to see whether they can include this in the proposed works.

Paul Stevenson has asked that the brambles in the alley from North street to the Playing Field be cleared to allow access to the trapped litter. JM offered to clear this.

SB asked NCC to remove the posts remaining outside the Old School.

113 Public Question Time.

Suggested by Pearce Marchbank that bleach may deter dogs at Barnfields.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm hrs.

The next PC Meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Thurs 11 April at the Village Hall.