

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 27th June 2016
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM:

There were about 30 members of the public present. Matters raised included:

Flooding in Beighton Road: complaints about lack of information from the landlords, Circle Anglia, concerns about the state of the homes following the flooding and the risk of repeat flooding. The clerk was asked to send these concerns to Circle. Lana Hemsall had already spoken to the BDC housing department and offered to contact the planning department to find out why measures were not taken to protect the houses from a known flood risk.

Flooding in New Road: residents thanked the Parish Council and County Councillor Brian Iles for a swift response to recent flooding. It was noted that Norfolk County Council plans to carry out comprehensive drainage improvements in New Road in September.

Flooding in Hermitage Close: it was reported that the ditch north of Hermitage Close has not been cleared out for many years. Although there are proposed drainage improvements to A1064 due in October, residents expressed concerns that the new drainage would be linked to ditches which were blocked. The clerk will contact NCC.

Acle Pre-School: there was an enquiry about progress with additional space for the Pre-School.

County Councillor Brian Iles commented on the flooding issues and mentioned a review of the traffic flows at the Postwick Hub. Devolution is being considered by the County Council. The proposed housing-with-care scheme for Herondale is being reviewed for financial viability.

District Councillor Lana Hemsall gave a report on discussions with BDC about the recent flooding. BDC may have funding available to help with the Herondale project. Devolution is being discussed by the District Council.

PRESENT:

Tony Hemmingway – Chairman

Barry Coveley – Vice-chairman

Sally Aldridge, Annie Bassham, Angela Bishop, David Burnett, Jackie Clover, Roger Jay, Julia Line, Jamie Pizey, Ellen Thompson and Parish Clerk Pauline James.

1 APOLOGIES

The meeting proper started after an extensive public forum. Jamie Pizey and Annie Bassham left the meeting at this point.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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 Clover had an interest in a payment. Roger Jay and Julia Line declared an interest as allotment holders.

It was noted that the issue of councillors being required to leave a meeting during consideration of an agenda item in which they have a pecuniary interest had been re-confirmed at the May meeting.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of 23rd May 2016 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council.

4 MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 The purchase of the Barclays Bank building had been completed. There are some outstanding monies to collect from the tenant, Barclays.
- 4.2 Confirmation was obtained that co-opted councillors have all the same powers and roles as elected councillors
- 4.2 The YMCA is happy to meet with councillors to discuss assistance with the youth club. Annie Bassham, Angela Bishop and Julia Line will meet with them.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 Acle Allotment Association had requested assistance with the purchase of a powered wheelbarrow for the general use of all members, at a cost £1,150 including VAT. The clerk had requested a copy of the latest accounts, which showed £2,838 for the 2015 Accounts, the Association's rules, and details of the current committee. It was reported that there are 32 plots, all held by Acle residents at present. Eight people have expressed an interest in a powered barrow. The Association's reserves are for the replacement of the shed and include deposits refundable to allotment holders. The councillors requested copies of recent committee minutes and asked the Association to pursue other grants before the Council made a decision on funding.
- 5.2 The Police website listed 16 reported crimes in April 2016.
- 5.3 Councillors were invited to attend a Youth Engagement Networking Event at BDC on 18th July. Julia Line, Annie Bassham and the clerk will attend.
- 5.4 Councillors were invited to attend a workshop to explain the role of the BDC Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 20th September. The cost is £10 per person. The councillors expressed their disappointment that there was a charge for attending a BDC training event.
- 5.5 Angela Bishop reported on the setting up of the new Acle Emergency Relief Fund, via the Norfolk Community Foundation. The recent Good Neighbours Quiz donated £190 to residents affected by the recent flooding. There was some discussion as to whether

the Parish Council should make a grant but it was agreed to consider this again once there is more information available as to how the fund would be run.

6 PLANNING

6.1 Planning applications:

i) **Mr Smith, The Acorns, 38 Old Road** – attached garage with pitched roof (20160977). There were no objections to the plans.

6.2 The planning committee met on 6th June:

Mr McKay, 8 Englands Road – erection of boundary fence to front and sides – objected because of highways safety concerns.

NCC, Whites Farm – erection of agricultural building – no objections.

7 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

7.1 Street lights – nothing to report.

7.2 Flooding and Resilience:

i) Beighton Road: the matter had been raised and discussed under Public Forum. The clerk was asked to report all the residents' complaints to Circle Anglia and to ask Norfolk County Council for reassurance that the relevant ditches had been cleared out in case of further heavy rain.

ii) Boat Dyke Lane: flooding had occurred in a garden in Boat Dyke Lane since the ditch was cleared out alongside the allotments. Tony Hemmingway had installed some sand bags on the boundary with the garden but these had been washed away by the water during heavy rainfall. It was noted that the planned improvements to the drainage on A1064 should reduce the amount of water down Boat Dyke Lane. It was also noted that the resident had planted trees in the ditch some years ago, which has reduced the movement of flood water. It was agreed that up to £500 could be spent in work to reduce the flooding in this area.

(Barry Coveley left the meeting at this point)

7.3 It was agreed to defer discussion of **Christmas lighting** because of the late running of the meeting.

7.4 **Hanging baskets** – it was noted that the watering started 17th June.

8 RECREATION CENTRE

Barry Brooks gave a report: income for the Centre comes from hiring out the pitches and the rooms. Expected income for the year is £155,000 and expected expenditure is £150,000, including repairs to the car park. Additional income is needed to run the Centre. The refurbishment of the main hall would bring in different hirers, such as functions and conferences. It is currently only used about 40% of the available hours.

It was agreed to reconsider the amount of the grant at the next meeting.

9 SPRINGFIELD LAND

Opening event – the councillors reported that the event on 20th June had been very successful, despite the heavy rain.

Legal issue – the clerk reported on correspondence from Mills & Reeve about minor changes to the legal documentation.

SUDS – a scheme for the maintenance of the attenuation lagoon had been prepared. Councillors felt that more information was required as to the Council's role, including a map of the various pipes. The working party will meet to find out more.

Road name – no further information had been received from Saffron/Crocus. It was agreed that the working party should make a decision on this at their next meeting.

10 FLETCHER ROOM

NPS wrote to say that Norfolk County Council, as landlord, would be prepared to consider an extension to the lease term to up to 25 years. They asked to see plans and a specification of the proposed extension and whether this involved taking any additional land. They would then undertake a consultation process, which would include the School's Governing Body.

NPS said that NCC would not be prepared to sell the site.

It was also stated that in circumstances where the school decided to become an academy, NCC would seek to exclude the area leased to the Borderland Trust out of the area leased to the Academy Trust. However, they are unable to confirm this until / unless the school goes down the academy route as the detail of the discussion would only take place at that time with the academy trust, and these are site specif

11 REGATTA AND VILLAGE WALK

Nothing to report.

12 GARDEN AT METHODIST CHURCH

Angela Bishop reported that the first phase of the dementia-friendly garden had been completed, with three benches and some planting. It had been used for a Tea & Talk afternoon.

13 FINANCE

Receipts:		£	
Gilts	Interest	825.42	
Lloyds	Bank interest	22.24	
Strumpshaw PC	Share of exps	52.50	
Upton PC	Share of exps	61.88	
Allotment Association	Reimbursement of water	150.99	
Cemetery	Memorial and burial fees	2,050.00	
Direct debits:			
Veolia	Skip hire	173.10	
SWALEC	Electricity for street lights – 2 months	1,454.04	
Anglian Water	Water at public toilets	572.96	
Anglian Water	Water at allotments	18.21	
Anglian Water	Water at cemetery	15.70	
Siemens	Copier rental	213.57	
Payments made:			
Mills & Reeve	Purchase of bank building (balance)	337,500.00	
Mills & Reeve	Buyer's fees	5,147.00	
Mills & Reeve	Share of maintenance re building	1,758.39	
Mills & Reeve	Legal work re bank	2,463.00	
Came & Co	Additional insurance for building	54.56	
Rhino	Materials for benches	44.40	
Online Payments:			
Employment costs:		3,158.36	
Pauline James	Clerk's fee and expenses - SO		
	- Balance of exps		
Norfolk Pension Fund	Clerk's pension		
Mick Ward	Cleaning - SO		
	- Balance		
HMRC	PAYE & NIC		
Garden Guardian	Grasscutting		1,158.59
Hugh Crane Ltd	Fletcher Room consumables		120.77
Mills & Reeve	Legal fees re sale of Springfield		603.40
Mills & Reeve	Stamp Duty re building		8,250.00
George Taylor	Construction of boxes at garden	140.00	
Jackie Clover	Soil for hanging baskets	23.20	
Alice Auton-Warby	Watering baskets	75.60	
James Auton-Warby	Watering baskets	75.60	
Brown & Co	Work re purchase of building	3,666.18	
Brown & Co	Survey	1,800.00	
Bure Valley Cons.	Work at allotments	175.00	
Acle Rec Centre	Youth Club room hire	47.00	
Total Gas & Power	Electricity at toilets	127.22	
Acle Pre-school	Repairs to taps	85.13	
Cheques for payment:			
Wilkerson's	Consumables	43.76	
Wendy Butler	Cleaning	45.00	

T T Jones Electrical	Repairs of street lights	317.32
Methodist Church	Meeting room hire	34.00
Bal c/f 27th June 2016		<u>270,033.84</u>
Government Stocks		128,264.00
Cambridge B/Soc	Instant access 0.5%	75,000.00
Lloyds Bank	12m to Feb 2017 1.05%	175,000.00
Nationwide B/Soc	12m to Feb 2017 1.2%	75,000.00
Total monies		<u>723,297.84</u>

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

The report of Actual v budget for 3 months was presented and noted.

14 INVESTMENT POLICY

The Investment Policy was revised for investing in land and buildings and was approved.

15 CEMETERY EXTENSION

There had been no correspondence from the Secretary of State regarding the request for a Compulsory Purchase Order.

16 MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

No matters listed.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 25th July 2016

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.40 pm

Signed:.....
Chairman

Dated: 25th July 2016