Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 24th September 2018  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.00 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Gerry Batty, CEO of The Wensum Trust and John Smith, Chair of the Board of Trustees spoke about the good exam results achieved by pupils at Acle Academy this year, and about their plans for the future of the school. They agreed to speak to the headteacher, Helen Watts, about increasing feedback to the Parish Council.

There were nineteen members of the public present. Matters raised included;

* concerns about the removal of trees and hedgerow at the Springfield development
* bridges illegally constructed by residents onto Acle Lands Trust land. District Councillor Lana Hempsall was asked to contact the planning enforcement department at the Broads Authority for assistance with the removal of the bridges

**County Councillor Brian Iles** gave a report: Norfolk County Council is working on their budget for 19/20 – further savings are required. He talked about NCC’s consultation on the future of Children’s Centres, saying that the proposed change from premises-based services seemed to provide a better service to families. He stated that Acle Library will not close as a result of the proposed removal of Acle as a Children’s Centre.

**District Councillor Lana Hempsall** gave a report: she reminded residents of Broadland District Council’s Handyman + service and reported that BDC’s Health & Wellbeing Panel would be considering NCC’s proposals for Children’s Centres.

**PRESENT:**   
Chairman: Tony Hemmingway  
Sally Aldridge, David Burnett, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Roger Jay, Jamie Pizey, Ellen Thompson and Anna Wade. Also Parish Clerk, Pauline James.

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| **1** | | **APOLOGIES** Annie Bassham, Angela Bishop and Chris Linehan. | | |
| **2** | | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** David Burnett and Barry Coveley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. Jackie Clover is a member of the Acle Archive Group and Jamie Pizey is on the committee of Acle Society. Tony Hemmingway had an interest in a payment. | | |
| **3** | | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of 30th July 2018 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council. | | |
| **4** | | **MATTERS ARISING** | | |
| 4.1 | | George Taylor has said that the bench on A47 westbound sliproad would need a lot of work to refurbish it and that it may be more efficient to purchase a new one. It was agreed to purchase a new bench if this proved to be better value. | | |
| 4.2 | | The YMCA’s two Acle Peacemakers carried out 8 visits to the village, starting 4th August. They sent a report: more litter bins are needed, play equipment needs refurbishment, access to facilities is required.  YMCA proposed a mobile Peacemakers service for two youth workers using a van for 1 ¾ hours per week, for £7,300. The councillors asked for a report on the new drop in session on Monday evenings at the Recreation Centre. | | |
| 4.3 | | The clerk replied to a Freedom of Information request about the current streetlighting contract, which ends on 31st January 2020. | | |
| 4.4 | | There has been no reply from NCC about the proposal to put in a bypass to the west of Acle. | | |
| 4.5 | | Herondale – the clerk sent an offer from Acle Parish Council to NCC to buy the Herondale site. An acknowledgment has been received from the Chairman of the Adult Social Care Committee at NCC. | | |
| 4.6 | | The clerk has asked MP Keith Simpson to raise the councillors’ concerns about anti-social behaviour with the Chief Constable and then with the Home Secretary. | | |
| **5** | | **CORRESPONDENCE** | | |
| 5.1 | | Details of NCC’s proposal to close Children’s Centres in October 2019, including Acle’s, were discussed. The Drayton Children’s Centre would be the centre for the district. The clerk was asked to forward the link to the consultation to the councillors so that this can be discussed at the next meeting. | | |
| 5.2 | | The Police.uk website listed 15 crimes recorded in Acle in June and 13 in July. The clerk reported that the recent Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) meeting set the priorities as dealing with anti-social behaviour in Acle and Brundall. The clerk was asked to contact Brundall Parish Council to ask if they would be interested in sharing the proposed mobile youth worker service. | | |
| 5.3 | | Highways England sent details of the consultation on the scheme to dual the A47 at North Burlingham.  Tony Hemmingway and the clerk attended a further meeting with Highways England on 9th August. None of the various points put forward by the various parishes appeared to have been incorporated into the draft proposal.  There was a public consultation event in Acle on 22nd September, with events at Blofield and Lingwood on 24th and 25th (1.00 – 8.00pm)  Comments for formal return: no pavement on overbridge at B1140, concerns about increased traffic through Acle if Upton residents and HGV drivers find The Windle more difficult to use, loss of layby, tight radius of junction at B1140 and impact on Cucumber Lane roundabout. | | |
| 5.4 | | Norfolk County Council sent a copy of its Investigation Report into the flooding in Acle in 2016. However, it appears that NCC has no powers to enforce any of the recommendations set out in the report. | | |
| 5.5 | | A local charity has invited nominations for hampers for residents. The councillors were asked to contact the clerk with nominations. | | |
| 5.6 | | The YMCA and Broadland YAB are running a Health & Well-Being event on Tuesday, 6th November from 18.00 to 21.30 at the Recreation Centre. This was noted. | | |
| 5.7 | | Acle Academy has an Open Evening on Wednesday, 10th October from 6.30pm. This was noted. | | |
| 5.8 | | An Agreement under S.104 of the Water Industry Act 1991 at the Springfield land has been received. The clerk has asked Mills & Reeve to advise on the Agreement before it is signed by the Parish Council. The Agreement states that the Parish Council shall have no liability in relation to the future maintenance or repair of the works. | | |
| 5.9 | | Gt Yarmouth Borough Council has sent details of its Draft Local Plan Part 2. | | |
| 5.10 | | NCC sent details of its consultation on its proposal for a third river crossing at Gt Yarmouth. | | |
| 5.11 | | The RoSPA reports on the play areas have been received. An issue with the play equipment at Springfield has been reported to Sovereign and they have agreed to sort this out. | | |
| **6** | | **PLANNING** | | |
| 6.1 | | **Planning Applications:**   1. **Mr Gidney, 18 Hermitage Close** – double bay cart lodge including workshop (retrospective) (20181161). The councillors had no objections to the plans but requested a condition prohibiting residential use of the building. 2. **Mr & Mrs Eagle, 5 Peter Avenue** – single storey front extension and roof alterations (20181438). There were no objections to the plans. 3. **Crocus, Land to north of Springfield** – reposition of plots 20-21 and removal of trees to north of these plots (20181475).   The councillors agreed to support local residents’ requests that adequate planting be done to help to screen the new houses, with trees as large as possible.  It was noted that the plans also show some planting on the Parish Council’s play area, which would not be possible because of the safety surface in that area. It was agreed to consider some additional planting for the play area now that the weather is better for planting. | | |
| 6.2 | | **Plans received between meetings:**   1. **Hugh Crane Ltd** – extensions to an existing building (revised design) (20181268). There were no objections to the plans. | | |
| 6.3 | | **Decisions made by Broadland District Council:**   1. **38 Englands Road** – single storey side extension with attic storage (20180768) – full approval | | |
| **7** 7.1 | | **RECREATION CENTRE** Barry Brooks gave a report; Repairs to fencing have been completed. Work on the new car park has finished. The all-weather pitch is now kept locked because of repeated vandalism and broken glass.  As part of the insurance process, the buildings have been re-valued and this resulted in a much higher premium. A request for assistance with the cost of the insurance will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Barry Brooks was asked to send details of the insurance cover to the clerk so that it could be shared with the councillors. | | |
| **8** | | **PROJECTS** | | |
| 8.1 | | **Land for a cemetery:** Cemetery Development Services carried out a Site Suitability Baseline Assessment on eight sites to the north-west, west and south-west of the village. This will be discussed in closed session because of the commercial sensitivity of land values. | | |
| 8.2 | | **WW1 Commemorative event:** Plans are in place for this day-long event. The event will be advertised around the village. | | |
|  | | ***David Burnett left the meeting at this point.*** | | |
| 8.3 | | **Storage for Archive materials and display:** Jackie Clover asked for funding to pay for copying old photographs and for laminating popular photographs for displays. It was agreed a total of £200 could be spent on this. | | |
| 8.4 | | **Public toilets refurbishment:** There has been no further correspondence from Broadland District Council about the refurbishment.  The owners of the site, Enterprise Inns, have scheduled repairs to the wall to the rear of the public toilets in the near future. | | |
| 8.5 | | **Parking Restrictions in village centre:** NCC is planning to consult with residents shortly.  There was a new proposal, to restrict parking for a couple of hours per day, but to allow free parking at all other times. This will be discussed with Norfolk County Council. | | |
| 8.6 | | **Christmas Lights:**   1. The clerk has asked T T Jones to install new strings of coloured lights along the front of High House and some of the Post Office building. The clerk has also contacted the owners of the residential part of the building to ask for permission for the rest of the building. Tony Hemmingway still has about 45 metres of cable and 66 lamps. It was agreed that additional lamps could be purchased as required. 2. Folly Tree: it was agreed to ask the contractors to tie the cables up the branches but to ensure that the lamp holders are facing downwards so as to avoid water getting into the holders. 3. Christmas tree: It was agreed that Tony could purchase some additional strings of lights for the tree as a few were broken after last year. Jackie Clover confirmed that a tree has been ordered. | | |
| 8.7 | | **Hanging Baskets and Bowser:**   1. The councillors thanked Jackie for the excellent plants. It was agreed that the baskets looked lovely, despite the very hot and dry weather. James Auton-Warby had worked hard to keep the plants watered. The councillors thanked all those who had helped with the baskets. 2. It was agreed to purchase a tarpaulin to cover the bowser. 3. It was agreed to ask Harvey, Hines, Woods if the area where the bowser is stored could be boxed in to make it more secure as it was vandalised 3 or 4 times during the summer. | | |
|  | | ***Barry Coveley left the meeting at this point.*** | | |
| **9** | | **ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**  The listing of four sites (Public Library, Public Conveniences, Signal Box and Herondale) as Assets of Community Value expires on 3rd December.  New application forms need to be completed for each site. The requirement for listing is that “there is a time in the recent past (5 years) when the actual use of the asset furthered the social wellbeing or interests of the local community, and there is a time in the next 5 years when there could be a socially valuable use of the site.”  The clerk was asked to re-apply for all four sites. | | |
| **10** | **FINANCE** | | |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Receipts:** |  | £ | | Lloyds Bank | Interest on savings accounts – 1 month | 103.48 | | Upton PC | Reimbursement of costs | 20.84 | | Beighton PC | Reimbursement of costs | 20.84 | | Strumpshaw PC | Reimbursement of costs | 47.72 | | Various | Burial and memorial fees | 1,610.00 | | 42 The Street | Rent for one month | 795.00 | | 44 The Street | Rent for one month | 600.00 | | Norfolk CC | Payment re cutting verges | 1,944.87 | | J Clover | Cash for plants | 35.00 | | **Payments between meetings:** |  |  | | SWALEC | Electricity for street lights (DD) x 2 | 1,456.72 | | Employment costs: |  | 4,004.75 | | Copy IT | Copying | 36.43 | | Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire x 5 weeks | 120.00 | | Wilkersons | Supplies | 38.91 | | Garden Guardian | Grasscutting | 1,435.37 | | Hugh Crane Ltd | Supplies | 19.14 | | Playsafety Ltd | RoSPA inspection of play areas | 260.40 | | Tony Hemmingway | Electrical supplies | 118.51 | | T T Jones | Street light repairs | 144.41 | | Inspired Renewables | Electrical work at Fletcher Room | 685.72 | | Came & co | Insurance for the year | 2,894.49 | | Siemens | Copier rental | 213.57 | | PHS Waste | Waste disposal notice fee | 90.30 | | Good Neighbours | Payment of balance of grant | 404.49 | | **Online payments:** |  |  | | Employment costs: |  | 3,713.65 | | Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire x 4 weeks | 96.00 | | Acle Rec Centre | Repairs to skatepark | 150.00 | | Hugh Crane Ltd | Supplies | 103.57 | | Garden Guardian | Grasscutting | 1,435.37 | | T T Jones | Streetlight repairs | 101.47 | | Total Power | Electricity at public toilets | 77.79 | | YMCA | 8 weeks of youth workers |  | | Brown & Co | Survey at Herondale | 1,800.00 | | Cemetery Devel’t Mgt | Baseline assessment of 8 sites | 1,800.00 | | **Cheques for payment:** |  |  | | Wilkersons | Supplies | 13.26 | | Wendy Butler | Holiday cover for cleaning toilets | 207.38 | | Methodist Church | Room hire | 50.00 | | **Balance c/f 24.09.18** |  | 158,028.15 | | **Balances in Savings:** |  |  | | Government Stocks |  | 132,188.00 | | Cambridge B/Soc | Instant access 0.15% | 1,309.09 | | Lloyds Bank | 32-day notice 0.57 % | 100,890.70 | | Nationwide B/Soc |  | 438.24 | | Total monies |  | 392,854.18 | | | |
|  | Expected capital income: £311,770 is expected as overage monies from properties sold on Springfield land. The 2nd half precept of £51,105 is due shortly.  Outstanding commitments:  Parking amendments £20,000 + VAT Additional car park provision £35,000 - £40,000 + VAT The monies include reserves for repairs and renewals totalling £186,832. It was noted that Anna Wade had checked the July and August online payments to the bank statements.  Actual v Budget figures for the 6 months to 24th September were noted. The payments were authorised.  A quote to repairs the flat roof at Barclays Bank was agreed at £946.65.  A claim was made against Big Print Media t/a Post Distribution via the County Court Business Centre Online Court. As there was no response to the Claim, the clerk has requested a County Court Judgement against the company for non-delivery of the April newsletters. | |
| **11** | **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**   * **Defibrillators** * **Graffiti board** * **Youth workers** * **Consultation on changes to children’s centres** * **Recreation Centre insurance** * **A1064 borders** * **Bench in Mill Lane destroyed by Clarion Housing** | |
| **12** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING –The next meeting is Monday 29th October 2018 at 7.00pm.** | |