The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Acle held on Monday, 15th April 2019

held in the Methodist Church at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:**

Parish councillors – Barry Coveley (Vice-chairman), Sally Aldridge, Annie Bassham, Angela Bishop, David Burnett, Jackie Clover, Roger Jay, Chris Linehan, Jamie Pizey, Anna Wade and seventeen residents.

PC Ian Kennedy and Sgt Angela Youd.

Barry Coveley welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Apologies:** Parish councillors Tony Hemmingway (Chairman), Rev’d Martin Greenland and District Councillor Lana Hempsall.

**Police Matters:**

Sgt Angela Youd gave a report: there were 94 recorded crimes during the year to 31st March 2019, compared with 102 for the previous year. Several were domestic-related. Many low-level crimes but with some burglaries over the Christmas period. New officers have been recruited to help with the Sprowston area, which includes Acle. In answer to a question, it was confirmed that the police officers are in regular contact with the young people who are out and about in the village.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2018 were agreed to be correct, and were signed on behalf of the meeting by the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Barry Coveley.

**Matters Arising:**

1. The Government refused to support a Compulsory Purchase Order for land for an extension for the cemetery. Luckily another local farmer has agreed to sell some land to the Parish Council for a new cemetery, to the left of the path across to Fishley.

**Parish Council Report:**

A report on the work of the Parish Council for the year to 31st March 2019 was circulated. Since the report was written, it has been confirmed that 10 people were nominated as Parish Councillors and will form the new Parish Council from 6th May 2019: Sally Aldridge, Angela Bishop, Barry Coveley, David Burnett, Jackie Clover, Jayne Greenacre, Brian Grint, Tony Hemmingway, Jamie Pizey and Anna Wade.

The councillors thanked Annie Bassham, Roger Jay and Chris Linehan who have decided not to stand again, and to Ellen Thompson who resigned when she moved house during the year.

The councillors also thanked Bob Crowe who has looked after the clock above the bus shelter for many years.

The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019 will be available at the May meeting and will be posted online.

The clerk reminded residents about the quarterly Community News, which is delivered to all households, with the Acle Society newsletters.

**Broadland District Council:**There was no report.

County Councillor Brian Iles entered the meeting at this point.

**County Council:**County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report:

Government funding has reduced by £204m between 2010/11 and August 2019. NCC has made savings of £364m, including efficiency savings of £246m. NCC’s share of the precept was increased by 2.99% this year and will be £1,362.24pa for a Band D home for 2019/20.

Extra money has been received to spend on road maintenance.

NCC is working on the Norwich Western Link, with construction to start in 2022.

Money has been spent on Better Broadband and 92% of Norfolk homes now have speeds of 24 mb/sec.

200 sites across the county have been identified for support to improve the mobile phone signal.

A new Early Childhood Family Service has been set up to support 0 - 5-year olds and their families, with events and advice.

A grant has been received to build a new 170-place school for children with Special Education Needs.

Eleven new homes are being built for Care Leavers.

Comprehensive range of services to help adults affected by loneliness and social isolation.

A Carer’s Charter was launched to support Carers in work, Young carers in education and Carers in the community.

£29m will be invested in Housing with Care.

In response to a question about the Herondale site, Brian confirmed that NCC hoped to construct flats for Housing with Care on the site, working with a housing provider.

A complaint about poor quality repairs to potholes was discussed.

**Report on Acle Resilience Plan:**

Parish councillor Angela Bishop gave a report: The group aims to respond to any emergency in Acle, flooding, power failure or deep snow. There are plans in place at national, county and district levels, but Acle’s plan is for very local issues until help arrives. The village has been divided into areas, each with a co-ordinator. The Parish Council has paid for a generator point to be installed at the Recreation Centre. The group is gradually buying equipment and supplies and increasing the list of people who have volunteered to help.

It was noted that there are defibrillators are the Co-Op foodstore, inside at the Recreation Centre, Acle Academy and at Acle Bridge.

**Acle Good Neighbours:**

Parish Councillor Sally Aldridge is the current Chairman of the group. The AGM is on 10th May at 6.00pm at Acle Library if anyone wants to join the Group. The volunteers offer assistance with transport to medical appointments, befriending and small household tasks. Tea & Talk afternoons are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, usually at the Methodist Hall, for £1 per person, with occasional outings to local cafés. Fundraising quizzes are held quarterly to pay for costs and for the dementia-friendly garden at the Methodist Church.

**Report from Acle Recreation Centre (ARC):**

Barry Brooks gave a report: ARC exists to provide social, recreational and sporting facilities for the parish of Acle and vicinity. Rooms are hired out on 43 occasions per week, plus the pitches.

During the year, the tennis court floodlights were upgraded, with a grant from the Tennis Club.

Work has been done at the outdoor bowls green and more clubs are using the facilities for competitions, which also brings in income for the Social Club.

27 additional car parking spaces have been constructed next to the Methodist Church car park.

More LED lamps have been installed, resulting in reduced running costs.

New front doors have been installed, improving the appearance of the Centre.

The Accounts have been examined by an Independent Examiner. Total cash at bank at 31.3.2019 was £133,637.

Further improvements are planned, including a patio area to the north of the building and refurbishment of the toilets.

Barry thanked all the Trustees and the Parish Council for their support.

**Parishioners’ Forum:**1. There was a report of drivers speeding on Reedham Road, despite the 30mph signage. The clerk will report this to the Police.

1. The clerk will advertise for volunteers to set up a Speedwatch team for the village.
2. Residents asked about the future of the Barclays Bank building. The Bank is closing in May. The parish councillors confirmed that they have not yet been told if the Bank plans to sub-let the building.
3. Cllr Anna Wade reported that new saplings donated by the Woodland Trust have been planted around the village, including Springfield and Roman Wood.
4. There was a complaint about untidy land at the railway site.
5. There was a request for a small foodshop at the north end of the village, perhaps in the Barclays Bank building. The councillors reminded the meeting that a proposal for a community hub, including a shop, had been put to the public but it had not been supported by residents.

Barry Coveley thanked the public for attending the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.05 p.m.

Signed.................................................................... Dated...............................................

Chairman of the Parish Council on behalf of the Meeting