**Acle Parish Council**

**Clerk’s report for Parish Council meeting for 30th March 2020**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | **Covid19 Virus:** |
| 1.1 | The Government has told us to close **play areas**. These will be closed until further notice. |
| 1.2 | **Public toilets:**  BDC have closed the public toilets. |
| 1.3 | The **Resilience Team** have been working tirelessly to try to cover the village with volunteers who can get in touch with their neighbours to ensure that anyone who is self-isolating has a phone number to ring if they need help. They have 500 of the NCC “if you are self-isolating” postcards which are being delivered to households where there might be a vulnerable resident. |
| 1.4 | **Broadland District Council and Norfolk County Council** are gathering information about what each community is already doing to help their residents and will support local communities. |
| 1.5 | Where possible, people should be encouraged to join **facebook** so that they can keep up-to-date with what is being done in the village. I try to post similar things on the two council websites but sharing posts on facebook is the quickest way to get information out.  Facebook name: Acle Emergency Planning – Resilience |
| 1.6 | **Local businesses** are dealing with the situation in various ways. Again, this information is easily shared on facebook. |
| 1.7 | **Council meetings** – there will be no public meetings until further notice.  An Annual Parish Meeting will be arranged as soon as the situation improves.  Parish Council matters will be published via a clerk’s report on the websites and facebook.  The councillors are delegating authority to the clerk to make payments and make decisions until the situation improves. The clerk is in regular contact with the parish councillors via email. |
| 2 | **Matters Arising from the Meeting of 24th February 2020** |
| 2.1 | Acle Methodist Church sent a note of thanks for the donation towards their new fence. |
| 2.2 | Acle Community Gym sent a note of thanks for the grant. |
| 2.3 | I’ve heard nothing further from the Medical Centre about their application for a grant towards a Youth Support Worker. I presume this is on hold while the schools are shut. |
| 3.4 | The meeting with MP Jerome Mayhew was very successful and informative. |
| 3.5 | I’ve had confirmation that NCC will part-fund the fixed flashing speed sign for Reedham Road. |
| 4 | **Correspondence Received:** |
| 4.1 | There have been reports of a lot of dog mess in the village. Everyone must pick up after their dogs please. |
| 4.2 | We’ve received comments and some complaints about the new online booking system at Acle Medical Centre. Whilst it might suit the majority of people, it is causing issues for those people who do not have a computer or who are not particularly confident about going online. However, I do not think this is the time to raise this with the Medical Centre as they must be extremely busy. I’m happy to discuss this with them when it is calmer. |
| 5 | **Projects:** |
| 5.1 | **Youth club** – the YMCA closed the youth club the week the schools were closed. They offered an outreach service whereby the staff spend time in and around the Recreation Centre, and around the village centre, engaging with any young people who may be out and about. This would have helped to keep the YMCA staff employed and ready to go back to the youth club when this is able to start up again. However, following the Government’s advice yesterday, the YMCA have cancelled the outreach service. |
| 5.2 | **Barclays Bank building –** discussions continue with Barclays’ agent about the tenant they have found for the building. |
| 5.3 | I’ll get a price from Westcotec for a movable **SAM2** (flashing speed sign) to be located in various locations in the village. |
| 6 | **Planning** |
| 6.1 | Planning results from **Broadland District Council**: |
|  | 1. **Romar** – sub-division of plot (20200015) - refused |
|  | 1. **38 Englands Road** – erection of fence (20200034) - approved   For information, from Broadland District Council’s notes: “The original planning consent for the estate removed permitted development rights for the erection of means of enclosure at the front of the properties. However; over time, there have been construction of walls and fences without consent and these are now exempt from enforcement action.” |
|  |  |
| 6 | **Any Other Business** |
| 6.1 | I’ve sent our up-to-date street lights list to UK Power Networks who, in turn sent a revised Unmetered Supply certificate to our energy suppliers. The first new bill has come in and appears to show a reduction of £73 for the month, due to the LED lanterns we have had fitted. So that is great news! |
| 6.2 | It seems a very long time ago, but I found the Practitioners’ Conference very useful. Topics covered included dementia-friendly communities, accessibility for websites, waste and re-use, the climate crisis, an update on GDPR, and crime prevention measures. |
| 6.3 | Just to let you know that Robin and Wendy Cushing, who were the Chairman and Treasurer of the Allotment Association, have both stood down but are staying on the committee. David Franklin was appointed Chairman and Barry Everson is Treasurer. |
|  | Pauline James – parish clerk 24.03.2020 |