

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 17th December 2012
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr B Coveley, Mrs L Hemsall (also district councillor) Mr B Grint, Mr J Harriss (Chairman), Mr A Hemmingway, Mrs D Hurst, Mr N Law, Mr R Perry, Mrs M Steed and Mrs P Watson
Brian Iles (County Councillor)

Before the meeting started, Alan Irvine gave an update on the plans for the land north of Springfield; the Highways Assessment suggests that it should be possible to have an emergency access at the north of the site, which would be a pathway through to Old Road. The Ecology report suggests that further work might be needed to make sure if protected species are present. The Drainage survey has highlighted the need for a storage lagoon in the south of the site to store storm water. Saffron Housing Association is interested in joining the Parish Council in putting together the planning application. The first stage of the Archaeology report has been completed. The planners may require further work to be done in advance of the application being submitted. Alan was thanked for attending the meeting.

1. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were six members of the public present. County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report on the Community Construction Fund, which was over-subscribed. District Councillor Lana Hemsall gave a report; Broadland District Council has no funds to extend the food waste collection to Acle. There is a possibility of funding for local households to install gas central heating. The clerk will contact AVA so that they can advise those who attend their lunches. There was a report from the recent SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Area Panel) meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES** Mr D Burnett and Mrs J Clover.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR ANY DISPENSATIONS**

Brian Grint, Barry Coveley, Rodney Perry and David Burnett declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. Brian Grint also declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the Springfield development for any issues that affect his property. John Harriss reminded the meeting that his son lives in Springfield so he has a non-pecuniary interest. Tony Hemmingway reminded that he is employed by the Council to check the Christmas lights on the shop fronts.

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

4. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meetings held on 26th November 2012 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by John Harriss as Chairman.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

5.1 The Christmas tree was delivered and installed in time for the carol service on 6th December. Thanks to all those involved.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner has announced a public meeting on 17th January to consider the Police budget. Volunteers are needed for the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.
- 6.2 NCC has announced a further £100,000 of funds to match-fund community highways schemes. The clerk was asked to suggest the funding of a second vehicle activated speed sign for A1064.
- 6.3 Details have been received about Wherry Housing Association's plan to redevelop fourteen of its bungalows on the Beighton Road site. A planning application is expected shortly for this site, together with two smaller vacant plots on the site.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

- 7.1 Plans discussed at the meeting:
 - i) **Mr Collins, Weavers Way Barn, The Hill** – conversion of existing barn to residential dwelling (20121660). The councillors had no objections to the plans but suggested that parts of the barn might be of historical interest.
 - ii) **Mr Hutchins, Acle Hair & Beauty** – change of use of first floor from B1 (office) to C3 (residential), including ground floor entrance hall and installation of first floor window (20121734). The councillors had no objections to the plans.
- 7.2 The applicant has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against BDC's decision to refuse permission for the erection of a 250kw wind turbine on 30m monopole (blade tip height 45m) on **The Windle**. All previous letters of support or objection sent to BDC will be forwarded to the Inspector but the clerk was also asked to write to say that the Parish Council maintained its objection to the plans.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- 8.1 Tony Hemmingway reported that the Christmas lighting was all working in time for the carol singing, but that the lights on the folly tree had since fused. TT Jones will be asked to find and repair the fault.
- 8.2 NCC has approved a request for a grit bin at the junction of Damgate Close and Damgate Lane. It was agreed that the clerk should order a bin, which will then be filled by NCC.
- 8.3 Brian Grint has put up the new train timetables at the bus shelter in The Street.
- 8.4 There was some discussion about the future of the signal box at Acle Station, in case it is to be decommissioned. The clerk was asked to contact BDC to ask about placing it on a Community Asset List. Such lists are to be introduced under the Localism Act and give community groups notice when a listed asset is to be put up for sale.
- 8.5 There was a request for some paving at the bus shelter at Hermitage Close, and for a noticeboard.
- 8.6 Anglian Water has said that the willow leaning across the track at the top of Damgate Lane is not on their land. The clerk was asked to contact NCC.
- 8.7 A pothole on the A47 sliproad eastbound was reported.

9. STREET LIGHTING

It was noted that listed building permission would be needed to install a new street light on the wall of The Limes. The owner supports the idea.

10. ACLE RECREATION CENTRE

Brian Grint, Barry Coveley, Rodney Perry and David Burnett declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees.

The pothole on the access road has been repaired. It was noted that the new play equipment is proving to be very popular with local families.

11. SKATEPARK

11.1 The application for a grant from the Norfolk Construction Fund was unsuccessful. Two more grant applications are pending.

11.2 Three email references have been obtained for Gravity Skateparks, the chosen installer.

12. SPRINGFIELD LAND

BDC's housing survey has been completed and showed a need for 31 x 1-bedroom, 15 x 2-bedroom, 4 x 3-bedroom, 4 x 4-bedroom and 1 x 5-bedroom homes. 122 households are now on BDC's list for being in housing need.

The architects, CAM Architects, had drawn up a draft sketch showing 43 dwellings. The clerk reminded them that the Council was expecting 34 dwellings on the site. A meeting will be arranged with the architects as soon as possible in the New Year.

The Ground Level Survey has been received. Terms of Engagement for Mills and Reeve have been received and will be signed by John Harriss on behalf of the Council.

Brian Grint presented a coin found on the site, believed to be of Constantine I, from 312 AD. It was agreed that this coin should be offered to the Norwich Museum as a long-term loan.

13. BUDGET

The Finance Committee recommended a precept of £56,650, an increase of 3%, which works out at £2.12 per elector, per month; the figures are not yet available for number of Band D equivalent houses. The budget shows expenditure £53,000 greater than income, but it includes the funding of the skatepark and some legal and professional fees. The councillors resolved to set the precept at £56,650, accepting the decrease in Council funds because of the likely sale of the Springfield land.

The clerk's fee was agreed at £16.035 (Scale point 37) for 16.39 hours per week. Cemetery rates were increased by 3%. A donation for the grasscutting at the Church was agreed at £1,250 towards their costs of £1,684.

The Finance Committee and clerk were thanked for their work on the budget.

14. FINANCE

£

Receipts:

BDC grant for play equipment	10,000.00
BDC – recycling credit	123.63

UK Power – wayleaves	178.09
Memorial fees	32.00
Cheques for payment:	
M Ward – cleaning	807.26
P James – clerk’s fee and exps	1,169.74
HMRC – PAYE & NIC	452.50
Norfolk Pension Fund	282.67
Hugh Crane Cleaning – supplies	34.45
J Harriss – expenses	10.20
SLCC – subs	228.00
TT Jones – lighting repairs	586.79
TT Jones – Christmas lighting and bunting	954.62
Kompan Ltd – additional foundations	463.20
Wilkersons – supplies	35.20
Copy IT – copying	72.58
Blockbuster – drainage	132.00
Bunzl – supplies	400.97
Alan Irvine, incl. infiltration testing, transport assessment, tree survey and flood risk report	6,179.60
Savings account 14.11.12	117,802.00
Term investment 17.12.12	75,000.00
Gilts 17.12.12	<u>128,924.00</u>
	321,726.00

15. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

All regular items.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 28th January 2013.