

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 29th September 2014
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr John Harriss – Chairman

Mr Tony Hemmingway – Vice-chairman

Mrs Angela Bishop, Mrs J Clover, Mrs J Kenealy, Mr R Perry, Mrs M Steed and Mrs P Watson
County Councillor Brian Iles

1. PUBLIC FORUM

There were fourteen members of the public present. Paul Taverner from Acle Academy explained their plans for a programme of work for the students which is responsive to employment in the local area and to prepare the young people for work, including the purchase and management of a food waste composter as part of their recycling work.

Brian Iles said he had been investigating flooding in the area and talked about the budget setting process at the County Council.

2. APOLOGIES Mr Barry Coveley and Mrs Lana Hemsall (also district councillor).

Polly Bryant and Debra Hurst have resigned from the Council because they are each moving away from the area. The clerk sent them both the Council's thanks.

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

Rodney Perry and Jackie Clover declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. John Harriss reminded the meeting that his son lives in Springfield so he has a non-pecuniary interest in that development. Jackie Clover had an interest in a cheque on the payments list. Angela Bishop declared an interest in the grant for Acle Academy as her daughter attends the school.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of 28th July and 15th September 2014 were agreed to be correct, after one amendment to the item on AVA, and were signed by John Harriss as Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1. Repairs have been completed at the play area in Beighton Road.

5.2. The planning application for the land off Norwich Road is going to BDC's October planning committee meeting. Anglian Water has confirmed that there will be sufficient capacity at the water recycling centre in Damgate lane for the new houses. Anglian Water also said that the ten or so tanker movements per week are for the removal of sludge and that this is not a reflection of capacity issues.

- 5.3. Norfolk County Council has programmed work to clear out the drains on A1064, which should reduce the risk of flooding in Boat Dyke Lane. Residents' complaints have been passed to Brian Iles to pursue with NCC Highways.
- 5.4. Removal of waste facilities at Acle Bridge: Lana Hempsall, as BDC's appointed member to the Broads Authority, sent notice that the Broads Authority is working closely with the local authorities to find a practical solution to the disposal of waste at various locations in The Broads. The Broads Authority reported that it was agreed to produce an information page showing all of the locations where waste facilities are provided. The Authority will make a decision in November as to a strategy for the future of waste sites, collection and disposal. The clerk also contacted MP Keith Simpson who agreed to contact the Minister to raise the Council's concerns about the cessation of waste collection by local authorities following the Government's reclassification of waste from boats as commercial.
- 5.5. The Broads Authority confirmed that planning enforcement action against BESL at its site on A1064 would serve little purpose as the company is already looking to relocate to new premises.

6. YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Acle Academy is preparing an open evening event for the councillors to visit the school. This was welcomed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1. Acle Academy requested assistance with its programme of "green" initiatives, including the purchase of a food waste composter, costing £3,400. After some discussion it was agreed to give a grant of £600.
- 7.2. Acle Community Gym requested a grant; the gym was operating at a loss but the hours have been reduced a little to break even with costs. The councillors agreed to give a grant of £676 and to ask that the Gym keeps the Council up-to-date with its progress. (Pat Watson declared an interest as a member of the Gym.)
- 7.3. A new road name is needed for the road between Reedham Road and Norwich Road. There may also be three new roads on the Hillside Farm site and one on Springfield. Names suggested included Great Eastern Way, because of the proximity to the railway, and Leffins Lane, from a previous road at this location. It was agreed to consider names from historical maps. There was also a request for names to reflect previous, female, residents.
- 7.4. The Broads Authority sent its draft Halvergate Marshes Conservation Area Appraisal for consultation; Halvergate Marshes and Haddiscoe Island contain the largest area of grazing marshes in the east of England, popular with wildlife. This report was noted.
- 7.5. PCSO Paul McAllister sent a report of four crimes during September. Pat Watson reported that there was a bad accident on A1064 over the Summer.

- 7.6. Norfolk County Council has announced a further round of funding for the Parish Partnership scheme for small highway projects.
- 7.7. Broadland District Council carried out a review of its functions delegated to parish councils, which includes the management of the public toilets in Acle. BDC has agreed to continue with this for another year.
- 7.8. Councillors are invited to attend the Norfolk ALC Autumn Seminar on 19th November at Kings Lynn.
- 7.9. Residents are invited to attend the Norfolk Wildlife Trust talk on Planning and Wildlife on 2nd October.
- 7.10. BDC sent details of the Acle Winter Wellbeing Fair at the Recreation Centre on Wednesday, 29th October from 10.00 – 2.30.
- 7.11. The external auditors, Mazars, have completed the audit for the year ended 31st March 2014, without comment. The Annual Return has been published on the Council's website.
- 7.12. The Council has received a complaint about the cemetery, which has been copied to John Harriss and Tony Hemmingway, as members of the Cemetery Committee. The clerk will reply.
- 7.13. The owner of the Hermitage Restaurant, Mr Carter, rents the car park adjacent to the allotments for £2 per year. (The lease was for 99 years from 1948) He wishes to sub-let the car parking rights to the new tenants when he leases the restaurant. It was agreed to investigate if the rent could be increased at this time.
- 7.14. The clerk reported that a snakeskin found at the play area in Damgate Lane proved to be that of a grass snake, rather than of an adder as was suspected at the time.
- 7.15. Residents were reminded about changes to recycling from 1st October

8. PLANNING MATTERS

8.1. Plans discussed at the meeting:

- 8.1.1. **Hillside Farm, Reedham Road** – mixed use development to include employment and residential (outline) (20141392). The councillors had no objections to the plans so long as there is adequate parking and open space.
- 8.1.2. **Coburg House, The Street** – erection of detached dwelling and alterations to access (20141420). The councillors objected to the plans as an over-development of the site and out of keeping with the open nature of the street at this location.
- 8.1.3. **Station Road** – installation of offices, buildings and parking to serve the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project until 2021 (20141460). The councillors supported the plans.

8.1.4. **Budgens, Norwich Road** – 1 x illuminated fascia sign and other signs, including window graphics (20141518). The councillors had no objections to the plans so long as the signage is switched off at night.

8.2 **Plans received between meetings:**

8.2.1. **Mr Bloomfield, Inglenook, Bridewell Lane** – detached double garage (20141222). There were no objections to the plans. These plans have since been approved by BDC.

8.2.2. **Mr & Mrs Hollis, 7 Mill Lane** – single storey rear extension (20141202). There were no objections to the plans. These plans have since been approved by BDC.

8.2.3. **Mr Key, Beechwood House, Moulton St Mary** – erection of agricultural building (20141317). There were no objections to the plans.

9. **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

9.1. Jackie Clover gave a report on Anglia In Bloom; the village won a silver-gilt award and Acle Academy won the 12-18 section. 2015 is already being planned for, with a theme of Flower Power, and some new bulb planting. It was agreed that the hanging baskets could be taken down and re-planted for the winter.

9.2 NCC has programmed repairs to the uneven trenches on the A1064.

9.3 Reedham Road has been closed for urgent works to the railway bridge.

9.4 A resident asked for a traffic assessment to be done on South Walsham Road, to reduce the number of drivers driving in excess of the speed limit. This will be passed to Highways.

9.5 There was a report of a dead tree on South Walsham Road. This will be reported to NCC as it is on their land.

10. **STREET LIGHTING**

It was agreed to consider lighting Station Road when setting the next budget.

11. **ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**

11.1. There was a report on the recent Open Day and the Bowls Evening at the Recreation Centre.

11.2. Polly Bryant has also resigned as a trustee so the Council needs to appoint a new trustee. This will be considered at a later meeting.

12. **CEMETERY**

The clerk wrote to Mr & Mrs Molineux at Ashby Hall, the landowners of the land north of the current cemetery, enclosing the informal responses from Broadland District Council on the other pieces of land in the village which had been suggested for new cemetery, all of which were negative, as reported at the July Parish Council meeting. The clerk wrote to ask if they would consider selling the Parish Council a smaller piece of land for an extension to the cemetery. The

current cemetery is estimated to be about 2/3rds of an acre, the amount requested was just over ½ an acre, expected to be enough for 8 – 10 burials per row, and hopefully enough land for about 20 years. It was agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss this further.

13. ALLOTMENTS

No quote has been received yet re tree works.

14. SPRINGFIELD LAND

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment and shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment have been received and will be submitted to BDC shortly, together with the amended plans consolidating all the responses to the consultation.

The committee is meeting with the Council's planning agent, Alan Irvine, and John Whitelock of Saffron Housing on 21st October.

15. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

BDC appointed an Independent Examiner, Mrs Rosemary Kidd, to examine Acle's Neighbourhood Plan. Mrs Kidd raised various questions about the Plan, which were answered by BDC, Ingham Pinnock and the clerk. Mrs Kidd's draft report has been submitted to BDC. Some amendments to the Plan are required, and have been agreed.

The clerk has advertised the current state of the Plan on the websites.

16. TRAFFIC ASSESSMENT ON A1064

The final report has been received; in addition to the items reported in July, the report also states that a formal pedestrian crossing is not recommended because:

- Pedestrian numbers are low
- Traffic speeds are too high
- No suitable footway on the east side
- The issue of encouraging people to use the crossing

It is therefore recommended that the Parish Council considers the provision of a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road, together with measures to reduce traffic speeds. The clerk was asked to contact NCC to ask them for prices.

17. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

17.1. Herondale – the appeal against the listing was withdrawn by Norfolk County Council. John Harriss gave a favourable report on his visit to a Housing with Care unit at Aylsham. It is understood that NCC would like a similar development on the Herondale site.

17.2 Acle Post Office has been removed from the list because of the recent sale. The councillors decided not to request the re-listing of the post office because it is the business, rather than the specific premises which they would want to protect.

17.3 The procedure for the notification of the Kings Head as an Asset of Community Value was done incorrectly by BDC so is being re-done. The clerk confirmed the councillors' wishes that it be included in the list.

18. STANDING ORDERS

The Government recently introduced new legislation to allow the filming of parish council meetings. This was previously forbidden by law so the Parish Council's Standing Orders are now unlawful. It was agreed to adopt revised Standing Orders which permit filming.

A Policy on Filming at Council Meetings was approved and adopted.

19. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Angela Bishop reported on a meeting with the local Alzheimer's Society and plans to improve facilities in the village; Acle Library now has a Dementia Hub with information on local events and resources.

20. ACLE RESILIENCE PLAN

Two new volunteers have come forward to help with the group. Angela Bishop agreed to lead the new group.

21. FLETCHER ROOM

It was agreed that improvements to the building could not be considered until the Parish Council has capital monies.

22. FINANCE

		£
Receipts:		
Burial and memorial fees		650.00
Norfolk County Council	Verges cutting	1,840.16
Reimbursement costs		47.19
Norfolk County Council	Refund re flashing speed sign	68.45
Payments made during August:		
Norfolk Pension Fund	Including back pay	641.82
Pauline James	Clerk's fee and back pay	1,999.91
HMRC	PAYE & NIC	921.40
Holly Hornagold	Watering	122.68
Stephanie Kingston	Watering	110.41
Connor Hutchin	Watering	184.01
Acle Society	Delivery of newsletter	40.00
Hugh Crane Cleaning	Fletcher Room costs	57.13
Nfk Training Partnership	Appraisal training	30.00
T T Jones	Lighting repairs	324.24
Nicholas Hancox	Legal fees	226.80
Wilkersons	Supplies	59.35
Copy IT Digital	Photocopying charges	28.16
Acle Rec Centre	Youth club room hire July	57.00
Payments to be approved:		
Mick Ward	Cleaning	712.96
Pauline James	Clerk's fee and expenses	1,375.55

Holly Hornagold	Watering	49.07
Connor Hutchin	Watering	68.35
Stephanie Kingston	Watering	36.80
HMRC	PAYE & NIC	485.81
Norfolk Pension Fund	Pension costs	372.72
Acle Methodists	Room hire	25.50
George Taylor	Repairs	75.00
Norfolk Rural CC	Subs	20.00
Mazars	External audit	480.00
Broadland DC	Waste collection at play areas	320.32
Copy IT Digital	Photocopying charges	99.77
PHS	Waste fee for toilets	83.94
Wilkersons	Supplies	39.83
T T Jones	Lighting repairs	449.34
Seckers	Fletcher Room	17.48
J Clover	Exps for Anglia in Bloom	78.00
Garden Guardian	Grasscutting	1,064.26
Urban Flow	Traffic assessment	3,360.00
Norse	Grasscutting Fletcher Room	90.49
Hugh Crane Cleaning	Fletcher Room supplies	70.31
John Harriss	Expenses	39.20
Balance c/f at 29 th September 2014		30,109.32
Government Stocks		123,865.00
Total monies		<u>153,974.32</u>

These items were all approved for payment. Janet Kenealy checked the clerk's bank reconciliation for September.

23. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

No new items were listed.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 27th October 2014

25. CO-OPTION OF TWO NEW COUNCILLORS

There was only one candidate for co-option. After speaking about her interest in the village and local issues, Annie Bassham was co-opted onto the Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

27th October 2014