Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 26th January 2015  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.30 p.m.

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

1. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were twenty members of the public present. Matters raised included parking in Priory Close which is causing difficulties in accessing driveways, and funding of the Recreation Centre.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report: Norfolk County Council is working on the budget and more Broadband work is being done in the Acle area. Broadland District Councillor Lana Hempsall told the meeting that the BDC budget was set at a 0% increase. The Broads Authority voted to change its name to the Broads National Park. (Lana voted against it because of the likely conflict with the Habitats Regulations from an increase in tourism). PCSO Paul McAllister sent a report of six crimes recorded since the last meeting.

Rob Shepheard, Chairman of the Trustees at the Recreation Centre, gave a report; the committee has adopted the budget and predicts a small surplus on regular costs, but there is not enough funding to cover the costs of an ageing building. A rent review has been carried out and increased rates have been discussed with all the clubs. The Centre held an open day to get the views of the public. The Trustees are seeking ongoing financial assistance from the Parish Council for the play area, zip wire and skatepark to enable the committee to concentrate its efforts to pay for the repairs to the building.

1. **APOLOGIES** Mrs M Steed.
2. **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. Tony Hemmingway had an interest in a cheque payable to himself. Lana Hempsall informed the meeting that she had a non-pecuniary interest in the request for a grant for the Army Cadets as her son is a member.
3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings of 15th December 2014 and 12th January 2015 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by John Harriss as Chairman of the Parish Council.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**
   1. John Harriss, Pat Watson and Lana Hempsall reported on an interesting meeting at County Hall to discuss the future of the Herondale site; the various authorities are keen to see Housing with Care on the site, subject to funding being available.
   2. Tony Hemmingway was thanked for disposing of the Christmas tree and for sorting out the meter readings in the shops. There was a complaint that the glare from the uplighters caused problems for some people.
   3. There have been further complaints received about people advertising cars for sale on the verges. BDC is monitoring the situation and has contacted several people about their cars. BDC has explained that it is only an offence if the same person is advertising two cars within 500m of each other. The clerk was asked to contact NCC for any assistance. There was a suggestion of requesting posts to be erected along the verge, or putting in some planting, to prevent parking of cars for sale. There is also a problem with people parking their cars along the verges for the day, before catching the bus.
   4. It was reported that the Recreation Centre committee had chosen not to accept the offer of assistance with its business plan as it felt the preparation of the plan was already on course.
2. **YOUTH AMBASSADORS**The clerk sent a letter to thanks the students from Acle Academy for the interesting and informative open evening on 17th December.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   1. There was a request for funding to assist the Army Cadets attend the Norfolk Show. It was agreed to give £50 towards the costs. (Lana Hempsall took no part in the voting.)
   2. The councillors considered the scheme to encourage communities to part-fund the cost of employing a Police Community Support Officer. It was agreed that it was not appropriate at present to increase the precept to include the cost of a PCSO, and no other local councils had approached Acle to share the costs.
   3. The councillors agreed to give a grant of £1,250, as last year, towards the cost of the grasscutting in the churchyard. (The total cost is £1,760.)
   4. BDC has inspected the public toilets and has prepared a list of work that needs to be done to improve them; some to be paid for by BDC, some by Acle Parish Council. Further details to follow.
   5. Reports in the newspapers indicate that Gt Yarmouth Borough Council is considering the closure of the public toilets at Acle Bridge. The clerk was asked to express the Parish Council’s concern about the proposed closure.
   6. BDC sent notice that they will not be providing recycling facility for glass behind the Kings Head after 1st April. Tonnage has reduced from 4.3 tonnes for 6 months to 0.35 tonnes for November, at a price of £36/tonne credit. It was agreed that the facility should be removed and to encourage residents to put their glass in the recycling bin at the Recreation Centre.
   7. Details for the forthcoming parish council elections have been received and have been put on the websites. Nomination forms will be available soon and must be handed in to BDC by 9th April. John Harriss announced that he would not be standing for election in May. The councillors and residents present at the meeting thanked John for his many years of service on the Parish Council.
4. **PLANNING MATTERS**
   1. **Station Road industrial units** – replacement of existing telecommunications pole and antennas with 1 x 17.5m pole with 3 x antennas and cabinets (20150051). The councillors had no objections to the plans.
5. **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**
   1. NCC sent details of new signage re underpass in Reedham Road.
   2. The hedge at the front of Damgate Lane play area has not yet been cut by UK Power Networks. The clerk was asked to follow this up.
   3. It was reported that the hedge at Borderland Farm is overhanging the highway.
   4. The path adjacent to the A1064 has not yet been re-opened. The Broads Authority are carrying out repairs to the bridges along the path.
   5. The clerk was asked to contact the owners of The Limes again about the leaking gutter which leaks continually onto the pavement below.
   6. The clerk has asked NCC to refill the grit bin in Market Manor. The councillors were asked to check other grit bins around the village.
   7. The clerk was asked to contact a resident about a hedge on Old Road.
6. **STREET LIGHTING**

Nothing to report.

1. **ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**Rodney Perry and Jackie Clover left the room during the discussion and voting, as trustees of the Centre. Rob Shepheard was thanked for the work that has been done by the trustees.

The councillors discussed the request for funding for the play area, zip wire and skatepark. It was agreed (7:1) to allocate £2,000 towards revenue costs for these three assets, such as the RoSPA inspection, and repairs. All costs against this grant were to be agreed by the Parish Council in advance and the grant would be released on sight of invoices. Any amount unspent at the end of the Council’s financial year would be put into reserves for these assets. A grant towards capital costs could not be considered (until the Council sells its land *– words deleted at meeting on 23rd February 2015*)

Barry Coveley offered to assist with drawing up or reviewing the specifications for works for the play area, zip wire and skatepark. The councillors accepted his offer.

1. **CEMETERY**

Nothing further to report.

1. **SPRINGFIELD LAND**

The Council is currently negotiating the S.106 agreement which covers the play area, the affordable housing and the green infrastructure payment.

* Play area – it is proposed that the Parish Council will retain the land for the play area and will maintain the equipment in perpetuity
* Affordable housing – 12 houses, (10 rented and 2 shared ownership). Six of the rented properties will be allocated with a local lettings policy in perpetuity with a cascade to people from Acle, then Upton, Beighton and Halvergate, then further villages, then Broadland as a whole.
* Green Infrastructure – the calculation based on 78 inhabitants in the new houses comes to £98,000 to pay to BDC. The price for the land will be reduced by £98,000. John Harriss, Lana Hempsall and the clerk are meeting with Phil Courtier at BDC and John Cotton of NCC to discuss whether the pedestrian refuge meets the requirements of the Green Infrastructure Levy as it would improve access to Roman Wood and to the allotments.
* The committee will meet with Saffron Housing again shortly
* The Parish Council has to agree to pay the costs of NPLaw in the drawing up of the S.106 agreement, estimated at £750. Costs from Mills and Reeve estimated at £2,000.
* The clerk has signed a Post Application Agreement with BDC which accepts that the statutory 13 week period for deciding a planning application will have to be extended for the agreement of the S.106 agreement.

This was all noted. It was suggested that improvements to the footpath at the top of Mill Lane might also count towards the infrastructure improvements.

1. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**352 people voted in the referendum on 8th January, which is 16.2% of the electorate. 84.9% voted in favour of the Plan, which is in excess of the 51% which was required. BDC and the Broads Authority will now formally adopt the Plan as part of their planning documents.
2. **BUDGET AND PRECEPT**It was agreed to increase the precept to £73,000 to include the grant to the Recreation Centre. This works out at £75.96 per band D house for the year, or £6.33 per month.
3. **FINANCE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | | £ |
| **Receipts:** |  | |  |
| UK Power Networks | Wayleaves | | 196.94 |
| Gov’t stocks | Interest on gilts | | 614.45 |
| Upton & Beighton PCs | Reimbursement costs | | 186.11 |
| Burial and Memorial fees |  | | 1,846.00 |
| Donation | Towards planters | | 20.00 |
| **Payments:** |  | |  |
| Acle Community Archive | Grant towards board | | 50.00 |
| P James | Clerk’s fee and exps | | 1,338.75 |
| HMRC | PAYE & NIC | | 512.92 |
| Mick Ward | Cleaning | | 746.55 |
| Copy It | Copying and printing | | 108.43 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund | Clerk’s pension | | 380.92 |
| Acle Methodist Church | Meeting room | | 34.00 |
| T T Jones Electrical | Lighting repairs and Christmas | | 3,052.11 |
| Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire | | 57.00 |
| Tony Hemmingway | Repairs | | 135.40 |
| Wilkersons | Consumables | | 22.26 |
| PHS Group | Waste collection fee | | 60.00 |
| M Allen | Footpath fee | | 30.00 |
| Hugh Crane Ltd | Consumables for Fletcher Rm | | 91.59 |
| CPRE | Subs | | 36.00 |
| Acle Hair & Beauty | Reimb for Christmas lights | | 37.21 |
| Zen Hair Studio | “ | | 64.35 |
| Acle Dental Surgery | “ | | 73.87 |
| Balance c/f 26th January 2015 |  | | 35,460.91 |
| Government stocks |  | | 125,764.00 |
| Total monies |  | | 161,224.91 |
|  | |  |  |

These payments were approved.

Barratt & Cooke, the Council’s stockbrokers, have recommended the sale of the UK Treasury 2.5% Index Linked Stock 2020 and the purchase of UK Treasury 1% 2017. £20 settlement fee is payable but no commission. It was agreed to accept their advice.

1. **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**

* Herondale

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 23rd February 2015**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed:……………………….. Dated: 23rd February 2015

Chairman