Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 19th December 2016  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.30 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were seven members of the public present. Matters raised including the hole in the footway by the Church (responsibility of UK Power Networks), overgrown vegetation at the end of Old Road, lighting of the pedestrian refuge on A1064, the Christmas lighting and road markings on the A47.

Danny Rawlinson gave a report from **Acle First Responders**; First Responders are volunteers who assist the Ambulance Service by attending local emergency call outs. Training is given. The councillors heard that the volunteers have to buy their uniform and the medical kit, except for the defibrillator. Local residents are needed to raise funds for the group, to purchase a second kit.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report: the devolution proposal has been withdrawn by the Government. The dualling of the A47 is likely to be in 2020-25.

District Councillor Lana Hempsall gave a report: details are available of the sites put forward for consideration for development. There are changes in the provision of new footway lighting and there is a meeting in January to consider the plans for the Herondale site. Lana was asked to find out if Broadland District Council gave grants to the First Responders.

**PRESENT:**   
Tony Hemmingway – Chairman  
Sally Aldridge, Annie Bassham, Barry Coveley, Roger Jay, Julia Line, Jamie Pizey, Ellen Thompson and Parish Clerk Pauline James.

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| 1 | **APOLOGIES** Parish councillors Angela Bishop, Jackie Clover, David Burnett and Anna Wade (newly co-opted) |
| **2** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Roger Jay and Barry Coveley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. Roger Jay, Jamie Pizey, Annie Bassham and Julia Lines all declared an interest in the allotments as holders of allotment plots. |
| **3** | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meetings of 28th November 2016 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council. |
| **4** 4.1 | **MATTERS ARISING** The Wensum Trust replied that an enhanced DBS check will be carried out on any 3rd party who leases the Bungalow in the Academy grounds. |
| **5** 5.1 | **CORRESPONDENCE** It was agreed to give a grant of £2,500 to the AcleFirst Responders, to assist with the purchase of a second set of equipment and new uniforms. It was agreed to advertise the service to try to find people willing to fundraise for the local group. |
| 5.2 | Grasscutting at Acle Churchyard. The council previously agreed to pay the costs of the grasscutting for the churchyard in full for 2017 so long as the cost was not increased by more than 2%. The quote for 2017 has been received and is £1,814, up by 3% but the price was previously kept the same for 2 years. The revised quote of £1,814 was accepted. |
| 5.3 | The Police website listed 11 reported crimes in Acle in October 2016. There was a report on the recent Police Engagement Meeting, held in Acle. Only councillors from Acle and Upton attended the meeting so all local issues were raised with the Police. |
| 5.4 | BDC has accepted the nomination for Lloyds Bank onto the Broadland Assets of Community Value Register. The owner has an eight-week period to appeal the listing. This listing is for the bank and the car park; the flat above is residential and therefore outside the remit of the scheme. |
| 5.5 | Highways England has replied to repeated complaints about flooding on the A47 sliproad. The location has been submitted for a drainage renewal scheme but there is no timescale available for the works. Highways England have said they will visit the site and consider if some small-scale works can be carried out to help in the short-term. |
| 5.6 | Nearly all of the 10,000 local councils in England signed up to join the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) to benefit from collectively procured external audit services. Three audit firms have been appointed for a five-year period from 1st April 2017. This was noted. |
| 5.7 | Norfolk County Council is consulting the public on a proposed third river crossing for Great Yarmouth. |
| 5.8 | The Broads Authority sent details of its proposal to charge tolls depending on the length of each boat, together with an increase of 3% in tolls generally. |
| 5.9 | Residents who buy heating oil were reminded that Acle is a member of the Thinking  Fuel bulk purchase scheme. |
| **6** 6.1 | **PLANNING Planning decisions from Broadland District Council:**   1. **Mr Gurney, Post Office –** creation of flat over post office including two storey extension (20161517) – full approval (no direct vehicular access permitted) 2. **Mrs Louise Dolman, Acle Antiques, The Street** – change of use of part of building from A1 retail to tearoom (A3) (20161582) – approval granted (8.00hrs to 18.00hrs Monday to Saturday) |
| 6.2 | **The Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) Call for Sites** took place over the Summer. More land was put forward than is required to meet the requirements for new housing the district. The sites put forward have not yet been assessed or filtered in any way. The sites will be reviewed for suitability and sustainability. Acle has been discounted for large-scale developments, however seven sites have been put forward for development by landowners. The councillors discussed the sites and raised concerns about existing infrastructure, sewerage capacity, highways access and adequate car parking. |
| **7** | **HIGHWAYS MATTERS** |
| 7.1  7.2 | **Planting on A1064 –** planting in large beds is planned alongside the A1064 to increase drivers’ awareness of entering an area of housing and hopefully to decrease speeds. One pair of beds is 33m x 4.6m and one pair is 16m x 2.6m, with low-level planting so as not to affect visibility.  Acle Lands Trust have suggested that planting should be wildflowers to link to Roman Wood… ALT will get a planting proposal from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust for the January meeting.  **Bulbs –** no decision was made. |
| 7.3 | **Hedges and trees –** it was reported that hedges and trees are overhanging footways in various locations around the village. |
| 7.4 | **Litter picking** – it was agreed to advertise to see if any residents wish to help out with litter picking around the village. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the purchase of Hi-Vis jackets and litter picking tools. |
| 7.5 | **Christmas lighting** – It was reported by the contractor that the folly tree lights had been waterlogged, but had been re-set. The councillors were disappointed that the lights had only worked for a short time. |
| 7.6 | **Christmas tree** – Tony Hemmingway was thanked for putting the lights on the tree on the Green. Adam Fisher was thanked for sourcing the tree. Rhino’s paid for the tree and helped with the installation of the tree. |
| **8.** 8.1  8.2 | **RECREATION CENTRE** Trustee Barry Brooks gave a report: the refurbishment of the main hall is complete. In addition to this work, the Centre has resurfaced the car park, moved the office downstairs and repaired the play area.  It was noted that £78,073 has been paid to date as part of the Parish Council’s agreed £82,000 donation toward the refurbishment of the main hall. |
| **9** | **PROJECTS** |
| 9.1 | **Springfield: a** working party met this morning to review the five quotes for play equipment. One preferred design was chosen but some changes to the layout will be discussed before accepting the quote.  A site meeting was booked for Tuesday, 17th January at 2.30pm. |
| 9.2 | **CPO for Cemetery Land** Nothing to report. |
| 9.3 | **Website** – this will be on the agenda for the next meeting. |
| 10 | **ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION** Several councillors have allotment plots and will attend the forthcoming AGM and then report back to the Council. |
| 11 | **BUDGET AND PRECEPT** |
|  | The working party recommended an increase of the precept to £92,918, calculated as a 10% increase for a Band D home, which equates to an increase of 72 pence per month per Band D home but, because the number of homes has increased, the increase in the total precept is 10.68%.  The estimates for the current year, 16/17, suggest a surplus of £23,146 after transfers to earmarked reserves and not including the purchase of the bank building and the grants to the Recreation Centre. If it hadn’t been for the rental income from the bank and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), there would have been a loss.  The budget for 17/18 is for a surplus of £9,802, after transfers to earmarked reserves but, without the rental income from the bank, a loss of £15,698 would be forecast.  It was noted that the capital sum from the sale of the land can only be spent on the purchase of capital assets and cannot be used for day-to-day running costs.  The Council confirmed the precept at £92,918. |

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| **12** | | **FINANCE** | |
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|  | £93,791.32 is held by Mills & Reeve to be used to pay for the crossing on A1064.  The grant paid to Acle Recreation Centre currently totals £78,073.03 of the £82,000 agreed, towards the refurbishment of the main hall. | |
| **13** | **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**   * Additional Christmas lighting * CCTV * Roadworks | |
| **14** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 30th January 2017** | |

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.45 pm

Signed:…………………………………. Dated: 30th January 2017  
 Chairman