

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 26th September 2011

Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr B Brooks, Mr D Burnett, Mrs D Fisher (Chairman), Mr B Grint, Mr A Hemmingway, Mrs L Hemsall (also district councillor) Mr N Law and Mr R Perry
Brian Iles (County Councillor)

Before the meeting, Sarita Presland from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils gave a talk on the benefits of re-accreditation to the Quality Parish scheme. Acle Parish Council's current accreditation runs out in November and the Council has three months to complete the renewal process. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for next month. Sarita was thanked for attending.

1. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were 33 members of the public present. Matters raised included a suggestion to improve the signage for the village along A1064. The rector thanked the Council for the current contribution towards the grass cutting in the churchyard and explained about the cost of the maintenance of the church tower clock. Several parishioners raised the state of the play area equipment at the Recreation Centre and there was some discussion about the options to improve or replace the equipment, in the same or a new location. Lana Hemsall reported on a meeting with residents to consider the recent anti-social behaviour in the village and on meetings to consider options for the play facilities in the village. Lana is hosting a meeting with residents on 11th October. Brian Iles reported on changes to the bus pass scheme and on discussions concerning the proposed incinerator.

2. **APOLOGIES** Mr B Coveley, Mrs E Elliott, Mr J Harriss and Mrs M Steed.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Lana Hemsall reminded the meeting that she is also a Broadland District Councillor and as such she declares a personal interest in any matters relating to Broadland District Council which may be discussed at the meeting.

Brian Grint, Barry Brooks and Rodney Perry each declared a personal interest in the Acle Recreation Centre as trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

Tony Hemmingway declared a personal interest in any matters where he might be asked to carry out maintenance work for the Council.

4. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2011 were agreed to be correct, with one change, and were signed by Diane Fisher as Chairman of the Parish Council.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

5.1 The balance of the £500 grant to the Murder Mystery Day was used up by paying for the staging for the event and room hire.

5.2 Tony Hemmingway has bought the wood to repair the gate to the Damgate Lane play area and has put up the no parking sign.

5.3 Diane Fisher, John Harriss, Nigel Law and the clerk met with Broadland District Council to discuss plans for Springfield land. BDC suggested that the Parish Council should approach a few developers to ask them to put forward a scheme for the land, which could then be discussed with the planners. Options for allocating some of the land for affordable housing linked to local housing needs were discussed. BDC reported that there were many people in housing need in the village, including 31 people who are

older than 55. BDC did inform the councillors that, whatever happened to the land behind Springfield, a further 100 – 200 houses would need to be allocated in the village.

5.4 Diane Fisher and John Harriss attended a briefing on community consultation for the Local Development Framework.

5.5 The clerk read out a further letter of complaint about the memorials in the cemetery. The councillors confirmed that they are happy with the current rules for memorials. It was discussed that additional maintenance may be needed in the cemetery and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Diane Fisher, John Harriss and the clerk did a survey of the cemetery to check for unmarked, occupied plots; there are some plots available in between older graves.

5.6 NCC Highways said that additional markings could be added to Damgate Lane etc only if requested by the police.

5.7 David Burnett withdrew his offer to set up a Speedwatch scheme in Damgate Lane.

5.8 The councillors considered whether the Folly Tree could be pruned without removing the Christmas lights. Lana Hemsall offered to contact BDC to check that the work was necessary. The clerk has obtained a quote for removing the lights while the work is being done by NCC.

5.9 NCC has asked Atkins when the repairs to the raised ironworks in the underpass will be carried out. The subsidence on South Walsham Road verge has been programmed for repairs.

5.10 Inspector Cuff replied that the noise nuisance and general anti-social behaviour at the Recreation Centre car park has been adopted as a priority at the recent SNAP panel meeting and various pieces of legislation will be considered to address the issue.

The police also replied regarding the parking on corners; the Highway Code is advisory only and is not enforceable.

5.11 NCC stated that the one scheduled cut of the public footpaths has been done and no further maintenance will be carried out.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 It was agreed to give a donation to the Royal British Legion of £30. (LGA 1972 s.137 donation.)

6.2 It was agreed to give a donation of £50 to the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service. (LGA 1972 s.137 donation)

6.3 A request was received from the PCC for the renewal and maintenance of the clock in St Edmunds Church tower. It was agreed to pay for the annual service, at up to £200 plus VAT, and to consider further funding in the budget.

6.4 Acle Pre-school has asked for permission to install a sign at the entrance gate for the Fletcher Room. This was agreed. (Diane Fisher and Rodney Perry each declared a personal interest as they have grandchildren who attend the pre-school.)

6.5 Broadland District Council has sent a review of polling places; the councillors confirmed that they supported the use of Acle Recreation Centre.

- 6.6 Residents on Old Road have asked to purchase the land adjacent to their property, currently let for grazing at the top of Springfield. The councillors agreed that they did not wish to sell the land.
- 6.7 BDC has written to warn of some changes to prices for refuse collection from the cemetery and from the Fletcher Room. This was noted.
- 6.8 The Boundary Commission has sent notice of the 2013 review of parliamentary constituencies in England.
- 6.9 A revised Tree Preservation Order has been issued for trees on land at Church View, 2 The Street.
- 6.10 The next Broads Forum meeting will be held at Acle recreation centre on Thursday 6th October at 2.00 p.m. and is open to residents who wish to attend and listen to the meeting. The Forum is made up of representatives from 53 user groups with an interest in the Broads.
- 6.11 BDC's annual meeting with towns and parishes will take place on Tuesday, 11th October at 7.30.
- 6.12 BDC has sent notice that its mobile information service will end at the end of September.
- 6.13 The Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 has been signed and returned by the external auditors, without comment.
- 6.14 The Recreation Centre has sent details of the specification necessary to bring the access road up to quality for adoption. This will be discussed when further details and prices have been obtained. NCC stated that, even if the road is brought up to standard, it may not be adopted.
- 6.15 A resident in Boat Dyke Lane has asked for some reduction of the tree at the allotments. The clerk was asked to obtain advice from some tree surgeons.
- 6.16 The clerk has confirmed to Barrett & Cooke that the Council's investment strategy remains low risk.
- 6.17 The police sent a report of six recorded crimes.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

- 7.1 Plans discussed at the meeting:
- i) **Diocese of Norwich, Barn adj Acle Rectory** – new PP to replace extant PP 20081475 – change of use and conversion of barn to dwelling (20111155). The councillors had no objections to the plans.
 - ii) **Mr J Wilson, Hillside Farm, Reedham Road** – three bedroom bungalow with double garage (outline) (resubmission) (20111181). The councillors supported the plans.
 - iii) **Acle High School** – erection of a single Gaia 11kw wind turbine atop a 18.0m tower. The councillors had no objections to the plans.
 - iv) BDC has sent its consultation on sites shortlisted for potential development; housing is proposed on land behind the telephone exchange between Norwich Road and Mill Lane. There is a public exhibition on 5th October in Acle.

- 7.2 Discussed by the Planning Committee members:
- i) **Budgens** – new refrigeration units – the councillors had no objections so long as Environmental Health has passed it for noise nuisance.
 - ii) **Environment Agency** - Piling removal – The councillors had no objections to the plans.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- 8.1 Norfolk County Council has sent information about partnerships with local councils whereby NCC would match fund a highways project with the local parish council; the councillors did not support this project.
- 8.2 NCC has been asked to remove the Slimming World signs which have been erected around the village. Lana Hemsall will take this up with the BDC Planning Enforcement department.
- 8.3 There was a report of litter at the top of Mill Lane.
- 8.4 It was agreed to continue with the watering of the hanging baskets whilst they continue to look so attractive.

9. STREET LIGHTING

Some lights were reported for repair.

10. TRUSTEE FOR THE ACLE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTRE

(Brian Grint, Barry Brooks and Rodney Perry each declared a personal interest as trustees.)

Chris Dove has resigned as a Parish Council- appointed trustee as he is leaving the village shortly. After a vote, Malika Steed was appointed as the new trustee, by a majority.

11. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE VILLAGE

Lana Hemsall reported on a meeting with Bob Fell, s.106 monitoring officer, from BDC who considered the possible locations at the Recreation Centre for play facilities. The site behind the Methodist Church was considered to be a good location for equipment for primary school children. The site along Pyebush Lane was considered to be an excellent site for equipment for all ages. Bob Fell also considered that the current site opposite the entrance to the Bure Room was a perfect location, although he acknowledged the problems with vandalism. Bob Fell stressed that the equipment for older children must be installed before new equipment for younger children to prevent the younger children's equipment attracting vandalism.

Councillors also met with David Gladden, a Police crime reduction officer, who felt that the facilities at the Recreation Centre were excellent. He recommended improving the perimeter fencing and some other measures to reduce vandalism. He did not support using the land beyond the all weather pitch for further recreational facilities.

The councillors agreed to set up a working party, with parishioners, and with Recreation centre trustees to discuss the options and to look at grants. Nigel Law and Malika Steed were appointed to the working party. It was agreed to ask the Recreation Centre to host the meetings.

12. FINANCE

£

Receipts:

Burial and memorial fees	460.00
Reimbursement stationery	74.32

Payments made:

Veolia – skip hire (2 months) dd	281.66
EON – street lighting (2 months) dd	1,153.82
EON – electricity at toilets dd	151.40
Siemens – copier rental dd	134.52
Connor Hutchin – watering	113.40
Travis Smith – watering	113.40
Andrew Creak – watering	56.70
Thomas Larby – watering	113.40
Norse – grasscutting	84.38
TT Jones – lighting repairs July	401.64
Wilkersons – supplies	33.66
Bunzl – supplies toilets	378.31
Garden Guardian – grasscutting July	1,073.86
Hugh Crane – supplies	4.51
Norfolk Pension Fund – August	201.55
Mick Ward – cleaning – August	647.40
Viking Stage – donation Murder Mystery	91.20
P James – clerk’s fee August	608.60
P James – delegated fees	196.75
P James – exps	52.29
HMRC – PAYE & NIC – August	483.48
Copy IT – copying	69.30

Cheques for payment:

HMRC – PAYE & NIC – September	472.85
Connor Hutchin – watering	102.06
Travis Smith – watering	90.72
Andrew Creak – watering	45.36
Thomas Larby – watering	90.72
Mick Ward – cleaning – September	621.70
Tony Hemmingway – repairs	138.20
Wilkersons – supplies	43.65
TT Jones – lighting repairs August	540.71
PHS – waste disposal notice	83.94
Garden Guardian – grasscutting August	1,073.86
Mazars – external audit	480.00
BDC – polling expenses	575.02
SLCC – conference fees	156.00
PSG Electrical – testing	36.00
Jemco – sign for Damgate play area	33.35
Norfolk Pension – September	201.55
Acle Recreation Centre – share of grit	67.50
Hugh Crane – supplies	42.49
D Fisher – mileage	18.00
P James – clerk’s fee, September	608.40

P James – delegated fees	196.75
P James – clerk’s exps, including stationery	290.26
J Harriss – mileage	29.70
BDC – refuse collection Fletcher Room	87.36
BDC – refuse collection cemetery	21.84
Royal British Legion s.137 donation	30.00
Norfolk Accident Rescue Service s.137 donation	50.00

Savings account	57,103.51
Term investment	100,211.92
Gilts	<u>119,281.00</u>
	<u>276,596.43</u>

It was proposed and agreed to purchase copies of The Councillor’s Guide for each councillor at £12.75 each.

13. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Cemetery maintenance
- Quality Parish Council scheme

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 31st October 2011.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed: *Diane Fisher*
Chairman

Dated: 31st October 2011