Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 24th February 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 the repair of a flashing speed sign, parking on the junction of Hermitage Close, the pathway at the north of Oaks Lea, the success of the recent beer festival, vandalism at the Springfield play area and new planting required, and a request for funding for Acle Community Gym. It was also reported that Network Rail had left the arisings from recent tree work on the banks of the dyke, instead of clearing it away.

James Bennett from The Kings Head spoke about his plans for the pub. He also reported issues with the nearby public toilets and suggested that it might be a good idea to lock the toilets at night, to prevent vandalism.

County Councillor **Brian Iles** gave a report: the County Council is considering devolution again. The Minimum Income Guarantee had been discussed. *(Added: People receiving local authority-arranged care and support other than in a care home need to retain a certain level of income to cover their living costs. Under the Care Act 2014, charges must not reduce people’s income below a certain amount but local authorities can allow people to keep more of their income if they wish. This amount is known as the MIG.)* Members’ allowances for 20/21 will be increased by 2%, in line with staff salary increases. The budget for 20/21 had been agreed (and will result in an increase for a Band D home of £54.27 for the year.)

District Councillor **Lana Hempsall** gave a report: the BDC part of council tax will increase by £5 per year for a Band D home. Work is being done to smooth out council tax for people on Universal Credit. Lana explained that the increase in Members’ Allowances is to bring the amount paid to Broadland councillors in line with other councils in the area as the Council had been paying the lowest rate in the County.

Several people raised issues with the GNLP consultation on their website. Lana offered to report these concerns to the relevant department.  
  
**PRESENT:**   
Councillors: Sally Aldridge, Angela Bishop, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Tony Hemmingway (Chairman), Wendy Kenny, Jamie Pizey, Richard Powell and Anna Wade.

Also Parish Clerk, Pauline James.

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** Jayne Greenacre, Brian Grint and Hannah Jackson. |
| **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 report of a payment to herself. |
| **3** | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of 27th January 2020 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Tony Hemmingway, on behalf of the Parish Council. |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING** |
| 4.1 | A meeting with MP Jerome Mayhew for clerks and councillors has been arranged for 6th March at 7.00pm. Councillors are attending from Brundall, Reedham, South Walsham, Strumpshaw and Upton.  Jerome has published dated for public surgeries at the parish room. |
| 4.2 | The clerk asked NCC for a quote to add double yellow lines at the entrance to Hermitage Close. They have estimated that it would cost £2,500 + the lining cost, to do it as a separate scheme. There could be a saving of £1,200 if it were done at the same time as the main scheme but it would delay the main scheme by up to 3 months. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. |
| 4.3 | The clerk said that it had been reported that the flashing speed sign on A1064 did work again for a short time, but it was obviously no longer working. The clerk will contact Westcotec again. |
| 4.5 | The Broads Authority have confirmed that the Department of Transport has approved the design, wording, and placement of the Broads National Park signs. There has been some vandalism of the signs. The clerk has replied to further correspondence from a resident.  The councillors noted that, in October 2018, Acle Parish Council said the signs were “appropriate” for the village and in April 2019 the Council “supported this initiative”.  The Parish Council had previously objected when consulted on the introduction of the name of the Broads National Park, but as this name had been approved by the High Court as a brand name for marketing purposes, the councillors had accepted this. |
| 4.6 | Nigel Robson met 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. |
| **5** | **CORRESPONDENCE** |
| 5.1 | Acle Community Gym asked for another grant to enable it to continue. It was agreed to give a grant of £1,000 and to review this again in the new financial year. |
| 5.2 | Norfolk Pension Fund sent notice that the employer contribution rates for the next three years are 23.0%, 23.5% and 24.0% respectively. It was also noted that there might be a fee for salary growth strain. This is already provided for in the budget. |
| 5.3 | The Police sent details of recent reported crimes. |
| 5.4 | Broadland Environmental Services Ltd, (BESL), had proposed the narrowing of Coleman’s Drain, to increase flow velocity and to encourage a degree of self-cleansing. The Acle Lands Trust trustees were consulted, and the general view was that this should be permitted. It was requested that there should be some monitoring and reviewing of the process. |
| 5.5 | Correspondence from a resident about the planning application for the Herondale site and about the village centre had been circulated. The clerk had replied to the correspondence. |
| 5.6 | Brian Grint sent details of the Broads Hidden Heritage Festival on 20th and 21st June. |
| **6** | **PLANNING** |
| 6.1 | Planning applications considered at the Meeting:   1. TPO – all trees at **Robin Hill, South Walsham Road** – this was supported. 2. **Greater Norwich Local Plan –** two 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.   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 objected to both sites being developed. They did not feel that there was sufficient infrastructure in the village to support this size of development and that the impact on the village as a whole would be unacceptable. There was some discussion in particular about the carting away of waste from the sewerage plant in Damgate Lane and the impact on local residents if this had to increase.  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).  It was agreed to support the decision to mark all these sites as “unreasonable”. |
|  | 1. **8 Hillcrest** - two storey side and front extension, single storey front porch (20200267). There were no objections to the plans. |
| 6.2 | Planning application considered between meetings:   1. **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). Revised plans were received and the councillors objected to these plans too – over-development of the site and out of scale. It was also felt that the proposals threatened several mature trees on the site. The application has since been withdrawn by the applicant. |
| 6.3 | Planning decisions from **Broadland District Council:**   1. **3 Habgood Close** – single storey rear extension (20191928) – full approval 2. **Weavers Way Barn, The Hill** – proposed detached garage (20191911) – full approval 3. **3 George Lane** – single storey rear garden room (20200038) – full approval 4. **Romar** – to be refused if not withdrawn |
| **7** | **HIGHWAYS** |
| 7.1 | Some signs on A47 sliproads will be reported for repair. |
| 7.2 | The councillors were pleased that Highways England has put in some new drainage on the A47 westbound sliproad. |
| 7.3 | The old bench on A47 westbound sliproad will be replaced. |
| 7.4 | The clerk reported that NCC has agreed to support the Parish Council’s application for matched funding for a vehicle activated sign on Reedham Road, northbound. The funds should be released in 20/21. This will be a fixed sign because it was not felt that it would be safe to use a mobile sign at this location. It was agreed to discuss the purchase of a mobile SAM2 sign at the next meeting. |
| 7.5 | A contractor for the installation of bollards in New Road has not yet been sourced. |
| **8** | **RECREATION CENTRE** |
| 8.1 | Barry Brooks gave a report: the accounts for the year to 31st December 2019 have been sent to the auditors. A copy will be provided to the Parish Council after they have been signed at the AGM on 24th March. There will be an Open Day on 27th June. |
| 8.2 | It was agreed to move the nomination of nine trustees to the end of the meeting as several people had expressed an interest in being a trustee. |
| 9 | **YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER**  Several parish councillors met with Teresa Randall (Acle Medical Centre) and Isobel John (Acle Academy) to consider a request for funding for a youth support worker, for up to 30 hours per week. The councillors were very supportive of help for young people with mental illness but had concerns about whether it was appropriate to fund this from the precept. Teresa Randall will write to grant-giving charities and to all local parish councils to ask for funding. This will be on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.  It was suggested that MIND, YMCA and the Samaritans should also be approached for assistance. |
| 10 | **ACLE LANDS TRUST** It was agreed to move the appointment of five trustees to the end of the meeting. |
| **11** | **PROJECTS** |
| 11.1 | **New Cemetery:** The land has been surveyed. The final map is awaited so that the exact amount of land to be purchased will be known.  There was further discussion about a name for the new cemetery. The names Saxon, Nethergate and Hawthorns were considered. |
| 11.2 | **Herondale:** Saffron Housing were very disappointed that the Parish Council objected to the plans for this site. The councillors confirmed that they did support development on this site, but not the height of the proposed building. |
| 11.3 | **Parking Restrictions in village centre:** Norfolk County Council confirmed that the delay with the legal consultation for the scheme is because their legal department has too much work at present. |
| 11.4 | **Plastic-free Community:** Anna Wade gave a report. |
| 11.5 | **Youth Club** Nothing to report. |
| 11.6 | **Emergency Planning:** Nothing to report. |
| 11.7 | **Barclays Bank Building:** this item was moved to the end of the meeting because of commercial sensitivity. |
| 11.8 | **Capital Spending and Village Centre:** Sally Aldridge had made enquiries about hiring the room at Mill Crescent for social/ drop-in events, which is owned by Clarion. Unfortunately the times when it is free clash with the AVA sessions at the Methodist Church. |
| 11.9 | **Business Association:** Sally Aldridge had circulated a report on Stalham’s Business Association. It was agreed that a list of local businesses should be collected and delivered to all homes. |
| 11.10 | **Neighbourhood Plan:** Acle’s Neighbourhood Plan runs until 2026. The clerk gave each councillor a summary of the policies in the Plan. This will be discussed at a later date. |
| 11.11 | **Clubs and Groups:** Men’s Shed – the first meeting is on Tuesday, 24th March from 2-4pm at Acle Library. |
| 11.12 | **Play Areas:**  **Springfield:**  The clerk has researched the documents relating to the land around the Springfield play area and has confirmed that the grassed area does belong to the Parish Council and is not a Bin Collection Point, as had been suggested. There is a small piece of land to the north-east of the grassed area that legally belongs to the Parish Council but was intended to pass to the ownership of the adjacent landowner, plot 34, now 6 Oaks Lea. Spire solicitors have recommended that the parish council writes to the Land Registry to say that it was always intended that this land pass to Crocus and Crocus will write to say that they always intended it to belong to plot 34.  Now that the ownership is clear, some planting on the Parish Council’s piece of land will be done.  No specific planting was ever agreed for the play area site. The drawing from Crocus in 2016 was approved by BDC on 10th June 2016. Earlier drawings showed indicative planting only – i.e. suggestions as to how it might look.  The grass around the lagoon area is cut by the Parish Council’s contractors once a month during from April to October. The banks are cut 4 times per year.  Crocus planted 3 silver birch trees. One has been vandalised. The clerk has asked George Taylor to remove the broken trunk. Most of the saplings planted seem to have died. It was agreed that a couple more trees are planted and a tree guard put in place to protect the young trees.  One of the gates for the play area no longer self-closes. The clerk will contact the installers to ask them to repair this and to consider a latch.  **Beighton Road and Damgate Lane** play areas have been pressure-washed. |
| 12 | **POLICIES** |
| 12.1 | It was agreed to re-adopt the Social Media Policy and Data Policy without change. |

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| 13 | **FINANCE** | |
| 13.1 | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Receipts:** |  | £ | | 42 The Street | Rent for one month | 795.00 | | 44 The Street | Rent for one month | 600.00 | | Various | Burial and memorial fees | 460.00 | | Barclays | Rent to March 2020 |  | | Lloyds | Interest | 17.54 | | BDC | Grant for VE Day commemorations | 200.00 | | Rhinos | Refund | 273.93 | | **Payments made:** |  |  | | Angela Bishop | Refund costs for VE Day | 13.60 | | OddBods | Cleaning Beighton Road Play Area | 228.00 | | Nigel Robson | Refund costs re ALT shed | 65.80 | | SWALEC | Electricity for streetlights | 966.43 | | **Online payments:** |  |  | | Employment costs: |  | 4,242.72 | | Acle Rec Centre | Youth club room hire x 4 weeks | 96.00 | | Acle Rec Centre | Rent of archive loft for 2019 and 2020 | 375.00 | | T T Jones | Streetlight repairs | 280.16 | | Barratt & Cooke | Management fee | 120.00 | | Hugh Crane Ltd | Supplies | 61.58 | | SLCC | Conference fee | 339.00 | | **Cheques for payment:** |  |  | | Acle Society | Delivery of newsletter | 40.00 | | Wilkersons | Supplies | 17.81 | | Methodist Church | Grant towards new fence | 250.00 | | Methodist Church | Room hire – Meetings | 51.00 | | **Balance c/f 24.02.20** |  | 361,961.59 | | **Balances in Savings:** |  |  | | Government Stocks |  | 135,699.00 | | BDC | Parish investment scheme | 250,000.00 | | Cambridge B/Soc | Instant access 0.15% | 91,507.72 | | Lloyds Bank | 32-day notice 0.57 % | 102,042.08 | | Nationwide B/Soc | 45-day saver 0.85% | 90,448.77 | | Total monies |  | 1,031,659.16 | | |
|  | Outstanding commitments: Parking amendments, purchase of land for cemetery,  It was noted that Anna Wade and Jackie Clover had checked the clerk’s bank reconciliation as at 29th January 2020, the online payments from the meeting of 27th January 2020, payments made between meetings and all bank accounts to supporting documents. Actual v Budget figures for the 11 months to 24.02.2020 were reviewed. The payments were authorised.  Some of the Treasury Stock matures on 7th March. It was agreed to ask Barratt & Cook to suggest a new stock to invest the proceeds. |
| **14** | **MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**   * **Mobile SAM2** * **Youth mental health worker** * **Christmas lights** * **Booking system at Acle Medical Centre** * **Youth Gym** * **Men’s Shed** |
| **15** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**  **The Next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 30th March 2020 at 7.00pm** |
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