# Commuter parking

Some of the councillors met recently with Norfolk County Council to review the comments from the public consultation in December. More letters of support were received than objections, and the highways officer will be tweaking the scheme to take into account some of the objections.

Most of the scheme is to mark areas where people can only park for up to 2 hours between 9am and 4pm on weekdays. This will prevent commuter parking in areas where this affects highways safety and restricts parking for customers for village businesses.

Double yellow lines are only proposed in areas where parking causes a safety risk.

# The Archive Loft

The councillors have been looking, for sometime, for somewhere to store and manage the large collection of village archive photos and papers. In the end it was decided to build a space in the loft at the Recreation Centre, where all the documents can be stored, above the old office. The archive volunteers will then be able to work on the materials in the room below. The Parish Council is also assisting with the purchase of a new laptop, scanner and laminator so that materials can be stored and filed digitally, but also protected for public displays.

# Budget and Precept

At the December meeting, the Council set the precept for 2019/20 at a total of £112,430. This works out at an average of £115.67 for the year, for a Band D home, or 32p per day. The precept is collected by Broadland District Council within your Council Tax bill and pays for the running and maintenance of parish assets such as streetlights, benches, 3 play areas, cemetery, Fletcher Room (Pre-school building), youth club, grasscutting, and staff costs for the parish clerk and the cleaner.

The Council also has some capital reserves, such as the money raised by the sale of the land north of Springfield. This money can only be spent on buying other long-term assets and was used in the past to buy the Barclays Bank building and the flats above, which generate a good income for the parish from rents. The capital money will also be used to buy land for a new cemetery.

# Herondale

Councillors met with representatives from Norse Care and Saffron Housing who hope to build a block of flats on the Herondale site. The flats would be for rent, and for shared ownership, all for older people, known as Housing with Care. There would be staff on site 24 hours per day, but no nursing staff.

The councillors support the need for this type of housing in the village and think that it suits this location well, being near to the library, Recreation Centre, Methodist Church and the Medical

Centre. However, they want all the parking for residents, staff and visitors to be contained within the site and they have concerns about the possible height of the building and its impact on neighbouring properties.

There are only draft drawings at present, to give an indication of what might fit on the site. Norse Care promised a public consultation event when more detailed plans are available.

# Elections

There are parish council elections on Thursday, 2nd May, at the same time as elections for Broadland District Council. To stand for election as a parish councillor you must be at least 18 years old, be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union and must:

* Be registered as a local government elector in Acle, and will continue to be so, or
* Have owned or rented in the village for the last 12 months, or
* Have your main place of work in the village, or
* Have lived in the village, or within 3 miles of the village, for the whole of the last 12 months

Further details are available at the website for the Electoral Commission.

# Acle Children’s Centre

Norfolk County Council decided to keep Acle’s Children’s Centre open, together with 14 others.

# Community Gym

Don’t forget the Community Gym, open to all local residents at the Yare Room at the Rec Centre, on Monday afternoons from 5.30 to 7.30 and Friday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30. £5 per session. Qualified instructor. All welcome.

# Land for a new cemetery

Negotiations continue for a piece of land suitable for a new cemetery.

Banks

Barclays Bank continues to open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30 to 4.30.

Lloyds Bank has a mobile branch at the Recreation Centre car park on Tuesdays from 10.00 to 12.15 and 13.00 to 14.45.

# Dates for your Diary

The next Parish Council meetings are Mondays, 25th February, 25th March, 29th April, all at **7.00 pm** in the Methodist meeting room, with refreshments from 6.45pm. All residents are very welcome to attend all meetings.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is on Monday, 15th April, also at 7.00pm, in the worship area at the Methodist Church. The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of the parish, rather than of the Parish Council so is your meeting. Do come along to that one, to raise local issues. Hopefully your county councillor and district councillor will be able to attend, and the police will also be invited.

Meetings are advertised on the board in The Street, and on the websites.

Pauline James – parish clerk