Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 25th November 2019  
Venue: Methodist Hall, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.00 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were ten members of the public present. Matters raised included people parking on Hermitage Close, at the junction with A1064. Nigel Robson reported on the progress of the construction of the shed for Acle Lands Trust and that the Environment Agency dredged the drain in Damgate Wood.

Amie Evans, Development Worker with Norfolk County Council’s Adult Social Services spoke about introducing new clubs and societies in the village, such as a Men’s Shed. The councillors were enthusiastic about this and it was agreed to advertise on social media to see what support there was locally.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report: he has reported the slippery footway in the underpass in Reedham Road. NCC plans to plant 1m trees in Norfolk over 5 years.

District Councillor Lana Hempsall gave a report: the planning application for the land off Norwich Road is expected to go to the BDC Planning Committee on 18th December.

**PRESENT:**   
Councillors: Sally Aldridge, Angela Bishop, Jackie Clover, Jayne Greenacre, Brian Grint, Tony Hemmingway (Chairman), Hannah Jackson, Wendy Kenny, Jamie Pizey, Richard Powell and Anna Wade. Also Parish Clerk, Pauline James.

Hannah Jackson and Wendy Kenny signed a declaration of acceptance of office as newly co-opted parish councillors and were welcomed to the Parish Council.

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| **1** | | **APOLOGIES**  Barry Coveley | | |
| **2** | | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None. | | |
| **3** | | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of 28th October 2019 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council. | | |
| **4** | | **MATTERS ARISING** | | |
| 4.1 | | Several of the councillors met with Kirstin Hughes, Economic Development Manager at Broadland District Council, and Martin Thirkettle, Economic Development Officer at Broadland District Council. It had been a useful meeting, including these suggestions:   * Holding a business open day – with offers and events * Publicising the business units in Damgate Lane * Advertising businesses to new residents * Getting advice from a social enterprise running in Taverham * Providing more parking in the village * Considering a wire animal sculpture filled with plastic bottles * Joining the BREAK GO GO Hare scheme * Useful information available re who is registered for business rates in the village * Setting up a Business Association   It was noted that the new tenants at The Kings Head are keen to get involved in local events. | | |
| 4.2 | | Since a General Election had been called, Keith Simpson is no longer an MP so he cancelled his planned visit to Acle Pre-School. | | |
| 4.3 | | As a result of the clerk’s letter to Andrew Proctor, Leader of Norfolk County Council, a reply was received from Repton stating that all of the issues raised by the Parish Council have been carefully considered and addressed as far as they can be. The councillors were unhappy with the response and the clerk was asked to request copies of the minutes where the issues were discussed by Repton.  The clerk wrote to the Environment Agency and to the Water Management Alliance about the residents’ concerns about the impact on their wells, but with little result. | | |
| 4.4 | | NCC put in a new pipe at Church Corner, which has greatly reduced the flooding after heavy rains. | | |
| **5** | | **CORRESPONDENCE** | | |
| 5.1 | | NP Law wrote to give notice to terminate the concessionary path agreement on land north of Norwich Road, on 11th May 2020, due to the proposed building works. The councillors accepted this notice so long as the planning application goes ahead on this land. If it is unsuccessful then the permissive path will continue to be needed across the site. | | |
| 5.2 | | The clerk reported on correspondence from Crocus about the Parish Council taking over the open space areas on the Leffins Lane site, together with maintenance payments. | | |
| 5.3 | | Acle Methodist Church has asked for financial assistance with the fence between the Church car park and the new Rec Centre car park, costing £1,000. | | |
| 5.4 | | Brian Grint spoke about the Broads Hidden Heritage Festival, which will take place on 20th and 21st June 2020 at the Recreation Centre. | | |
| 5.5 | | Tony Hemmingway and the clerk met with Dave Savory, Chairman of Acle Pre-School, to discuss options for accommodation for the Pre-School. | | |
| 5.6 | | The clerk attended the tea party celebration for the 60th anniversary of the opening of Acle High School. | | |
| **6** | | **PLANNING** | | |
| 6.1 | | Planning applications considered at the Meeting:   1. **The School House, 41 South Walsham Road** – replacement of existing flat roof garage with two storey pitched roof extension (20191738). There were no objections to the plans. 2. **White House, 14 South Walsham Road** – proposed first floor extension (20191778). There were no objections to the plans. 3. **Tara Lodge, 31 Damgate Lane** – sub-division of plot for detached dwelling and alteration to existing dormers on east elevation of existing property (20191543). It was agreed to object to the plans because of overlooking issues, drainage concerns and poor visibility when exiting the site. | | |
| 6.2 | | Planning results from **Broadland District Council:**   1. **Windle Farm, The Windle** – single storey side and rear extension (20191250) – full approval 2. **Arthur Jary & Sons, Calthorpe Green** – conversion of shop unit to 1-bed self-contained apartment (20191276) – prior approval granted 3. **Plot 15a, adjacent 15 Fishley View** – subdivision of plot and erection of single storey dwelling (20191396) – refused. Not in keeping, private garden area too small, unsatisfactory access, leading to on-street parking, no space for bin collection point 4. **Orchard Cottage, Pyebush Lane** – raise garage roof and convert garage into office (20191410) – full approval 5. **22 Habgood Close** – single storey rear extension and front porch (20191498) – full approval | | |
| **7** | | **HIGHWAYS** | | |
| 7.1 | | A light was reported for repair. | | |
| 7.2 | | The clerk was reminded to apply for funding for the Vehicle Activated Sign for Reedham Road. | | |
| 7.3 | | Brian Grint offered to check the grit bin at the Herondale site to see if it could be moved to another site. | | |
| 7.4 | | The clerk will contact Norfolk County Council Highways to request some signage to warn drivers of pedestrians crossing Old Road from the new pathway from the Springfield site. | | |
| **8** 8.1 | | **RECREATION CENTRE** Barry Brooks gave a report: income has increased, and expenses have been reduced, for the 9 months to 30th September. A new sign indicating what facilities are available at the Centre has been approved by Broadland District Council. The Remembrance event at the Memorial Garden on 11th November was well attended. | | |
| **9** | | **PROJECTS** | | |
| 9.1 | | **New Cemetery:** A solicitor has been appointed at Mills & Reeve to act for the Parish Council. | | |
| 9.2 | | **Herondale:** Saffron Housing are arranging a public consultation drop-in event on 16th December, from 2.00 – 3.30pm and then from 5.30 – 7.00pm, before the Parish Council meeting, to show residents the latest plans for the housing-with-care apartments.  Saffron/Crocus have reported that it will not be possible to construct extra car parking at the Recreation Centre adjacent to Pyebush Lane because of the narrow access point by the Indoor Bowls building. They have offered to carry out some repairs to the parking by the Methodist Church and the Medical Centre. | | |
| 9.3 | | **Parking Restrictions in village centre:** It was noted that there had been a delay in the processing the legal part of the consultation process.  *(Sally Aldridge left the meeting at this point.)* | | |
| 9.4 | | **Plastic-free Community:** Anna Wade gave a report. | | |
| 9.5 | | **Youth Club** There was nothing to report. | | |
| 9.6 | | **Emergency Planning:** Angela Bishop will arrange a meeting of the Resilience Group. It was agreed to change the meeting point to the Recreation Centre in the case of any emergency because the generator point had been installed and could be used if the case of a power outage.  Tony Hemmingway offered to check the grit bins to see if they need refilling. | | |
| 9.7 | | **Barclays Bank Building:** The solicitors for Barclays Bank sent notice that they have someone to whom they wish to assign the lease – Bournhomes Ltd. With approval from Tony Hemmingway, the clerk asked Mills & Reeve to review the details and to ask questions of the proposed assignee:   * Will the company be operating from the premises or do they propose to sublet? * What is the intended use of the building? * Is the company proposing to undertake works to the building? No reply had been received yet.   The clerk reported:   * Mills & Reeve propose an Authorised Guarantee Agreement, under which Barclays would have to pay the rent if the assignee fails to make the payment * Barclays can break the lease at the break clause in May 2022, but the Parish Council cannot * The assignee can sublet the lease, with little option for the parish council to refuse consent   There was some discussion about whether to try for a surrender of the lease but it was agreed to continue with the questions about the proposed assignment for now. | | |
| 9.8 | | **Capital Spending and Village Centre** There was nothing further to report. | | |
| 9.9 | | **Phone Box and Defibrillator** The clerk had approached the Ambulance Service and the Acle & Brundall Lions for advice but no replies had been received. | | |
| 9.10 | | **Christmas Tree and Lights** T T Jones would be working on the lights over the next few days. | | |
| 9.11 | | **Loan to Strumpshaw Parish Council** The clerk confirmed the request from SPC for up to £35,000 bridging loan to fund the building and equipping of the new community hall. 1.8% interest. Their application to the National Lottery had been turned down but they continue to apply for grants and to do local fundraising. | | |
| 10 | | **POLICIES** | | |
| 10.1 | | The Equal Opportunities Policy was reviewed and re-adopted without changes. | | |
| 11 | **FINANCE** | | |
| 11.1 | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Receipts:** |  | £ | | 42 The Street | Rent for one month | 795.00 | | 42 The Street | Rent paid in arrears | 397.50 | | 44 The Street | Rent for one month | 600.00 | | Various | Burial/memorial fees | 1,665.00 | | Upton PC | Reimbursement costs | 16.11 | | Mills & Reeve | Overage payment re Springfield | 36,962.74 | | **Payments made:** |  |  | | Poppy Appeal | Donation | 100.00 | | Anyrep | Replacement fridge - Flat 44 | 339.00 | | SWALEC | Electricity for street lights DD | 708.08 | | **Online payments:** |  |  | | Employment costs: |  | 4,513.22 | | Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire x 4 weeks | 96.00 | | Garden Guardian | Grasscutting | 1,490.57 | | T T Jones | Streetlight repairs | 1,074.30 | | Hugh Crane Ltd | Supplies | 98.93 | | Rhino | Wood for shed – Lands Trust | 1,605.97 | |  |  |  | | **Cheques for payment:** |  |  | | Acle Society | Newsletter delivery | 40.00 | | Wilkersons | Supplies | 54.35 | | Methodist Church | Room hire – Meetings | 51.00 | | **Balance c/f 25.11.19** |  | 625,226.82 | | **Balances in Savings:** |  |  | | Government Stocks |  | 140,964.00 | | Cambridge B/Soc | Instant access 0.15% | 91,311.50 | | Lloyds Bank | 32-day notice 0.57 % | 101,784.58 | | Nationwide B/Soc | 45-day saver 0.85% | 90,448.77 | | Total monies |  | 1,049,735.60 | | | |
|  | Outstanding commitments: Parking amendments, purchase of land for cemetery,  It was noted that Anna Wade had checked the clerk’s bank reconciliation as at 5th October 2019, the online payments from the meeting of 28th October 2019, and payments made between meetings. Actual v Budget figures for the 8 months to 25.11.2019 were reviewed.  The payments were authorised. | |
| **12** | **INVESTMENT IN BROADLAND’S PARISH DEPOSIT SCHEME** BDC had not yet replied to the questions about the risk with the Parish Deposit Scheme. | |
| **14** | **APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES** There was some discussion about appointments to working parties. Hannah Jackson offered to join the Finance working party, which will meet on Monday, 9th December to review the draft budget. | |
| **15** | **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**   * Acle Allotment Association’s agreement * Re-appointment of Angela Bishop to Acle in Need * Councillors were invited to bring items of food for the local foodbank | |
| **16** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**  **The Next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 16th December 2019 at 7.00pm** | |

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Signed:………………………………. 16th December 2019  
 Chairman