Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 30th October 2017  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.00 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were 14 members of the public present. Representatives from Acle Academy introduced themselves and expressed an interest in linking the school more with village events. Matters raised by the public included: graffiti on Network Rail’s railway bridge over Reedham Road, and issues with people parking in The Street all day.

A committee member from the Acle Pre-School explained that the Pre-School is now over-subscribed following the introduction of Government funding for an additional 15 hours per week for 3- and 4-year old children of eligible working parents. He asked the councillors to reconsider the proposal to extend the building. The councillors explained that this is not a priority at present, given other demands on funds, and given that a Parish Council does not have a duty to provide childcare facilities. The clerk will contact Norfolk County Council to find out what they plan to do to increase provision locally.

**County Councillor Brian Iles** gave a report: NCC has started discussions about the budget for 18/19 – there will be a public consultation on the proposals and residents are invited to submit suggestions for savings towards the £7m cuts needed. NCC’s property committee is starting to look at the plans for up to 140 homes on the land at Norwich Road. Brian continues to ask NCC officers about the plans for the Herondale site.  
  
**PRESENT:**   
Tony Hemmingway – Chairman  
Sally Aldridge, Annie Bassham, David Burnett, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Roger Jay, Chris Linehan, Jamie Pizey and Anna Wade. Parish Clerk Pauline James.

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| 1 | **APOLOGIES** Angela Bishop and Ellen Thompson. Also District Councillor Lana Hempsall. | | |
| **2** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Barry Coveley, David Burnett and Chris Linehan declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. Jackie Clover is a member of the local Royal British Legion. | | |
| **3** | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of 25th September 2017 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council. | | |
| **4** 4.1 | **MATTERS ARISING** The East of England Co-Op has no plans to install another defibrillator on the old store, but is keen to help the parish raise funds for a new one through the community token scheme in the new store. | | |
| 4.2 | One of the flats is let, subject to final checks. The clerk has organised the utility bills and has ordered a washer/dryer for one flat. | | |
| 4.3 | Environmental Health – there is no out of hours environmental health officer. Residents can be given a programme to download which records noise levels to help make a case. | | |
| 4.4 | Jackie Clover had cut back the overhanging hedge at Herondale. | | |
| 4.5 | There was no reply from the Postmaster at Acle Post Office about permission to install Christmas lights on the building. | | |
| 4.6 | Norfolk County Council confirmed that no signage or additional lighting is needed for the zebra crossing on Norwich Road. | | |
| 4.7 | Shane Tovell sent his “CV” to provide information to councillors, as their newly appointed Trustee of the Recreation Centre. This was noted. | | |
| 4.8 | Highways England confirmed that the weeds on the eastbound A47 sliproad would be sprayed during October. The clerk was asked to contact Highways England about maintenance on the roundabout at the BP garage – the Parish Council had previously asked about sponsoring the cutting of the grass so that it would look better. | | |
| 4.9 | It was noted that the graffiti on the rail bridge had been roughly painted over. It is not known by whom. | | |
| 4.10 | The clerk had obtained ownership details of the land behind the shops in The Street and the Old Station Road, to consider for parking schemes. It was agreed to defer discussion until the end of the meeting. | | |
| **5** 5.1 | **CORRESPONDENCE** Changes to Policing Structure had been announced in the press; Acle Police Station is to be closed; officers will operate out of a new centre at Broadland Gate in Postwick. All PCSOs are to be made redundant. Chief Inspector Hornigold had asked that either he or Inspector Hooper attends a meeting to explain the changes to residents. The clerk was asked to arrange an evening meeting. The clerk was asked to apply for the Police Station to be listed as an Asset of Community Value so that the Parish Council would be notified of any plans to sell the site. | | |
| 5.2 | There was a request for a grant for Acle Stay and Play; about 20 children attend, mostly from Acle. It was agreed to give a grant of £100 for toys and equipment. | | |
| 5.3 | It was agreed to give a grant of £100 to the Royal British Legion. (LGA 1972 s.137 donation.) | | |
| 5.5 | The Police website listed 11 crimes in Acle in August 2017. | | |
| 5.6 | The information that Acle Pre-School is over-subscribed was noted. | | |
| 5.7 | The Broads Authority had been awarded funding for its Water, Mills and Marshes scheme to improve and preserve the heritage assets in the area, including educational facilities. | | |
| **6** | **PLANNING** | | |
| 6.1 | **Planning decisions from Broadland District Council:**  **Hugh Crane Cleaning Equipment Ltd., South Walsham Road** – extension to existing building (20171524) – full approval. | | |
| 6.2 | **Planning decisions from the Broads Authority:**  **Euro Garages Ltd, Starbucks, former Little Chef** – external alterations (BA/2017/0215/FUL) – Broads Full Approval.  **Euro Garages Ltd, Starbucks, former Little Chef** – 1 x internally illuminated totem sign, 2x LED individual letter signs, 2 x internally illuminated siren signs. (BA/2017/0256/ADV). Broads Advertising approval. | | |
| 7 | **HIGHWAYS MATTERS** | | |
| 7.1 | The clerk met with the Broads Authority and local businesses at Acle Bridge to discuss highways issues and vehicle speeds. The Broads Authority is to write to NCC requesting a speed limit of 40mph along that stretch of A1064, better signage of the 30mph limit over the bridge and the installation of flashing speed signs on both sides of the bridge. NCC Brian Iles offered £2,000 of his highways budget, and the owner of Pedro’s offered £1,000 towards this signage. The Broads Authority had asked if Acle Parish Council would consider giving a grant towards the speed reduction measures, possibly under the Parish Partnership scheme whereby NCC match-funds money given by the Parish Council. After some discussion it was agreed to get more information about costs.  The clerk reported that the public footpath goes under the road bridge at Acle Bridge from one side to the other. She has asked the Broads Authority to improve the access, removing a tree, and to make the path more suitable for pedestrians.  It was noted that some trees overhang the highways signage along A1064 and need trimming back. This will be reported to NCC. | | |
| 7.2 | Highways England will be meeting with councillors from local parishes shortly to discuss local issues with the dualling of the Burlingham stretch of the A47.  Notification has been received that the work to dual the North Burlingham stretch of the A47 will commence in 2021-22. | | |
| 7.3 | Highways England are currently carrying out overnight repairs to A47, including the westbound sliproad. They are also repairing the A47 Acle Straight overnight. The closures are expected to last until 28th November. | | |
| 7.4 | NCC sent notice of the overnight closure of fp 8, south of Damgate level crossing, on 11th November, because of rail track inspections | | |
| 7.5 | Tony Hemmingway will meet with the street lighting contractors shortly to arrange for the installation of the Christmas lights on the Barclays Bank building. It was agreed to proceed with this work. | | |
| **8** 8.1 | **RECREATION CENTRE** Trustee Barry Brooks gave a report; he thanked the Parish Council for their grants towards the refurbishment. The roofing works have been completed, including some additional guttering.  Prices for converting some of the grassed area to 31 additional car park spaces will be considered at the next meeting.  It was noted that the minutes of the Recreation Centre committee meetings are only issued to parish councillors once approved, and are confidential. | | |
| 8.2 | The Parish Council agreed to give a grant of 50% of the cost of the roof repairs totalling £37,500, i.e. £18,750. This amount has now been reached. The Council has paid for £18,750 as a grant, and will lend the remainder, £18,750 + VAT on some of the payments, totalling £20,992, to be paid back in annual payments of £2,099.20 on the 23rd October each year.  In the Summer of 2016, the Council agreed to pay up to £82,000 for the refurbishment of the main hall. The cost came to £81,274.01, i.e. an underspend of £725.99. The works to the roof in 2017 resulted in additional guttering work being needed and an overspend of £570.00. The councillors agreed to pay for this overspend out of the underspend on the hall in 2016. | | |
| **9** | **ACLE LANDS TRUST** Jackie Clover reported that the calendars have been printed and will be sold locally to raise money towards the cost of a new mower. | | |
| **10** | **PROJECTS** | | |
| 10.1 | **Springfield Land and Play equipment:** Saffron/Crocus offered to return the management of the open spaces land to Acle Parish Council. The clerk recommended waiting a further month for the turf to establish better. The clerk will contact the grasscutting contractor for a price to include the site in the regular maintenance.  It was noted that sales are going through on 3 homes in the first phase of construction and 5 in the second phase. | | |
| 10.2 | **Compulsory Purchase Order for Cemetery Land:**   No response yet from the Department of Communities and Local Government. | | |
| 10.3 | **Website**:  Anna Wade reported that the improvements to the business listings should be completed shortly. | | |
| 10.4 | **Parking:** The clerk was asked to find out more about the Broadland Steelworks site which is currently up for sale. Investigations continue to try to find out the owners of the site adjacent to the Travelodge. | | |
| 10.5 | **Youth Club**:  Barry Coveley offered to assist with the repair of the pool table lifting device. | | |
| 10.6 | **No Cold Calling Zones:** No update was available. | | |
| 10.7 | **Defibrillator:** There was some discussion about a suitable location for a new defibrillator. The East of England Co-Op has offered to assist with the funding of a new defibrillator by using its green token scheme in its store. | | |
| 10.8 | **Christmas Party:** This will take place on Sunday, 10th December, and will be free for accompanied primary school- aged children. Jackie Clover and Annie Bassham will be organising the event. | | |
| 10.9 | **WW1 Centenary 2018:** The main hall at the Recreation Centre has been booked for 11th November 2018. The Parish Council will pay for the room hire. | | |
| 10.10 | **CCTV:** It was agreed not to proceed with the earlier proposal to install CCTV in the village centre; anti-social behaviour in the village centre has decreased since the original Co-Op store closed. | | |
| **11** | **NEW PROJECTS** | | |
| 11.1 | **Information boards:** It was agreed to contact Acle Academy to ask if they would be interested in helping with the design of information boards for the village. The clerk will also contact Norfolk County Council for advice. | | |
| 11.2 | **Community Speedwatch:** It was agreed to ask residents if they would like to set up a new Speedwatch scheme. At least six people are needed to establish a local Speedwatch group. | | |
| 11.3 | **Councillor surgeries:** This was deferred to the next meeting. | | |
| 11.4 | **Welcome Packs for new residents:** It was agreed to draft a leaflet about the Parish Council, to be included in a pack with information from other local groups.  **David Burnett left the meeting at this point.** | | |
| **12** | **COMMUNITY HUB** | | |
|  | Councillors had met again with the East of England Co-Op to consider options for the space at the old Co-Op stores. There had been some discussion whether the Parish Council would be able to sub-let the space for offices. It had been hoped that residents would embrace the proposal and come forward to assist with running the venue but, after some discussion, it was agreed that there had not been enough support from the community for the scheme and that the councillors did not have the capacity to run it without additional support. | | |
| **13** | **FINANCE** | |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Receipts:** |  | £ | | Lloyds | Interest on savings account | 2.00 | | Various | Burial or Memorial fees | 1,030.00 | | Upton PC | Share of expenses | 8.45 | | HMRC | VAT refund | 14,733.56 | | Broadland DC | 2nd half precept | 46,459.00 | | Barclays | 1/4ly rental | 6,375.00 | | BDC | Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) | 30,216.38 | | **Payments between meetings:** |  |  | | SWALEC | Electricity for street lights (DD) | 739.39 | | Anglian Water | Cemetery (DD) | 15.68 | | Anglian Water | Toilets (DD) | 487.58 | | Anglian Water | Allotments (DD) | 105.02 | | Farbuild | Works at Rec Centre | 21,552.00 | | Ian Loveday | Works at Rec Centre | 330.00 | | Total Gas & Power | Electricity at toilets | 129.55 | | Veolia | Skip hire (DD) | 37.80 | | D Savory (Vistaprint) | Calendars | 1,679.79 | | ADM Plumbing | Plumbing at Fletcher Room | 75.00 | | British Gas | 44 The Street | 29.55 | | E. On | 44 The Street | 18.85 | | **Online payments:** |  |  | | Employment costs: |  | 3,432.68 | | Pauline James | Clerk’s fee and exps: SO | 1,000.00 | |  | : balance | 305.29 | | Norfolk Pension Fund | E’ees and E’ers Pension | 697.23 | | Mick Ward | Cleaning: SO | 650.00 | |  | : balance | 193.95 | | HMRC | PAYE & NIC | 586.21 | | Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire x 3 | 288.00 | | Garden Guardian | Grasscutting | 1,303.97 | | Hugh Crane Cleaning | Supplies | 135.26 | | Copy IT | Copying | 178.88 | | T T Jones | Repairs to street lights | 294.96 | | BDC | Rates for 42 The Street | 144.68 | | BDC | Rates for 44 The Street | 156.92 | | Seckers | Maintenance at Fletcher Room | 44.40 | | P James (John Lewis) | Washer/dryer for 42 The Street | 349.00 | | Jordan Fencing Ltd | Fencing at play area | 21,360.00 | | Plumbright Ltd | Drainage at toilets | 126.00 | | **Cheques for payment:** |  |  | | Wilkersons | Supplies | 62.20 | | Wendy Butler | Holiday cover | 160.44 | | Methodist Church | Room hire | 50.00 | | Royal British Legion | LGA 1972 s137 donation | 100.00 | | Elizabeth Knell | Acle Stay & Play donation | 100.00 | | Acle Society | Delivery newsletter x 2 | 80.00 | | **Balance c/f 30.10.17** |  | 82,741.60 | | **Balances in Savings:** |  |  | | Government Stocks | Decrease £3,491 | 131,192.00 | | Cambridge B/Soc | Instant access 0.15% | 1,245.18 | | Lloyds Bank | 32-day notice 0.45 % | 100,438.24 | | Nationwide B/Soc |  | 414.32 | | Total monies |  | 316,031.34 | | |
|  | £93,791.32 is held by Mills & Reeve to be used to pay for the crossing on A1064.  Outstanding commitments: Parking amendments £20,000 + VAT  The payments were authorised.  A report of Actual v Budget Income and Expenditure for the 7 months to 30th October was presented and accepted.  It was noted that Community Infrastructure Levy of £30,216 had been received, on developments at The White House, Springfield and Wood Farm, Moulton St Mary. CIL has to be spent within 5 years, on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or on anything else that addresses the demands that development places on the area. The funds will be used to pay for the new play area at Springfield. |
| 14 | **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**   * New bench in Mill Lane * The time of the meetings |
| 15 | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING –The next meeting is Monday 27th November 2017 at 7.00pm** |
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