Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 24th November 2014
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:**
Mr John Harriss – Chairman
Mr Tony Hemmingway – Vice-chairman
Mrs A Bassham, Mrs A Bishop, Mrs J Clover, Mr B Coveley, Mrs L Hempsall (also district councillor), Mrs J Kenealy, Mr R Perry, Mrs M Steed and Mrs P Watson.

1. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were seven members of the public present. Matters raised included problems with parking in Priory Close, issues with the recent Broadland District Council Planning Committee meeting, listing the signal box as a community asset and the need for the canopy at the railway station to be repainted.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report: the County Council is considering budget savings. Brian has been talking to officers about recent flooding in Acle and about plans for Herondale.

District Councillor Lana Hempsall gave a report: she talked about the council tax reduction scheme and about the changes to recycling.

1. **APOLOGIES -** None
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Rodney Perry, Lana Hempsall 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. Tony Hemmingway had an interest in a cheque payable to himself.

1. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2014 were agreed to be correct and were signed by John Harriss, as Chairman of the Parish Council.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**
	1. Lana Hempsall informed the meeting that the Broads Authority has decided only to provide waste collection and disposal in The Broads where the Authority is the landowner. Maps showing waste collection facilities will be provided to boat hirers.
	2. There has been no reply yet from Norfolk County Council about improvements to the A1064.
	3. The clerk reported on a very interesting talk on the history of the Broads at UEA.
	4. Acle Post Office was re-opened by MP Keith Simpson, after the recent refurbishment.
	5. Broadland District Council reported that the recent Wellbeing Event was moderately successful with 20 – 30 people visiting the event.
	6. Acle Academy sent their thanks for the recent donation towards the composter scheme.
	7. Acle Community Gym thanked the Council for the donation towards their running costs.
	8. John Harriss reported that he laid the Parish Council’s wreath at recent Royal British Legion events.
2. **YOUTH AMBASSADORS**The ambassadors gave a report; the school marked the centenary of WW1 with assemblies and some students attended the Royal British Legion event at the war memorial. Fundraising events in the village have raised over £1,000. Students have started working with the composter and are enthusiastic about its use.

Councillors were reminded that they are invited to a special event at the school on Wednesday, 17th December at 4.30. Angela, Jackie, John, Tony and clerk Pauline James offered to attend.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
	1. Acle Academy has refunded the Council for the £250 donation towards the feasibility study for a new sports hall, as it has not proved possible to proceed with the project.
	2. The Broads Authority has asked communities what should be included in the next round of Community Events.
	3. Broadland District Council sent a renewal contract for the delegated management of the public toilets, for 3 years from1st April 2015. This was noted.
2. **PLANNING MATTERS**
	1. **Acle Service Station** – proposed non-material amendment to PP BA/2014/0098
* Approved vent tower is proposed in a different position, to the south rather than north of the vehicle entrance,
* Electrical intake kiosk is removed,
* A reduction of visitor car parking spaces along the southern boundary (from 9 to 5),
* Air/water servicing bay has been moved slightly and enlarged.

The councillors had no objections to the plans.

* 1. BDC has confirmed that the new skin clinic at Hi-Grade House may need planning permission for change of use from a shop.
1. **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**
	1. **Christmas lighting:**

The contractors suggested up-lighting the folly tree from the adjacent lighting columns with three coloured lights, to be removed again in January, for £1,150. It was agreed that this would be trialled, and reviewed next year.

300 replacement coloured lightbulbs will be purchased for relamping along the Street. The councillors noted that the old string of coloured lights has been removed from the front of the post office by the new owner.

It was agreed to start planning the replacement of the shop front lights with coloured LED strings in early 2015.

* 1. **Christmas Tree:**

The tree will be delivered to the Green shortly. Rhino Building & DIY Supplies have agreed to help with the installation.

* 1. **Hanging Baskets:**

Jackie Clover reported that she has replanted some of the baskets and hung them around the Green.

* 1. **Road names:**

Rita George’s maiden name was Curtis. It was agreed to include this name in the list of proposed names for new roads in the village. It was also suggested to suggest “Poppy” or other words to commemorate WW1.

* 1. **Flooding:**

Flooding in St Edmunds Road and on A47 sliproad will be reported to Highways. Leaves on the roads should be cleared up shortly by Broadland District Council.

1. **STREET LIGHTING**

10.1 It was reported that several of the lights on the station footpath are not working. The clerk will report this to the train operator.

10.2 The clerk was asked to contact The Limes to ask that the gutter be repaired as it still leaks onto the pavement below. Also to discuss again the possibility of adding a light onto the end wall, to illuminate the pavement below.

1. **ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**

It was reported that the Centre is running at a loss at present so there is a need to review rental fees. The merger of the social club with the Centre is being considered.

At the skatepark the grass on the earth mounds around the concrete ramps never grew because of the unexpected hot weather. The earth never stabilised and has eroded, exposing the rough concrete behind the slopes. The ground needs to be raised to cover the concrete and new turf put down. The RoSPA report raised this issue and suggested that, with the remedial work, the risk level could be reduced.

The councillors confirmed that the fundraising efforts for the skatepark and for the play area were joint projects between the Parish Council and the Recreation Centre, but that the facilities became the responsibility of the Recreation Centre once they were on site. It was agreed that the repairs to the skatepark surrounds needed to be done as soon as possible; the Council offered to share the costs of making good the earth mounds and asked if the Centre could get quotes in time for the next meeting. Barry Coveley offered to assist with sorting out the specification for the quotes.

It was agreed that communication between the Council and the Centre could be improved and suggested that the trustees should agree at each Centre meeting which points should be raised at the next Council meeting, in order to avoid issues being forgotten.

The Council reminded the Centre Chairman, Rob Shepheard, that it would be setting its budget at the December meeting and would need to know if the trustees would be applying to the Council for grants over the next year.

1. **CEMETERY**

Norfolk County Council said they might be able to sell the Parish Council some land at the top of Mill Lane for a new cemetery. The access to the land would need to be upgraded. The clerk approached Broadland District Council for an informal opinion but BDC’s officer felt that, due to its location, the upgrading of the existing bridleway would erode the rural character of the village edge. He also felt that a formal cemetery next to Jubilee Wood, and associated car park, would introduce an urban space to the countryside. The clerk was asked to contact Norfolk County Council to ask if it might be possible to access a suitable piece of land via the new housing site off Norwich Road.

Norwich Diocese has decided they do not wish to sell the Rectory garden for a cemetery.

The clerk was asked to find out if the Clerk’s Piece land at the top of Damgate Lane was within the flood risk zone as that would preclude creating a cemetery at that site.

1. **SPRINGFIELD LAND**

The Parish Council got full planning permission for the affordable housing on Springfield land, and outline permission for the market housing. The S.106 agreement needs to be signed within 6 months. Natural England has stated that there is a need to mitigate the impact of the development on the nearby important open spaces; it looks likely that the planning conditions will include a requirement to provide or pay for additional green infrastructure.

At the last minute there were some objections from local residents about the safety of pedestrians in the existing housing estate. These were sent to the planning officer at BDC and were considered by the Planning Committee.

1. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**The referendum is set for Thursday, 8th January. The date has been advertised on the websites and on noticeboards. BDC will arrange for the polling cards to be sent out shortly. The clerk was asked to find out whether the Council can advertise the advantages of adopting the Plan now that the date has been announced.
2. **RESILIENCE PLAN**

Angela Bishop reported that the committee met and decided to arrange further training for committee members. The group is seeking named volunteers for each road, or part, in the village.

1. **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

Angela reported that she had met with AgeUK and the Alzheimer’s Society. The local group is planning a dementia-friendly garden behind the Methodist Hall.

1. **FINANCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | £ |
| **Receipts:** |  |  |
| Interest on gilts |  | 283.40 |
| Burial and memorial fees |  | 2,393.00 |
| Donation |  | 150.00 |
| Upton and Beighton PCs | Reimbursement costs | 46.79 |
| Acle Academy | Refund donation for sports hall | 250.00 |
| **Payments:** |  |  |
| Royal British Legion | Donation | 40.00 |
| P James | Clerk’s fee and exps | 1,350.72 |
| HMRC | PAYE & NIC | 494.51 |
| Mick Ward | Cleaning | 733.07 |
| Bunzl | Consumables  | 417.04 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund |  | 372.72 |
| CopyIT | Copying | 57.30 |
| Acle Methodist Church | Meeting room | 17.00 |
| T T Jones Electrical  | Lighting repairs | 249.71 |
| Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire | 76.00 |
| Wilkersons | Consumables | 15.97 |
| Garden Guardian | Grasscutting | 1,064.26 |
| Ingham Pinnock | Amendment of N Plan | 1,170.00 |
| Marcus Satchel | Tree works | 900.00 |
| Acle Lands Trust | Loan for works | 9,500.00 |
| Tony Hemmingway | Installation of bench | 31.25 |
| Justin Nudd | Work at cemetery | 125.00 |
| Marcus Satchel | Work at cemetery | 125.00 |
| Balance c/f 24th November 2014 |  | 36,165.61 |
| Government stocks |  | 125,764.00 |
| Total monies |  | 161,929.61 |

The above cheques were approved for payment.

A new photocopier has been rented. It will be slightly more expensive to rent, but cheaper per copy. It will also scan documents onto the computer at a fast speed. This was noted.

1. **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**
* Budget
* Councillors were invited to bring an item of non-perishable food to the next meeting for donation to a local food bank
* Grant towards a noticeboard for Acle Archive
1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 15th December 2014**