Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 16th December 2019  
Venue: Methodist Hall, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.00 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were ten members of the public present. Members of the Acle Allotment Association read out the Chairman’s report. Nigel Robson reported that the new Acle Lands Trust shed was nearly complete. Nigel had met with the Environment Agency who will be returning to the Damgate Woods to re-profile the bank of the stream. Concerns were raised about maintaining the visibility at the entrance of the walkway from Springfield onto the Old Road.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report: Norfolk County Council is working on its budget.

District Councillor Lana Hempsall reported that the next stage of the Greater Norwich Local Plan will take place in January.

**PRESENT:**   
Councillors: Sally Aldridge, Angela Bishop, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Tony Hemmingway (Chairman), Hannah Jackson, Wendy Kenny, Jamie Pizey, and Anna Wade. Also Parish Clerk, Pauline James.

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| **1** | | **APOLOGIES**  Jayne Greenacre, Brian Grint and Richard Powell. | | |
| **2** | | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Barry Coveley and Jamie Pizey each declared an interest in the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. Jamie is also an allotment holder. | | |
| **3** | | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of 25th November 2019 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway as Chairman of the Parish Council. | | |
| **4** | | **MATTERS ARISING** | | |
| 4.1 | | Brian Iles reported back that the Repton (NCC) minutes about the Norwich Road site are confidential and cannot be shared. | | |
| **5** | | **CORRESPONDENCE** | | |
| 5.1 | | Acle Methodist Church had asked for financial assistance with the replacement of the wooden fence between the Church car park and the new Rec Centre car park, costing £1,000. It was agreed to give a grant of £250. | | |
| 5.2 | | The Norfolk Association of Local Councils had confirmed that the Norfolk Parishes websites have been updated to meet the new Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018. The clerk has contacted the company which hosts the VisitAcle.com website to ask about that site. | | |
| 5.3 | | The Police sent details of recent reported crimes, including an attempted burglary in October. It was noted that there had also been a burglary in December. | | |
| 5.4 | | There was a request to name the walkway at Oaks Lea through to Old Road, “Gariensis Walk”, (which was the Roman name for the estuary at Acle). This was supported. | | |
| 5.5 | | Saffron/Crocus sent the design of the bus shelter they will be providing on the eastbound sliproad into Acle from A47, as part of their work at the Leffins Lane site. The councillors approved the design and suggested that Saffron might help with a second one, to replace the damaged one on the A47 slipway towards Norwich. | | |
| 5.6 | | The clerk had completed the re-declaration of compliance for the Pensions Regulator. No one needs to be enrolled into a pension scheme as the clerk is already in the Norfolk Pension Fund and Mick Ward is over retirement age. | | |
| 5.7 | | Love Food Hate Waste is looking for Food Savvy Champions. This had been advertised on facebook. | | |
| **6** | | **PLANNING** | | |
| 6.1 | | Planning applications considered at the Meeting:   1. **Weavers Way Barn, The Hill** – proposed detached garage (20191911). There were no objections to the plans. | | |
| 6.2 | | Revised plans had been received for the 137 homes off Norwich Road. The clerk reviewed the plans and sent objections to the lack of information on bin collection points and the small area of formal play equipment. The clerk will speak at the BDC Planning Committee meeting on 18th December to express the Parish Council’s objections to the planning application. | | |
| **7** | | **HIGHWAYS** | | |
| 7.1 | | The Parish Council’s grit bins will be inspected and re-filled as necessary. | | |
| 7.2 | | There had been no reply from Norse about the supply and fix of bollards along New Road. The clerk will chase them for a reply. | | |
| 7.3 | | A couple of signs will be reported for repair. | | |
| 7.4 | | The Christmas lights on the Folly Tree have stopped working and will be reported to the contractors. | | |
| 7.5 | | Replacement polycarbonate has been ordered for the bus shelter at the Barclays site. | | |
| **8** 8.1 | | **RECREATION CENTRE** Barry Brooks gave a report: the recent cycling event was well attended. The board advertising facilities at the Recreation Centre will be put up shortly.  There was some discussion about the general noticeboard at the entrance to the car park. It was agreed that it should be replaced with one with doors, perhaps with the cost shared by the Parish Council and the Recreation Centre. | | |
| **9** | | **PROJECTS** | | |
| 9.1 | | **New Cemetery:** Nothing further to report. | | |
| 9.2 | | **Herondale:** Saffron held a public consultation drop-in event on 16th December. 58 flats, either rented or shared ownership, are proposed.  They have proposed constructing 12 extra parking spaces on land north of the library to assist with parking issues. | | |
| 9.3 | | **Parking Restrictions in village centre:** No news from Norfolk County Council about the scheme. | | |
| 9.4 | | **Plastic-free Community:** Anna Wade gave a report: she has submitted the quarterly report to the monitoring organisation. A litter picking event has been planned for the Spring. | | |
| 9.5 | | **Youth Club** The YMCA sent a report. | | |
| 9.6 | | **Emergency Planning:** Angela Bishop and Jamie Pizey met with Barry Brooks to find out more about the generator point that has been installed at the Recreation Centre, to provide power for the main hall, social club and entrance hall in the event of an outage. The idea of leasing a generator was discussed but it was accepted that it would be very expensive, as it would need regular servicing. This will be discussed further. | | |
| 9.7 | | **Barclays Bank Building:** Mills & Reeve contacted the solicitors for Barclays Bank, on behalf of the Parish Council to ask for information on the proposed assignee. It was confirmed that the assignee proposes to sub-let the premises. There was some discussion about possible uses for the building and the likely costs to repair the building. | | |
| 9.8 | | **Capital Spending and Village Centre** The councillors discussed ideas for rejuvenating the village centre, perhaps with pop-up shops similar to the initiative in Holt. It was also agreed to consider various properties as investments. | | |
| 9.9 | | **Phone Box and Defibrillator** The clerk has contacted the Community Heartbeat Trust for a recommendation for a defibrillator and cabinet for the ex-phone box. It was suggested that the phone box door should be secured with a key-pad.  It was noted that the initial cost for a defibrillator is around £2,000. (£800 for a heated box, £800 for a defibrillator and about £400 to install). The running costs are £120 every two years for new operating pads and £200 every four years for new batteries.  The clerk authorised to go ahead with this. | | |
| 9.10 | | **Clubs and Groups** The councillors agreed that it would be a good idea to set up an Acle Business Association. The clerk will arrange a meeting in the New Year for councillors to talk about this further. Sally Aldridge offered to speak to Stalham about their Business Association. Other proposals for the village are a Men’s Shed and a park run. | | |
| **10** | | **ACLE IN NEED NOMINATION** | | |
| 10.1 | | Angela Bishop was re-nominated to represent the Parish Council on the village organisation. | | |
| **11** | **ACLE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION** It was agreed to renew the lease on the same terms for 3 years. | | |
| **12** | **LOCAL COUNCILS AWARD SCHEME** The Council confirmed its submission for Foundation Level. Anna had checked all the links on the clerk’s application form. Everything is available on the Council’s website, as required, apart from private documents such as the clerk’s contract, which will be sent separately. | | |
| **13** | **FINANCE** | | |
| 13.1 | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Receipts:** |  | £ | | 42 The Street | Rent for one month | 795.00 | | 44 The Street | Rent for one month | 600.00 | | Lloyds | Compensation | 2.00 | |  |  |  | | Lloyds | Interest | 25.28 | | Gov’t Stocks | Interest | 614.45 | | UK Power Networks | Wayleaves | 217.42 | | **Payments made:** |  |  | | Justin Nudd | Gardening at flats | 75.00 | | Ken Gale | Materials for Lands Trust shed | 979.45 | | Info. Comm. | Annual fee DD | 35.00 | | SWALEC | Electricity for street lights DD | 755.42 | | **Online payments:** |  |  | | Employment costs: |  | 4,460.49 | | Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire x 4 weeks | 96.00 | | SLCC | Subs | 281.00 | | T T Jones | Streetlight repairs | 3,088.52 | |  | New LEDs on sliproad |  | |  | Lights on Folly Tree |  | |  | Christmas lights on shops |  | | ADM Plumbing | New fridge at no:44 | 352.12 | | Rhino | Wood for shed – Lands Trust | 250.03 | | Nfk Parish Training | New councillors’ course – Wendy | 55.00 | | **Cheques for payment:** |  |  | | ENTUA | Subs | 10.00 | | Wilkersons | Supplies | 21.41 | | M Allen | Annual footpath fee | 50.00 | | Methodist Church | Room hire – Meetings | 30.60 | | **Balance c/f 16.12.19** |  | 617,085.56 | | **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 |  | 1,041,594.40 | | | |
|  | Outstanding commitments: Parking amendments, purchase of land for cemetery,  It was noted that Anna Wade had checked the clerk’s bank reconciliation as at 4th December 2019, the online payments from the meeting of 25th November 2019, and payments made between meetings. Actual v Budget figures for the 9 months to 16.12.2019 were reviewed.  The payments were authorised. | |
| **14** | **INVESTMENT IN BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL’S PARISH DEPOSIT SCHEME**  It was agreed to invest £250,000 in Broadland’s scheme, currently paying 0.6%. It was noted that the investment does not come under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, but that the money is only invested in institutions rated A- or above, as advised by Treasury Management Advisors.  Tony Hemmingway, Barry Coveley and Pauline James will be the approved signatories for managing the account. Two out of these three signatures will be required to withdraw funds from the investment. | |
| **15** | **BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2020/21** The Finance Working Party had gone through the budget, line by line and recommended a total increase of 2%. However, because of the increase in homes in the village, the precept is shared by more houses, resulting in an actual increase of 0.72% per band D home. The total precept will be £116.54 per year per average band D home, which is £9.71 per month, £2.24 per week, or 31.9p per day. | |
|  | *Barry Coveley left the meeting at this point.* | |
| **16** | **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**   * **Noticeboard at Recreation Centre** | |
| **17** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**  **The Next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 27th January 2020 at 7.00pm** | |
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There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed:………………………………. 27th January 2020  
 Chairman