Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 30th March 2015
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Mr Tony Hemmingway – Vice-chairman
Mrs A Bishop, Mrs J Clover, Mr B Coveley, Mrs L Hempsall (also district councillor) and Mrs P Watson

1. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Matters raised included:

* Parking issues in Priory Close. Lana Hempsall offered to discuss the issues with Broadland District Council.
* Rob Shepheard, chairman of the Recreation Centre Trustees, gave a report; the committee is grateful to the outgoing trustees, especially long-term trustees Rodney Perry and Norman Pryor, who have all done their best for the charity. Income for the year to 31st December 2014 has increased, and expenditure has decreased. Tony Hemmingway thanked the outgoing Parish Council-appointed trustees.
* A letter of complaint about the appointment of trustees
* The proposed reduction in opening hours at Lloyds Bank in the village. A petition is being organised by local residents
* District Councillor Lana Hempsall reported that proposed works on the banks of the River Bure would result in the temporary closure of the footpath.
1. **APOLOGIES** Mr J Harriss (Chairman), Mrs A Bassham, Mrs J Kenealy, Mr R Perry, Mrs M Steed and County Councillor Brian Iles.

In the absence of John Harriss, Tony Hemmingway chaired the meeting.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Jackie Clover declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustee. Lana Hempsall reminded councillors that she is appointed to the Broads Authority.

1. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of 23rd February and 9th March 2015 were agreed to be correct, after the addition of Lana Hempsall’s declaration of a personal interest in the list of nine nominations for trustees, as one of the nine, on 9th March, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the meeting.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**
	1. There have been several items of correspondence between residents of Hillcrest and Circle Anglia concerning the building works and repairs to the road.
	2. Norfolk County Council said they will not consider adding parking restrictions along New Road as there are not felt to be any safety issues. Broadland District Council felt that it would not be possible to set up a by-law to prevent cars being advertised for sale on verges. It was suggested that some low-growing shrubs could be planted along the verges to prevent cars being parked on the grass verges. The clerk was asked to contact NCC to ask for a Consent to Cultivate.
	3. The grit bin for the Methodist Church will be purchased in the Autumn.
	4. The training on Resilience Planning at BDC was cancelled.
	5. The Broads Authority sent an update on the former BESL site on A1064; all staff have now moved offsite and the temporary offices have been cleared of paperwork. The portacabins and containers should be removed by the end of March. Welfare facilities will be required by the staff who will be engaged in clearing and restoring the site. It is expected that the site will be fully cleared and grassed by the end of May.
	6. NCC said that no additional signage is possible at the junction by the Co-Op. It was suggested that the road markings should be repainted and priority signing could be added. The tarmac in the grill in the underpass had been replaced.
	7. The clerk sent a letter to Lloyds Bank expressing the Council’s disappointment at the proposal for reduced opening hours. The manager explained that the closures will be the days with the lowest footfall.
	8. The clerk had requested a copy of the S.106 agreement for the outline application for Hillside Farm. The application was deferred to the next BDC Planning Committee meeting because the report failed to refer to Acle’s Neighbourhood Plan.
2. **YOUTH AMBASSADORS**

No report.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
	1. There had been an anonymous letter of complaint about the appointment of the nine trustees at the meeting on 9th March. It was proposed and agreed that the letter should not be considered by the Council because it was anonymous.

The clerk informed the councillors that a Freedom of Information Act request had been received, asking for a copy of this letter, which she will deal with within the required timescale.

A letter had also been received on behalf of the nine appointed trustees thanking the councillors for their support.

* 1. Formal notice has been received of the Parliamentary, District and Parish Council elections which will take place on 7th May. The notices have been posted on the websites.
	2. PCSO Paul McAllister sent a report of five recorded crimes since the last meeting. The recent SNAP meeting allocated the reduction of vandalism and anti-social behaviour at the Recreation Centre as a higher priority for the local Police.
	3. The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England sent details of a forthcoming conference on Light Pollution. Also details of new streetlights which are fully shielded to reduce light spillage. It was agreed that the new lighting committee after the May meeting could consider the use of LED lights and shielded lanterns.
1. **PLANNING MATTERS**
	1. Decisions by Broadland District Council
2. **Land North of Norwich Road** - Residential Development of up to 140 Dwellings and Associated Works (Outline) (20141108) – outline approval. The s.106 agreement states that up to one third of the affordable rented dwellings will be let to Acle residents, for the first let. There will also be an area of one hectare of informal open space provided, adjacent to the site.
3. **5 Springfield** – demolition of existing single storey side extension and erection of two storey side extension (20150141). Approval.
4. **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**
	1. The clerk was asked to request NCC to put in a dropped kerb at the end of the new footway by the Travelodge.
	2. Barry Coveley reported on an interesting site visit to Saffron Housing’s development at Hainford.
5. **STREET LIGHTING**

Nothing to report.

1. **ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**
	1. The Committee of Trustees had adopted an Amending Deed and Code of Conduct. The Amending Deed increases the total number of members to 18, two of whom are elected by the Annual General Meeting, but not including the two trustees who can be co-opted by the Committee to represent interests not represented by the organisations listed in the Schedule. All trustees will be required to sign the Code of Conduct. The Committee may decide by a simple majority vote at a Committee meeting attended by at least two-thirds of the members that a member has breached the Code of Conduct and can then remove that member, following a hearing. The casual vacancy arising in this manner will be filled by the appointing organisation.

Lana Hempsall reminded the meeting that this meant that people appointed by the Council to be trustees could be removed. The councillors agreed to object to this Code, requesting that there be a right of appeal or some adjudication process.

11.2 The Recreation Centre’s AGM was moved to 31st March.

1. **CEMETERY**

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to consider this again after the elections when there will be a new Council.

1. **SPRINGFIELD LAND**

**It was agreed to move the discussion of this item to a private session at the end of the meeting because of the sensitivity of the land valuation.**

1. **ACLE REGATTA AND ACLE HISTORY WALK**

The Acle Regatta will take place on 16th &17th of May near to the Horizon Craft site at Acle Bridge. Jackie Clover offered to act as co-ordinator between the Council and the committee.

Also Brian Grint is organising a walk around Acle on 10th May, pointing out places of historical interest. Jackie Clover also agreed to represent the Council for this event.

1. **ACLE LANDS TRUST**It was noted that the Acle Lands Trust AGM is on 7th April at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Hall. All residents are very welcome to attend.
The Parish Council re-appointed five trustees: Adam Fisher, Brian Grint, Nigel Robson, Martin Greenland and Jackie Clover.
2. **FINANCE**

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|  |  | £ |
| **Receipts:** |  |  |
| Acle Lands Trust | Repayment of loan | 9,500.00 |
| Upton & Beighton PCs | Reimbursement costs | 129.45 |
| Burial fees |  | 263.00 |
| HMRC | VAT refund | 2,220.52 |
| Int on Gov’t stocks |  | 1,323.53 |
| **Payments:** |  |  |
| P James | Clerk’s fee and exps | 1,364.67 |
| HMRC | PAYE & NIC | 510.15 |
| Mick Ward | Cleaning | 739.71 |
| Copy IT | Photocopying 2 months | 100.98 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund |  | 380.92 |
| PHS | Waste disposal at toilets | 2,017.56 |
| Acle Methodist Church | Meeting room | 25.50 |
| T T Jones Electrical  | Lighting repairs | 294.17 |
| Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire | 64.50 |
| Wilkersons | Consumables | 42.00 |
| RBS Software | Accounts software | 130.80 |
| Hugh Crane Ltd | Consumables for Fletcher Rm | 87.74 |
| Alan Irvine | Springfield Lane | 2,626.92 |
| Balance c/f 30th March 2015 |  | 27,439.63 |
| Government stocks |  | 125,764.00 |
| Total monies |  | 153,203.63 |
|  |  |  |

Barry Coveley had checked the clerk’s bank reconciliation for March.

The above payments were approved.

1. **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**
* A policy to authorise the clerk to dispose of any anonymous letters without further action
* Change of signatories to take into account those councillors who may be standing down at the May elections
1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
* Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April
* Parish Council meeting on 27th April