Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 27th January 2020  
Venue: Methodist Hall, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.00 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were sixteen members of the public present. Matters raised included planting at the Springfield play area, the repair of a flashing speed sign, parking on the junction of Hermitage Close, and the new Broads National Park signs at the entrance to the village. Nigel Robson reported that he will be meeting with Network Rail to agree what work is needed for the trees on the boundary of the Acle Lands Trust land and Network Rail land.

County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report: NCC continues to discuss its budget. The increase is expected to be 1.99% on the general rate and 2% for adult social care. Brian was asked to find out more about reports on possible closures of adult day centres.

**PRESENT:**   
Councillors: Sally Aldridge, Angela Bishop, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Brian Grint, Hannah Jackson, Wendy Kenny, Jamie Pizey and Richard Powell.

Also Parish Clerk, Pauline James.

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| **1** | | **APOLOGIES** Tony Hemmingway (Chairman), Jayne Greenacre and Anna Wade. In the absence of Tony Hemmingway, Barry Coveley chaired the meeting. | | |
| **2** | | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Barry Coveley and Jamie Pizey each declared an interest in the Recreation Centre, as Trustees.  Angela Bishop declared an interest in the application for the Herondale site, which is owned by Norfolk County Council, as she occasionally works for Norsecare. | | |
| **3** | | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of 16th December 2019 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Barry Coveley, on behalf of the Parish Council. | | |
| **4** | | **MATTERS ARISING** | | |
| 4.1 | | Broadland District Council Planning Committee approved the NCC application for 137 homes on the land north of Norwich Road, (20191215), subject to sufficient information being submitted to demonstrate that the surface water drainage strategy is acceptable, that the private water supply on Norwich Road will not be adversely affected, that refuse collection can be adequately accommodated and that the levels and boundary treatments of the southern and eastern boundaries are resolved.  0.36 hectares of play space will be provided in the west of the site and one hectare of informal open space will also be provided off-site.  The committee had noted that one of the key objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework is to make the most effective use of land and therefore, although the density would be higher in the north east of the site, it was not considered to be unacceptable and the increased overlooking was not significant enough to warrant refusal.  Permitted development rights were removed for garage conversion on plots where a garage is counted as part of the parking requirement. | | |
| 4.2 | | Saffron Housing/Crocus Homes agreed to co-ordinate the replacement of the bus shelter on the westbound sliproad. | | |
| 4.3 | | The agreement to lend Strumpshaw Parish Council up to £35,000 at 1.8% has been signed by both parties. The loan is to enable Strumpshaw Parish Council to complete their new community hall while they continue to apply for grants. | | |
| **5** | | **CORRESPONDENCE** | | |
| 5.1 | | The Police sent details of recent reported crimes, including a burglary in December. | | |
| 5.2 | | There was a report in the EDP of local people asking for First Bus to add two extra stops to some of its X1 service, to include Filby and Fleggburgh. The councillors supported this idea as it would reduce commuter parking in Acle. | | |
| 5.3 | | Barry Coveley and the clerk reported on a recent meeting with the CEO of the Wensum Trust and the Chairman of the Trustees; a lot of work has been done to repair the buildings and to improve standards at Acle Academy. The Trust is now keen to get more involved with the local community. They are considering offering rooms and buildings for hire, and looking into possible adult education provision. The school is still keen to raise funds for a new sports hall, to complement facilities offered at the Recreation Centre. The Trust was encouraged to send regular updates to the Acle News and to Parish Council meetings. This was welcomed by the councillors. | | |
| 5.5 | | Barry Coveley and Angela Bishop were authorised to sign a document from Spire solicitors. It is a deed of covenant permitting the transfer of the covenant relating to the private highway, from Crocus Contractors Ltd to Saffron Housing Trust Ltd. | | |
| 5.6 | | The new MP for Broadland, Jerome Mayhew, would like to meet parish councils and residents. The clerk was asked to arrange a meeting. | | |
| 5.7 | | Correspondence was received from NCC that the permissive path through the land north of Norwich Road will be closed from 29th March. A path through the site will be available once the site is safe for pedestrians. | | |
| 5.8 | | Broadland District Council sent information on numbers of people currently on the housing list; 2,057 households are on the Council’s Housing List. A significant number of applicants give Acle as one of their parishes of preference. 54 households have a local connection - as current /former residents or with a working or caring connection. The breakdown of household need within this is:-   29 x 1-bedroom need (which includes 12 x Elderly Couple or Elderly Single)  14 x 2-bedroom need 7 x 3-bedroom need 4 x 4-bedroom need  Recent Sheltered Housing data shows the Housing Need with Acle as a parish of preference for: 42 x 1-bedroom flats 89 x 1-bedroom bungalows 3 x 2-bedroom flats 5 x 2-bedroom bungalows | | |
| **6** | | **PLANNING** | | |
| 6.1 | | Planning applications considered at the Meeting:   1. **Romar, New Road** – sub-division of land to form a detached dwelling building plot (20200015). Two letters of objection were read out. The applicant answered some questions about the proposed plans. The councillors agreed by a majority to object to the plans – over-development of the plot, out of scale with neighbouring properties, and only one parking space provided instead of the required two. 2. **38 Englands Road** – erection of boundary fence (retrospective) (20200034). The councillors objected to the plans because it is believed that fences are restricted to lower levels on this estate. 3. **Robin Hill, 16 South Walsham Road** – sub-division of plot for 2 x 4-bed houses with garages and shared access (outline – access and layout) (20191970). The councillors objected to the plans – over-development of the site and out of scale. 4. **Herondale, Bridewell Lane** – demolition of care home and replacement with 58 self-contained flats (17 shared-ownership and 41 social-rented), and associated communal facilities, car parking and landscaping (20191954). The councillors supported the idea in principle but objected to the plans- concerns about the access road and the height of the building. (Angela Bishop declared an interest and abstained from the voting.) 5. **3 George Lane** – single storey garden room (20200038) – the councillors had no objections to the plans. 6. **Greater Norwich Local Plan –** 2 newsites are proposed for development: a) land west of the 137 home site on Norwich Road, 7.5 hectares, for more than 100 homes, 33% affordable housing, open space and community facilities. Access would be through the 137-home site, with potential to link to South Walsham Road. Works to upgrade the unmade section of Mill Lane would also be required. The councillors reported that this area drains to a main drain that is already regularly full of water.   b) land west of Acle Academy, 7.5 hectares, for more than 100 homes, 33% affordable housing, open space and community facilities. Access to South Walsham Road, with potential access via the other new site to Norwich Road. Flood risk issues with regard to the reservoir to the west. Councillors wanted land to be reserved for the future expansion of Acle Academy. It was also noted that an old river bed runs through this site.  The councillors supported the proposal for a western link road between South Walsham Road and Norwich Road.  Sites considered “unreasonable” are Borderland Farm, Damgate Lane (in flood zones 2 or 3), land north of South Walsham Road (highways and landscape issues), Land at Beighton Road/ south of sliproad (not related to services/village), Land south of Leffins Lane (not related to services/village), Land at Norwich Road/triangle by sliproad (proximity to A47), Land north of Hillcrest (proximity to A47), Land north of Charles Close/Fishley View (needs access through other site with poor highways access and landscape issues).  There is a public consultation event on Thursday, 6th February at the Recreation Centre. This has been advertised by BDC, by flyers left on people’s bins. | | |
| 6.2 | | Planning application considered between meetings:   1. **3 Habgood Close** – single storey rear extension (20191928) – the councillors had no objections to the plans. | | |
| 6.3 | | Planning decisions from **Broadland District Council:**   1. **Manor Cottage, Norwich Road** – side extension and rear dormer (20191628) – full approval 2. **The School House, South Walsham Road** – two storey pitched roof extension (20191738) – full approval 3. **White House, South Walsham Road** – first floor side extension (20191778) – full approval | | |
| **7** | | **HIGHWAYS** | | |
| 7.1 | | The request for double yellow lines at the entrance to Hermitage Close was refused by NCC. It was agreed to ask to add it to the parking restrictions process currently being paid for by the Parish Council. | | |
| 7.2 | | Wendy Kenny informed the meeting that Acle Society had offered to plant up the planters on The Green. | | |
| 7.3 | | Acle Society has also offered to pay for a new bench, for South Walsham Road. | | |
| 7.4 | | It was reported that the track at the top of Mill Lane is being churned up by vehicles accessing the Norwich Road site for surveys. | | |
| 7.5 | | The street nameplate for Damgate Lane will be reported for repair. | | |
| **8** | | **RECREATION CENTRE** | | |
| 8.1 | | Barry Brooks gave a report: the draft accounts to 31.12.2019 show an increase in income and a decrease in expenditure. | | |
| 8.2 | | There was a further discussion about whether it would be appropriate to hire a generator to prepare for power outages, or to use a tractor-driven generator. There were concerns that this would be very expensive, given that power outages are unlikely for Acle. This will be discussed by the Resilience Group. | | |
| **9** | | **PROJECTS** | | |
| 9.1 | | **New Cemetery:** Tony Hemmingway and the clerk met with Nicholas Crane to mark out the land for the new cemetery.  The clerk has arranged for a surveyor to survey and plot the site, (£400 + VAT), ready for the legal contract.  Nicholas Crane will get the vegetation cut back along the footpath to assist with the survey, and will prepare a quote to improve the access road and driveway, which he will do at cost.  There was some discussion about a name for the new cemetery. | | |
| 9.2 | | **Herondale:** The plans for the site were discussed under Planning. | | |
| 9.3 | | **Parking Restrictions in village centre:** There has been no news from Norfolk County Council about the legal consultation for the scheme. | | |
| 9.4 | | **Plastic-free Community:** Anna Wade sent a report: Three more businesses have pledged to remove at least three items of single use plastic; Scooters Café, Steve Goodley Finance and Acle Bridge Inn. The litter picking A-frame has been moved to Acle Cars for a while.  Anna Wade has arranged a village Litter Pick for Sunday, 5th April, from 10.00am on behalf of the Parish Council. | | |
| 9.5 | | **Youth Club** Nothing to report. | | |
| 9.6 | | **Emergency Planning:** Nothing to report. | | |
| 9.7 | | **Barclays Bank Building:** Barclays proposes to assign the least to Bournhomes Ltd. Very little is known about the company or of its plans for the building. The new tenant has indicated that they would not give a guarantor. Barclays Bank will give an Authorised Guarantee Agreement which means that the rent would be paid until the end of the lease in May 2027, and the dilapidations would be guaranteed. No information has been given as to the likely use of the building, other than that change of use would not be required.  Mills & Reeve have stated that it would not be possible to remove a tenant from the building at the end of the term. After some discussion it was agreed to go back to negotiating a surrender of the lease. | | |
| 9.8 | | **Capital Spending and Village Centre:** Items discussed included the former Co-Op building, the former Lloyds Bank building, hiring the room at Mill Crescent for social/ drop-in events, the triangle of land at A47 sliproad and setting up a Business Association. The latter will be advertised in the forthcoming newsletter to gauge interest. | | |
| 9.9 | | **Phone Box and Defibrillator:** The clerk will contact the Co-Op as they had originally offered to install a new defibrillator in the village centre to replace the one which had been at the Co-Op foodstore at The Green. | | |
| 9.10 | | **Clubs and Groups:** - Men’s Shed – the first meeting is on Tuesday, 24th March from 2-4pm at Acle Library. | | |
| 10 | | **POLICIES** | | |
| 10.1 | | It was agreed to re-adopt the Complaints Procedure and Disciplinary Procedure without change. | | |
| 11 | **FINANCE** | | |
| 11.1 | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Receipts:** |  | £ | | 42 The Street | Rent for one month | 795.00 | | 44 The Street | Rent for one month | 600.00 | | Various | Burial and memorial fees | 1,180.00 | | Barclays | Rent to March 2020 | 6,375.00 | | Lloyds | Interest | 66.98 | | Upton PC | Share of costs | 8.85 | | Strumpshaw PC | Share of costs | 61.60 | | HMRC | VAT refund | 2,555.39 | | **Payments made:** |  |  | | Arthur Jary’s | Repairs to memorial | 705.00 | | Nfk ALC | Accreditation scheme | 110.00 | | Wave | Water at public toilets DD | 822.00 | | Wave | Water at allotments DD | 19.01 | | SWALEC | Electricity for streetlights DD | 963.61 | | Siemens | Copier rental DD | 205.26 | | **Online payments:** |  |  | | Employment costs: |  | 4,235.75 | | Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire x 4 weeks | 72.00 | | T T Jones | Streetlight repairs | 918.46 | | ADM Plumbing | Gas service and repairs | 237.75 | | Hugh Crane Ltd | Supplies | 101.48 | | Justin Nudd | Work at play area, cemetery and allotments | 671.50 | | Westcotec | Repairs to bus shelter | 1,140.00 | | KLM Building | Repairs at public toilets | 688.13 | | OddBods | Cleaning at play area | 168.00 | | Empower | Electrical supply at Lands Trust shed | 374.16 | | Secker & Sons | Service at Fletcher Room | 14.99 | | **Cheques for payment:** |  |  | | CPRE | Subs | 36.00 | | Wilkersons | Supplies | 15.14 | | Methodist Church | Room hire – Meetings | 51.00 | | **Balance c/f 27.01.20** |  | 367,189.76 | | **Balances in Savings:** |  |  | | Government Stocks |  | 140,964.00 | | BDC | Parish investment scheme | 250,000.00 | | Cambridge B/Soc | Instant access 0.15% | 91,311.50 | | Lloyds Bank | 32-day notice 0.57 % | 101,977.03 | | Nationwide B/Soc | 45-day saver 0.85% | 90,448.77 | | Total monies |  | 1,041,891.00 | | | |
|  | Outstanding commitments: Parking amendments, purchase of land for cemetery,  It was noted that Jackie Clover had checked the clerk’s bank reconciliation as at 3rd January 2020, the online payments from the meeting of 16th December 2019, and payments made between meetings. Actual v Budget figures for the 10 months to 27.01.2020 were reviewed. The payments were authorised. | |
| **12** | **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING  - Springfield play area** | |
| **13** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**  **The Next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 24th February 2020 at 7.00pm** | |