Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 27th February 2017  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.30 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were eight members of the public present. Matters raised included: notices for church events removed from noticeboards by persons unknown.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report: the firm chosen to construct housing with care on the Herondale site has withdrawn its bid. It is hoped that Norfolk County Council will restart the bidding process but it was noted that NCC is looking to sell some of its land in the county.

District Councillor Lana Hempsall sent her apologies.

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

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| 1 | **APOLOGIES** Angela Bishop, Jackie Clover and Jamie Pizey. |
| **2** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Roger Jay, David Burnett and Barry Coveley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. Annie Bassham, David Burnett, Julia Line and Roger Jay declared an interest as allotment holders. |
| **3** | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meetings of 30th January and 13th February 2017 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council. |
| **4** 4.1 | **MATTERS ARISING** A mole catcher has been contracted to reduce the moles at the cemetery. |
| 4.2 | Brian Iles asked Norfolk Property Services about the use of the car park at the Herondale site; it was decided to continue with informal use. |
| 4.3 | Broadland District Council is supporting the Great British Spring Clean and will collect litter from organised litter picks throughout March. Anna Wade has organised a litter pick for Sunday, 5th March. Wilkersons have kindly donated hi-vis jackets and litter picking tools. |
| 4.4 | Enterprise Inns have confirmed that the Kings Head is not for sale. |
| **5** 5.1 | **CORRESPONDENCE** A grant was agreed for planting at Acle Lands Trust land at Roman Wood:   * Hedgerow mix of wild flowers and grasses at entrance to Roman Wood £19 * Introduction of yellow rattle plants – for plants and work, up to £530   A copy of the Acle Lands Trust Chairman’s report was circulated and noted. |
| 5.2 | The Police website listed 17 reported crimes in Acle in December 2016. |
| 5.3 | Posters for various events were noted. |
| **6** 6.1 | **PLANNING i**) **Mr & Mrs Hornagold, 7 The Hill** – single storey rear extension (20170237). There were no objections to the plans.  **ii) Mr & Mrs Dent, St Helen’s, Pyebush Lane** – extension to form self-contained annexe to existing bungalow (20170242). There were no objections to the plans.  iii) TPO for tree in New Close – this was noted. |
| 6.2 | **Planning decisions from Broadland District Council:**   1. **Mr Cowles, 5 Beighton Road** – single storey side and rear extensions (20162145) – full approval. 2. **Acle Medical Centre,** single storey consulting and office cabin with link (20170020) – full approval. 3. **30 New Close** – crown reduction of tree granted. |
| **7** | **HIGHWAYS MATTERS** |
| 7.1 | It was agreed to purchase a new dog bin for The Hill, near to the junction with Carters Loke and the “Doctor’s footpath”. The cost for emptying the bin will be £3.21 per week. BDC has agreed to replace the dog bin stolen from the entrance to Damgate Woods and the litter bin removed from the entrance to Damgate Lane. |
| 7.2 | It was noted that various repairs are needed in the public toilets. The clerk has previously met with the officer from BDC to discuss this and it is hoped that BDC will fund a refurbishment of the public toilets. |
| **8.** 8.1 | **RECREATION CENTRE** Trustee Barry Brooks gave a report: parish councillors attended an event to celebrate the completion of the refurbishment of the main hall. A great deal has been accomplished by the Trustees over the past two years. The committee has a 5-year plan for refurbishment, including repairs to the roof of the main building. Residents are invited to the AGM on 28th March. |
| 8.2 | Nine people put themselves forward for nomination as Trustees: David Burnett, Barry Coveley, Barry Brooks, Jackie Clover, Dennis Fisher, Diane Fisher, John Pryce, Ken Gale and Tom Hiller. Roger Jay did not wish to be re-appointed and was thanked for his work on the Committee. It was agreed to appoint these nine people to the Committee. |
| 8.3 | It was noted that £81,274.01 has been paid to date out of the £82,000 grant agreed towards the refurbishment of the main hall, |
| 8.4 | There was a request for the Parish Council to pay for works at the skatepark to improve drainage: £259.13 and for the additional premium for public liability insurance for skatepark, £749.60. It was agreed to pay both these costs out of the budget allocation of £2,000. |
| **9** | **PROJECTS** |
| 9.1 | **Springfield:**  The next site meeting is Friday, 17th March at 1.30pm.  A result of the deed of variation to change plots 5 & 6 from rented affordable housing to shared equity properties was that the number of rented homes allocated under the Local Lettings Policy for Acle residents would have been reduced. After consultation with BDC it was agreed that plots 5 & 6 would be for shared ownership under the Local Lettings Policy, and plots 20 & 25 would also be nominated for rent under the Local Lettings Policy.  The first three market houses have been sold. The contract set out that the Parish Council would receive 60% of any uplift in the price of the market houses, after the deduction of relevant costs. These first three sales give rise to a further amount payable to the Parish Council of £99,360.  **Play equipment:** the supplier chosen by the working party is Sovereign. The design has been reworked, after suggestions from the working party, and is now costed at £47,862. Crocus are moving their materials from the play area shortly and are keen for the play equipment to be installed soon. It was agreed to place the order for the equipment subject to checking the final details of the site. |
| 9.2 | **Compulsory Purchase Order for Cemetery Land:**  The outline planning permission for change of use for the land north of the current cemetery runs out on 29th April. It was agreed to appoint planning consultant Alan Irvine to submit a new application, just for the one acre this time. |
| 9.3 | **Website**: Anna Wade reviewed the VisitAcle.com site and made some amendments to the content. The clerk has also updated some links. Anna reported that she has installed some software to track usage and over the past 3 weeks, 666 pages have been viewed by 159 users, many from overseas. It was agreed to update the list of local businesses. |
| 9.4 | **A1064:** the “Welcome to Acle” speed signs have been installed. It has not proved possible to have any planting at the north of the site, because the width of the verge proved to be insufficient. The planting area at the south of the site has also been reduced. This was noted. |
| 9.5 | **Beighton Road Play Area:** the surfacing needs cleaning, the springers need repainting, and laminated surfaces need attention. The clerk will arrange for this work to be done, but it may be that new equipment will need to be purchased in a few years’ time. The fencing is also rotten and will need to be replaced. The clerk has spoken to the landlords, Circle Anglia, and has asked for an extension to the lease before the Council spends additional money on the play equipment. |
| 9.6 | **Youth Club**: The rent has increased from £7.50 per hour to £8, (at a 50% discount on the normal hire cost,) but the hours have increased from 2 per week to 3, so the costs will be increased compared with budget. The repairs to the ceiling are £188.80 for the new tiles. The Recreation Centre will pay the labour costs. It was agreed to pay for these repairs.  Annie Bassham gave a report: the youth club is regularly attended by 20 – 22 young people and there is a happy atmosphere. Only one parent has signed up to assist with the sessions so it was agreed to pay for the YMCA to run the club until the end of August.  The clerk was asked to contact the treasurer of the former Youth Club again to ask for the outstanding funds to be returned to the Council. There has been no reply to two previous letters. |
| 9.7 | **Allotment Association:** Tony Hemmingway reported on the recent AGM; there were no elections for the officers and there were no minutes from the previous AGM. After some discussion, it was agreed that the clerk should write to the Association to insist that the Association’s rules should be observed and that the officers needed to be elected at the next meeting, but the members present at the meeting. A set of the latest accounts was also requested. |
| 9.8 | **Purchase of Properties:** The Council is considering the purchase of the flats above Barclays. Given the sensitive nature of the valuation it was agreed to move this item to a confidential session at the end of the meeting. |
| 9.9 | **No Cold Calling Zones:** 56 letters of support have been received so far. The proposal was explained in the recent Community Newsletter, delivered to every home. |
| 9.10 | **Dementia-Friendly Garden:** it was agreed to use the remaining grant monies to purchase new plants for the garden. |
| 9.11 | **Commemoration of the end of World War 1:** this will be discussed at the next meeting. |

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| 10 | | **FINANCE** | |
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|  | £93,791.32 is held by Mills & Reeve to be used to pay for the crossing on A1064.  The clerk presented a schedule of actual income and expenditure compared with budget for the 11 months to 27th February 2017. This was noted. | |
|  | The clerk reported on the recent Practitioners’ Conference. | |

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| 11 | **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**   * WW1 commemoration * Allotments * Refurbishment of the public toilets * CCTV for the public toilets * Acle in Bloom * The Co-Op moving to Budgens site |
| 12 | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 27th March 2017** |