

## *Acle Parish Council*

Meeting Date: Monday, 24th September 2012  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr D Burnett, Mrs J Clover, Mr B Grint, Mr J Harriss (Chairman), Mr A Hemmingway, Mr N Law, Mr R Perry, Mrs M Steed and Mrs P Watson

Brian Iles (Norfolk County Councillor)

### 1. **PUBLIC FORUM**

1. There were six members of the public present. Brian Iles reported on issues with the maintenance of the Public Rights of Way (PROWs); residents must continue to report paths that need cutting to NCC Highways on 0344 800 8020. The Broads Authority has cut the footpath along the A1064 but it was reported that the signage for the path is poor so people continue to walk along the edge of the road, instead of along the path. Brian continues to press for the meadow at Jubilee Wood to be cut by NCC. He announced that the NCC funding for Better Broadband will be rolled out over 2013 -2015. Brian also talked about the new Community Construction Fund. Other matters raised included a noxious smell in Hermitage Close, coming from the river, and concerns about speeding on A1064.

2. **APOLOGIES** Mr B Coveley and Mrs L Hemsall (also district councillor)

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

Brian Grint and John Harriss each declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the land north of Springfield.

Tony Hemmingway declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the cheque payment to himself and work arising with the play area and the Fletcher Room.

Brian Grint, Rodney Perry and David Burnett each declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the Recreation Centre as trustees.

Malika Steed declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Fletcher Room.

4. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meetings held on 30th July and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by John Harriss as Chairman.

### 5. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 5.1 All register of interests forms have been completed, and signed by the monitoring officer at BDC.
- 5.2 The Annual Return has been signed by the external auditors, Mazars, without comment. The Annual Return has been posted on the Council's website.
- 5.3 The village sign has been repaired and reinstated on the village green.
- 5.4 The Broads Authority sent its thanks for the comments on the Landscape Character Assessment.
- 5.5 A further complaint was received about the grasscutting at the cemetery. A resident has requested that additional monies are allocated when setting the budget.
- 5.6 The clerk sent a letter of thanks to Kirstin Hughes and Tom Holmes at BDC, and a card to Shelagh Gurney, Chairman of Broadland District Council.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 6.1 Nigel Law and the clerk met with a representative from Pear Technology, which specialises in digital mapping. The councillors supported an investigation into possible uses of this technology.
- 6.2 It was agreed to write to MP Keith Simpson to express the councillors' concerns about the Government's plans to relax planning requirements for medium-sized extensions.
- 6.3 Councillors met with the consultants Ingham Pinnock who will be writing a report on how to make Acle even better. The first meeting of the Village Team is on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## **7. PLANNING MATTERS**

7.1 Plans considered:

- i) **R J More and Partners, Knoll Barn, Tunstead** – conversion of existing barn into holiday accommodation (BA/2012/0268/CU). The councillors had no objections to the plans.

7.2 Planning results from **Broadland District Council**:

- i) **Acle Medical Centre** – single storey rear extension – full approval  
ii) **15 Englands Road** – erection of front porch – full approval  
iii) **80 St Edmunds Road** – erection of porch – full approval

## **8. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- 8.1 John Harriss gave a report on Anglia in Bloom; the village received a silver award, which will be displayed at the Recreation Centre. There was recognition for the Allotment Association and for the High School.
- 8.2 It was agreed to remove the crown planter on The Green and to have a new planter next year.
- 8.3 There was a request for some cycle paths in Acle. This will be considered and raised with the relevant authorities.
- 8.4 There was a request for the parking restrictions in Mill Lane to be extended further up the road as there is some congestion caused by people parking there for the day. The clerk was asked to contact Highways.
- 8.5 There was also a report of dog fouling on Mill Lane. BDC will be asked to inspect the area. Councillors also reported some fouling on the Doctor's path between Damgate Lane and The Hill.
- 8.6 There was a request for the hedge on the corner of Englands Road to be cut back to make access to the post box easier. The clerk will contact the owners.
- 8.7 A complaint about a tree in the churchyard will be passed to the Parochial Church Council.
- 8.8 A complaint about footpath 6 at the boat dyke has been passed to NCC.
- 8.9 The watering of the hanging baskets ceased on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. It was agreed that the baskets had been very successful again this year. Lana was thanked for organising the watering and Tony for the

maintenance of the pump. A working party was set up to remove the baskets, empty the compost and store the empty baskets ready for next year.

8.10 The clerk was asked to contact Wherry Housing about the poor state of Hillcrest.

8.11 The removal of deadwood in the willow in front of the allotments has been authorised for £350. The ditch will be cleared out by Bryan Banham. The Broads Authority has confirmed that there are no notifiable plant species in the ditch.

## **9. STREET LIGHTING**

9.1 A quote for a replacement lantern for £154.52 was approved.

## **10. ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**

The Trustees do not wish to put up a fence along the ditch by the zipwire as this would impede access for clearing out the ditch. Tony Hemmingway was thanked for removing the old play equipment.

## **11. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

11.1 The order was placed for the new play equipment and wetpour safety surfacing for £41,426.02 plus two additional hardwood items; a rope bridge and balancing poles, for £2,477. It was not possible to re-site the equipment and move the pedestrian gate because of the safety zones required around the various items. A quote for £873 to add wetpour over the remaining concrete by the bowls club fence was accepted.

11.2 The order for the zipwire was also placed, for £9,905.

11.3 The work on these two projects starts on 1<sup>st</sup> October. It was agreed to organise an event to celebrate the opening of the new equipment. A budget of £200 was agreed.

11.4 Results from grant applications are still awaited for the skatepark.

## **12. SPRINGFIELD LAND**

The committee met with two solicitors and two land agents. Various strategies were discussed and it was agreed that the Council should apply for outline planning permission and then sell the land with a contract that specifies a maximum number of houses and an agreed minimum build quality. The clerk delivered a newsletter to residents backing onto the Springfield land to make sure they know that the Council plans to build on the land and to tell them that there will be a consultation process later on. There has been one objection from a local resident.

It was agreed to discuss the appointment of solicitor and land agent in private at the end of the meeting.

## **13. FLETCHER ROOM**

It was agreed to install an air conditioning unit to provide balanced air temperature throughout the year for £3,137 + VAT. Tony Hemmingway will install the necessary electric supply.

## **14. FINANCE**

£

### **Receipts:**

BDC – glass recycling credit	145.24
BDC – re 11/12	1,083.73
Reimbursement exps	176.33
Burial and memorial fees	183.00
Norfolk Community Foundation - grant	5,000.00

Awards for All – grant	8,000.00
<b>Cheques for payment:</b>	
E.On – street lighting dd	600.84
Veolia – skip hire dd	141.72
Siemens – copier hire dd	134.52
Anglia in Bloom	50.00
HMRC – PAYE & NIC	431.33
P James – clerk’s fee and exps	1,213.86
W Butler – cleaning cover	124.56
M Ward – c leaning	659.20
TT Jones – street light repairs	267.95
St John Ambulance – Olympics	41.28
Wilkersons – supplies	57.37
C Hutchin – watering	92.54
A Creak – watering	46.27
T Smith – watering	92.54
T Larby – watering	92.54
PHS – waste disposal fee	83.94
Mazars – external audit	660.00
Copy IT – copying charges	21.48
Olympic Welding – village sign	612.00
Garden Guardian – grasscutting	1,042.66
Norse – grasscutting	87.66
Parcan Builders – village sign	795.60
John Harriss – travel costs	78.75
Acle Recreation Centre – room hire	180.50
Hugh Crane – cleaning equipment	45.00
Tony Hemmingway – disposal play equip’t	865.25
Norfolk Pension Fund	282.66
Savings account (incl former term inv)	101,084.76
Term investment	75,000.00
Gilts	<u>128,924.00</u>
	305,008.76

**15. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- Provision of a seat on Old Road
- Maintenance of the area around the recycling bins at the Recreation Centre

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012.**

**17. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

There were no suggestions for a new councillor. It was agreed to consider this again at the next meeting and to advertise locally if necessary.

**At this point it was resolved under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude members of the public to discuss the cemetery and the appointment of experts for the Springfield project.**