Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 14th December 2015  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.30 p.m.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**There were five members of the public present. A resident commented that the village was looking lovely with the Christmas tree and lights.

District Councillor Lana Hempsall gave a report; BDC had been asked to help with funding for a housing with care scheme on the Herondale site.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report; concerns about children’s services had been reported in the Press. No decision had been made yet about charging an extra 2% on the council tax to pay towards adult social care. There was some discussion about recent hedge cutting in Damgate Lane.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors David Burnett and Jack Horner-Glister, and 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. Jackie Clover also declared an interest in Acle Lands Trust, as a Trustee.
2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2015 were agreed to be correct and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 The clerk wrote to Norfolk County Council to express the Parish Council’s support for Acle Library. Details of various events at the Library have been posted on the Parish Council’s websites and Facebook page.

4.2 Highways England said that there is a powering problem with the Vehicle Activated Sign on A47, which would require the closure of the two outside lanes to excavate the road. Instead, they propose to install a modern, solar/wind-powered unit. It was noted that they are also considering re-laying the junction at the White House so as to prevent the right turn manoeuvre from the eastbound A47 into the southbound B1140. Vehicles would be required to continue on to the roundabout and return on the A47 before turning left into the B1140. Councillors expressed concern that this might result in more traffic through Acle as drivers seek to avoid this route.

4.3 The clerk had received many letters and emails supporting the Parish Council’s request for a Compulsory Purchase Order, messages of support via the Parish Council’s Facebook page, phone calls and signatures on petitions. One Facebook message was received proposing the construction of a crematorium instead, and one email of objection was received from a non-resident. Two residents and three residents who are also district councillors have opposed the CPO.

The clerk wrote to all the district councillors who are on BDC’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee setting out the reasons for the request and the reduction in land to one acre. The clerk and some of the councillors will attend the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting and then the Cabinet meeting on 22nd December. The clerk has contacted the Molineux family to make sure that they were aware of the meetings. Mr Molineux has confirmed to BDC that he does not wish to sell any land for a cemetery.

4.4 The East Anglian Air Ambulance sent a letter of thanks for the recent donation of £100.

4.5 Acle St Edmunds Bowls Club sent notice that a rough estimate for a new club house is £100,000. It is planned to also be available for changing rooms and showers for the youth football teams. They would require a significant grant from the Parish Council before approaching other grant providers. The clerk suggested that the Club come to speak to the council once the Springfield land is sold.

1. **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT GROUP**Nothing to report.
2. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Acle Lands Trust asked the Council for a grant for a replacement scythe mowing machine. Three quotes had been obtained for a replacement machine with the best being from Acle Garden Machinery for £624.31 + VAT. After some discussion it was agreed to buy this machine, to donate to the Acle Lands Trust.

6.2 No one attended the meeting from the Youth Club to discuss the Council’s donation to pay for the room hire. It was agreed to invite them to attend the January meeting and to request information on attendance and funding.

6.3 Acle Academy sent formal notification that the school is joining the Wensum Trust.

6.4 The clerk explained that parish and town councils will be rolled in to a new sector-led body which will monitor external audits from 2017. Councils can opt out but would need to set up their own structure to meet the legal requirements. It was agreed to accept the sector-led body.

6.5 After consultation with the Parish Council, BDC has named the flyover from Reedham Road to Norwich Road “Leffins Lane”, a name which appears on old maps of the area. Other road names have been suggested to BDC for forthcoming developments.

1. **PLANNING MATTERS**
   1. **Planning applications:**
2. **Mr Holmes, 3 The Hill** – single storey front extension (20151949). There was some discussion about the extension being in front of the planning line for the adjacent houses, but it was agreed (7:3) to record no objections to the plans.
3. **Mr & Mrs Page, 4 Calthorpe Close** – single storey side extension (20151873). There were no objections to the plans.  
   1. Planning results from **Broadland District Council**:  
      i) **Mr Moore, 17 Habgood Close** – extensions and alterations – revised (20151775) – full approval.
4. **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**
   1. Christmas lighting – the gold filter on the lights on the folly tree was changed for a green one to reduce glare. Ideas for the folly tree decorations will be discussed again in 2016.
   2. Tony Hemmingway was thanked for putting up the Christmas tree. Staff from Rhino’s kindly transported the tree and put it into the hole in the ground.
   3. Two street lights require replacement lanterns; conventional lanterns are £265.55, LED lanterns are £338.22 + VAT. It was agreed to replace with LED lanterns and then to monitor the illumination from these new lights before deciding on future replacements.
   4. The discussion on improved signage in the village was deferred.
   5. Norfolk County Council has produced some anti-speeding stickers for £1.25 each, with either 30 or 40 mph printed, for temporary roadside signage only, so can only be put on wheelie bins, not on permanent sign boards. It was agreed to buy 10 x 30mph and 10 x 40mph to hand out to residents in roads were speeding is perceived to be a problem.

8.6 The Police had been asked to look at the commuter parking in Mill Lane. They replied that the road is wide enough for parking and that driveways do not seem to be obstructed. They will continue to monitor the situation. Councillors felt that the provision of double yellow lines should be reviewed in 2016.

1. **ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**
   1. The Trustees have asked the Parish Council to pay for the insurance for the skatepark. After some discussion it was agreed to pay £500 towards the insurance. £1,500 had been paid towards the repairs to the skatepark. The total of £2,000 is what was budgeted for, for the year.
   2. Trustee Barry Brooks gave a report; income is increasing for the Centre. Some electrical repairs have been carried out. The grass on the new skatepark ramps has started growing.
2. **SPRINGFIELD LAND**
   1. The final contract had been sent to the purchaser’s solicitors.
   2. The working party turned down a suggestion of relocating the balancing pond, which would have reduced the amount of land available for open space. Mills & Reeve have advised that this may mean that the additional two houses may not be able to be built. This was noted. The working party is meeting with the purchaser on 17th December to review the latest drawings.
   3. There have been a few last minute enquiries from Mills & Reeve;

* the councillors were happy to accept the advice on proceeding with a Full Title Guarantee
* it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for all fencing on the retained land (play area and open space)
* it was noted that the Green Infrastructure Levy monies would be placed in an escrow account at Mills & Reeve (£93,791.32) with the funds released as the Parish Council completes the work on the pedestrian crossing on A1064.

1. **FINANCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | £ |
| **Online Payments:** |  |  |
| Salaries: |  | 3,086.10 |
| P James | Clerk’s fee and exps - SO |  |
|  | * balance |  |
| HMRC | PAYE & NIC |  |
| Mick Ward | Cleaning - SO |  |
|  | * balance |  |
| Norfolk Pension Fund | Clerk’s pension |  |
| SLCC | Subs | 210.00 |
| Hugh Crane Ltd | Consumables for Fletcher Rm | 57.13 |
| George Taylor | Removal of fence panels | 100.00 |
| Mills & Reeve | Legal fees re Springfield | 13,604.40 |
| **Cheques for payment:** |  |  |
| Moulton Nurseries | Christmas tree | 174.00 |
| Wilkersons | Supplies | 41.01 |
| T T Jones | Lighting repairs + Christmas | 3,221.69 |
| Acle Methodist Church | Meeting room hire | 17.00 |
|  | Donation re Tea & Talk | 17.00 |
| Balance c/f 14th December 2015 |  | 34,845.92 |
| Government stocks |  | 128,304.00 |
| Total monies |  | 163,149.92 |

It was noted that a noticeboard has been ordered at a cost of £512.22 + VAT

These payments were approved. The Annual Review of payments made by direct debit and standing order was carried out and the list was approved. Annie Bassham checked the bank reconciliation as at 1st December 2015. The review of actual income and expenditure compared with budget as at 30th November, with explanations for variances, was circulated without any comment.

Angela Bishop reported that ten people had attended the December Tea & Talk. Events for 2016 have been booked on the second Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.

1. **BUDGET AND PRECEPT**The working party proposed either a 15% or 20% increase in precept as the income is not currently sufficient to put funds into earmarked reserves for repairs and renewals of assets. The proceeds from the sale of the land at Springfield will only be able to be used for capital purchases, not running costs.   
     
   15% increase = precept of £83,950 = £87 pa for an average Band D property, an increase of £11.04 for the year, ie less than £1 extra per month  
   20% increase = precept of £87,600 (£3,650 more) = £91.16 pa, an increase of £15.20 for the year., ie £1.26 extra per month

After some discussion it was agreed to proceed with the 15% increase to the precept. Cemetery fees were increased by £5 each. Salaries were approved as set out on the budget paper.

1. **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**

* Storage of emergency equipment
* Grit bins
* Youth club rent
* Folly tree lighting
* Forward planning – capital projects

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 25th January 2016 at 7.30pm, with refreshments from 7.00pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed………………………………. Dated: 25th January 2016