

# *Acle Parish Council*

Meeting Date: Monday, 25th April 2016  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.30 p.m.

## **PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were six members of the public present. Matters raised included the issue of people parking regularly in Acle to catch the bus to work, a request for a map of the village to put on the noticeboard at Hermitage Close and complaints about people driving too fast through the village.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report: a speed check for A1064 had been requested. Residents may wish to pay for an “extended H” to be painted across the entrance to their driveways, to remind people not to park across driveways (£60 each). (I---I)

## **PRESENT:**

Tony Hemmingway – Chairman

Barry Coveley – Vice-chairman

Sally Aldridge, Annie Bassham, David Burnett, Jackie Clover, Jack Horner-Glister, Roger Jay, Julia Line, Jamie Pizey, Ellen Thompson and Parish Clerk Pauline James.

1. **APOLOGIES** Parish Councillor Angela Bishop and District Councillor Lana Hemsall.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

David Burnett, Barry Coveley, Jackie Clover and Roger Jay declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. Jackie also had an interest in a payment.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2016 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 The Bure Valley Conservation Group will clear out the ditch at the allotments as far as they are able to, and have booked two sessions, 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, for a total cost of £175. The clerk will book a skip for both days. Julia Line and Annie Bassham will keep the allotment holders up to date. The clerk will contact the owners of Embrujo (Hermitage).
- 4.2 The Queen’s Birthday and St George’s Day party was very successful with a very good turnout. Thanks to all those involved. Several people at the event thanked the Parish Council for paying for the event.

4.3 MP Keith Simpson sent a letter from the Government confirming that it was considering the Parish Council's request for a Compulsory Purchase Order for land for a cemetery.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Norfolk County Council sent notice that planning applications will henceforth be sent electronically. The clerk wrote to express disappointment at this decision as the Parish Council does not have a projector to see the plans at a meeting and there is no internet at the Methodist Hall to enable online access at a meeting.

5.2 There were ten crimes reported in Acle in February, which is the latest month for which there is information. It was also noted that someone had attempted to light fires on the boardwalk at the Damgate Woods.

5.3 There have been two reports of vandalism at the allotments.

## **6.1 PLANNING MATTERS**

i) **Mr & Mrs McKay, 8 Englands Road** – single storey front extension (20160547). There were no objections to the plans themselves, but councillors were unhappy about the high fence surrounding the property as it reduces visibility along the road. The clerk was asked to contact Broadland District Council.

## **7 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

7.1 A couple of street lights were reported for repair.

7.2 A resident asked for a new dog poo bin on Norwich Road, near to the permissive path across to Mill Lane. Broadland District Council will not pay for new bin but would collect and empty a bin for £3.21 per week if the Parish Council bought one. The councillors said that there used to be a bin at this location so the clerk was asked to request that the bin is reinstated.

7.3 The councillors discussed the ongoing problem of many people parking all day in Acle and then getting the bus to Norwich or to Yarmouth. The clerk was asked to contact Norfolk County Council to organise a survey of the parking and suggestions to improve the situation.

7.4 It was noted that the Doctor's Footpath needs cutting.

## **8 ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**

8.1 Trustee Barry Brooks gave a report; the committee is applying for grants to refurbish the changing rooms and for repairs to the roof of the main hall and the roof of the indoor bowls area. There have been many improvements at the Centre over the past 12 months.

8.2 The Trustees requested a grant or a loan towards the refurbishment of the main hall, including a new suspended ceiling, new floor finish, redecoration, replacement of the high-level windows, new curtains, new seating, new lighting and new heating. There has been an estimate of £76,000 for the works, excluding heating installation works, which has been estimated at £6,000. All costs are excluding VAT and any fees. The cost for a detailed report is £1,000.

(David Burnett, Barry Coveley, Jackie Clover and Roger Jay then left the room for the discussions and decision, being Trustees.) After some discussion it was agreed to give a grant of at least 30% of the £82,000, i.e. £27,333, and a loan for the remainder of the monies. The amount of the grant will be discussed again once more details are known. It was agreed that the professional fees in advance of the work would be paid by the Parish Council, out of this grant.

## **9 SPRINGFIELD LAND**

There will be a meeting of the committee shortly, with the landowners.

## **10 FLETCHER ROOM**

The Fletcher Room committee met on 12<sup>th</sup> April. The committee considered the extension of the existing building, construction of a new room adjacent to the existing building, the removal of the current building and the construction of a new, larger building, or the construction of a newer building on a different site at the school.

The clerk will obtain quotes to do a feasibility study of the options.

A local company, Modular Works, had done a rough drawing of a modular building which could be joined to the existing building, providing a room for younger children, which could be let out at other times for village groups. Acle Pre-School has requested a room for 2 year olds, a room for babies and a small office.

It was noted that there are only 10 years left on the lease of the land from Norfolk County Council. The clerk was asked to contact Norfolk County Council to ask whether the lease could be extended, and if so, to ask what was the maximum number of years they would lease the land for. The clerk was also asked to enquire as to whether the land could be purchased. The situation if the school is transferred to an academy trust is unknown as the school playing fields would be leased to any academy trust, but it is unclear whether the Fletcher Room land would form part of that transfer.

## **11 SPEED LIMIT SIGNAGE ON A1064**

“Gateway” signage will say “Welcome to Acle – Please drive carefully” and “Thank you for driving carefully – Acle”. The top of the sign will be 2.3m from the ground. This was accepted.

## **12 PUBLIC TOILETS**

The public toilets are owned by Broadland District Council, but managed by the Parish Council. It was agreed that some refurbishment is needed and the clerk was asked to contact BDC to discuss this. Barry Coveley offered to purchase some new Perspex for the front of the clock above the bus shelter.

## **13 FINANCE**

### **Receipts:**

Jary's	Funeral fees	£ 215.00
HMRC	VAT repayment	4,220.32
Upton PC	Reimbursement costs	119.30

**Online Payments:**

Salaries:		3,190.91	
P James	Clerk's fee and exps - SO		
	- balance		
HMRC	PAYE & NIC		
Mick Ward	Cleaning - SO		
	- balance		
Norfolk Pension Fund	Clerk's pension		
Hugh Crane Ltd	Consumables for Fletcher Rm		38.30
Acle Recreation Centre	Youth engagement event		77.00
Internal Drainage Board	Drainage rates		42.10
Zurich	H & S training fee		114.00
Garden Guardian	Grasscutting March	1,158.59	
Jackie Clover	Plants and Party costs	306.22	
<b>Cheques for payment:</b>			
Wilkersons	Supplies	27.44	
Plumbright UK Ltd	Repairs at public toilets	325.25	
T T Jones	Lighting repairs	829.40	
C & M Glass	Repairs to window	120.00	
Acle Methodist Church	Meeting room hire x 2	34.00	
	Donation re Tea & Talk	17.00	
Balance c/f 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2016		643,045.41	
Government stocks		128,304.00	
Cambridge B/Society	Instant access 0.5%	75,000.00	
Lloyds Bank	12m to Feb 2017 1.05%	175,000.00	
Nationwide B/Society	12m to Feb 2017 1.2%	75,000.00	
Total monies		1,096,349.00	

£93,791.32 is held by Mills & Reeve to be used to pay for the crossing on A1064.

These payments were approved.

It was noted that the books have been taken to John Gallop for the annual internal audit. It was agreed that the Budget v Actual report would be presented to councillors each month henceforth.

It was reported that the freehold of the Barclays Bank building had been sold recently. The councillors expressed disappointment that the Parish Council had not had the chance to make an offer for the building. It was noted that, as it was sold as a going concern, it would not have qualified as a building listed for community use.

**14 MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- i) Allotments
- ii) Trees
- iii) Acle in Bloom
- iv) Any report on the cemetery

**15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING –**

- i) **Annual Parish Council Meeting** – Monday, 23rd May 2016 at 7.30pm, with refreshments from 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.00 pm

Signed.....  
Chairman

Dated: 23rd May 2016