Acle Parish Council

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

**PRESENT:**
Tony Hemmingway – Chairman
Barry Coveley– Vice-chairman
Annie Bassham, Angela Bishop, Jackie Clover, Jack Horner-Glister, Roger Jay, Julia Line, Jamie Pizey and Parish Clerk Pauline James

**PUBLIC FORUM**There were nineteen members of the public present. Three residents spoke to object to the proposed Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for land owned by the Molineux family for an extension to the cemetery asking whether the Parish Council had considered all other possible alternative sites. Two residents spoke to support the Parish Council’s request for a CPO and stated that a cemetery was a very important facility for the village and should be adjacent to the current cemetery. One resident stated that he believed the land from the Molineux family had been sold to the Parish Council, rather than gifted as had been stated previously.
Two residents presented a petition signed by eighty eight people asking for improvements to the maintenance at the current cemetery.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Sally Aldridge, David Burnett and Ellen Thompson

District Councillor Lana Hempsall
County Councillor Brian Iles

PCSO Paul McAllister

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**Barry Coveley, Jackie Clover and Roger Jay declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees
2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2015 were agreed to be correct and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Corrections suggested by district councillor Lana Hempsall to the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2015 were considered. The minutes were agreed to be correct after one amendment and were signed by Tony Hemmingway.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**
	1. The clerk has written to BDC to request that the buildings of Barclays and Lloyds Banks be listed as Assets of Community Value. Further details are required.
2. **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT GROUP**Annie Bassham reported on the successful Food & Drink Festival at Acle Academy.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE**
	1. It was agreed to give £100 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. (S.137 LGA 1972 donation.)
	2. PCSO Paul McAllister sent details of crimes recorded since the last meeting.
	3. Rev’d Martin Greenland asked if a councillor would like to do the reading at the Annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 8th November. Angela Bishop offered to do this.
	4. The clerk had received three complaints from people about the grasscutting at the cemetery over the Summer. Some temporary ornaments and silk flowers have been damaged and the grass surface on a few graves was churned up. A petition for better maintenance was received from eighty eight residents, stating that the grass was not picked up, strimming around headstones was not always completed and that the turf is damaged. The clerk explained that the current contract is to cut the grass and to strim around all gravestones, but not to pick up the grass. The Parish Council could pay extra to have the grass collected and taken away, and/or to hand cut the grass, rather than using a ride-on mower. It was agreed to get quotes for these alternatives, and to contact other contractors. The councillors expressed their disappointment at the lack of care taken with the grasscutting.

6.5 Acle St Edmund’s Bowls Club wrote to say it is looking to replace the wooden clubhouse with a new brick building, with office space, changing rooms with toilets and showers, and a kitchen. The facility could be used twelve months a year and could be used by the Youth Football Teams and Ladies’ Teams in the winter. They will be applying to the Parish Council for a grant in due course. This was noted.

1. **PLANNING MATTERS**None.
2. **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**
	1. Christmas lighting – Tony had obtained a price of £1.02 for tungsten bulbs and £3.49 for LEDs. It was noted that the bulbs could be changed to LEDs in some strings and reuse the old bulbs in other strings. The electricity usage is about 1/5th for LEDs. It was agreed to purchase 250 LED bulbs.
	2. It was agreed to purchase a new noticeboard for Hermitage Close, for 4 x A4 pages, for public use. The clerk will ask the Academy if they would be interested in making the noticeboard, or else she will get some quotes for a new board.
	3. The blocked drain outside Barclays Bank has been reported to Norfolk County Council.
	4. Some streetlights were reported for repair.
	5. Vegetation on the A47 sliproad which obscures visibility will be reported to Norfolk County Council again. Flooding at the end of the sliproad will also be reported.
	6. It was reported that the footway between De Carle Smith Road and Cardington Court is dark at night because of overhanging vegetation.
	7. The tree at The Limes needs a trim to allow more light from the streetlight.
3. **ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**
	1. The minutes from the Trustees’ August meeting have been received and circulated.
	2. Tony Hemmingway, Barry Brooks and Dennis Fisher were thanked for assisting the contractor to complete the repairs to the skatepark surround; adding some sleepers and mesh, backfilled with top soil and seeded.
	3. The Trustees are getting quotes for adding give way markings at the car park and will apply to the Parish Council for assistance with the costs.
	4. It was reported that Norfolk County Council have agreed to carry out some improvements to the drainage in Pyebush Lane to reduce the flooding onto the field.
	5. It was also reported that the Trustees have agreed to open the all weather pitch for free use by young people at weekends, when there are no formal bookings, on a trial basis. Residents should ring the office to find out if the pitch will be available.
4. **SPRINGFIELD LAND**

Tony Hemmingway, Barry Coveley, Jackie Clover and the clerk met with the purchaser to discuss further details for the design of the market housing.

Mills & Reeve have sent the contract to the purchaser’s solicitor. Mills & Reeve have asked the council to prepare answers to the Commercial Property Standard Enquiries about the land. The clerk had prepared answers as follows:

* Use of land for grazing, and then garden land. Tenant has been given notice and the tenancy has ended
* Archaeological dig
* Unauthorised dumping of vegetation
* Unauthorised bonfires
* No recreational use
* Grass cut four or five times per year
* Gate kept locked shut
* Formerly the land was cropped for barley – subcontracted to local farmer
* Some people have put gates in their rear fences. Purchaser has said they will deal with this

The councillors confirmed that they agreed with these replies and had no knowledge of any other matters.
1. **REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE**

The parade will start at the top of Mill Lane from about 2pm on Sunday, 8th November, and walk to the Church for the 3pm service. Jack Horner-Glister offered to contact the various uniformed groups in the village.

1. **COMMITTEES AND STANDING ORDERS**Jamie Pizey joined Street Lighting and Resilience Committees.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Street Lighting** | Tony Hemmingway, Roger Jay and Jamie Pizey |
| **Planning Committee** | Barry Coveley, Roger Jay, Julia Line, Annie Bassham |
| **Youth** | Annie Bassham, Julia Line |
| **Finance** | Tony Hemmingway, Barry Coveley, David Burnett |
| **Personnel** | Tony Hemmingway, Barry Coveley, Angela Bishop |
| **Fletcher Room** | Tony Hemmingway, Angela Bishop |
| **Cemetery extension** | Tony Hemmingway, Barry Coveley, David Burnett, Jackie Clover |
| **Springfield Land** | Tony Hemmingway, Barry Coveley, David Burnett, Jackie Clover |
| **Herondale** | Sally Aldridge, Annie Bassham, Angela Bishop |
| **Resilience/Emergency Planning** | Annie Bassham, Angela Bishop, Jack Horner-Glister and Jamie Pizey |
| **Acle in Need** | Angela Bishop (Elected for 4 years) |
| **Acle Regatta** | Jackie Clover |
| **Acle Rec Joint Committee** | No longer needed |
| **Roads in Acle** | Sally Aldridge, David Burnett |
| **Acle Recreation Centre** | Barry Brooks, David Burnett, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Dennis Fisher, Diane Fisher, Lana Hempsall, Roger Jay and Nick Methold ***(elected in March)*** + Kenny Gale |
| **Acle Lands Trust** | Adam Fisher, Brian Grint, Nigel Robson, Martin Greenland, Jackie Clover ***(elected in March)*** |

It was agreed that the **Standing Orders** should be amended as follows:

“4. d The Chairman of the Parish Council shall be a member of all committees and may attend and vote at any committee meeting.”

1. **FINANCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | £ |
| **Receipts:** |  |  |
| BDC | 2nd half precept | 36,500.00 |
| Interest on Gov’t stocks |  | 1,455.78 |
| Strumpshaw PC | Reimbursement costs | 20.08 |
| Beighton PC | Reimbursement costs | 32.27 |
| Upton PC | Reimbursement costs | 54.00 |
| Burial fees |  | 254.00 |
| **Direct Debits:** |  |  |
| Anglian Water | Public toilets | 563.14 |
| Anglian Water | Allotments | 116.59 |
| Anglian Water | Cemetery | 23.21 |
| EON | Street lights | 775.80 |
| EON | Public toilets | 129.42 |
| **Payments made:** |  |  |
| David Wren | On account re skatepark | 478.80 |
| David Wren | Further on account | 200.00 |
| Lowland Search & Rescue | Donation (s137 LGA 1972) | 100.00 |
| **Online Payments:** |  |  |
| P James | Clerk’s fee and exps - SO | 1,000.00 |
|  | * balance
 | 248.74 |
| HMRC | PAYE & NIC | 470.07 |
| Mick Ward | Cleaning - SO | 650.00 |
|  | * balance
 | 94.72 |
| Alan Irvine | Re Springfield land | 496.32 |
| Garden Guardian | Grasscutting | 1,155.01 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund | Clerk’s pension | 651.16 |
| Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire x3 | 105.00 |
| Hugh Crane Ltd | Consumables for Fletcher Rm | 34.45 |
| David Wren` | Balance of work at skatepark | 465.70 |
| Jackie Clover | Travel exps | 18.00 |
| **Cheques for payment:** |  |  |
| Wendy Butler | Holiday cover public toilets | 276.00 |
| Wilkersons | Supplies | 16.38 |
| T T Jones | Lighting repairs | 50.96 |
| SLCC | Course on charity law | 114.00 |
| Acle Methodist Church | Meeting room hire | 42.50 |
|  | Donation re Tea & Talk | 17.00 |
| Royal British Legion | Donation (s137 LGA 1972) | 50.00 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | Donation | 50.00 |
| Balance c/f 26th October 2015 |  | 58,573.57 |
| Government stocks |  | 128,304.00 |
| Total monies |  | 186,877.57 |
| Tony Hemmingway | Costs re skatepark | 200.00 |
| VAT of £2,522.41 has been reclaimed |  |  |

These payments were approved.

It was noted that Barratt & Cooke, the Parish Council’s stockbrokers, have invested the redemption proceeds from a government stock into 1.875% Index-linked Treasury Stock 2022.

1. **EXTENSION TO CEMETERY AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER**

Several of the councillors met with Solicitor Nick Hancox who advised the Council to go back to Broadland District Council to request a Compulsory Purchase Order for a smaller piece of land, but just for an extension to the cemetery as it is felt that the case for a cemetery is easier to prove than a need for more recreation space.

The clerk had been contacted by three residents who are in favour of a CPO, in addition to those who spoke during the public forum. Tony Hemmingway was asked to read out a letter from a resident who complained about district councillor Hempsall’s comments at the meeting of 12th October and supported the Parish Council’s request for a CPO.

The land for the extension to the cemetery is estimated to be 2.3acres. The current cemetery is estimated to be about ¾ acre and was started in 1950 at a time when the village was much smaller, so the extension is planned to last another 60 years.

After a short discussion it was agreed (Jack Horner-Glister abstained) to apply to Broadland District Council for a CPO for the land north of the cemetery for an extension to the cemetery.

1. **SECRETARY OF STATE**

If, after 8 weeks from the date of submission of the request to Broadland District Council, BDC has refused the request or has taken no action, the Parish Council may petition the Secretary of State and ask him to make the order. (S125 Local Government Act 1972).

It was agreed (Jack Horner-Glister abstained) to make this request to the Secretary of State if BDC refuses to support the request.

1. **RESERVATIONS FOR BURIAL PLOTS**

The clerk stopped taking reservations for burial plots once Broadland District Council turned down the request for the CPO in case there was a significant increase in requests and so that the land could continue to be used for burials. The councillors confirmed this action.

1. **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**
* Acle Lands Trust have applied for a grant towards new machinery to maintain its land
* Resilience Group
* Signage in the village
* Any further correspondence re the crossing on A1064
* Cemetery maintenance
1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 30th November 2015 at 7.30pm, with refreshments from 7.00pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.57 pm

Signed………………………………. Dated: 30th November 2015