**Acle Parish Council**

**Clerk’s report for Parish Council meeting on 27th April 2020**

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| **1** | **Covid19 Virus:** |
| 1.1 | The **public toilets** and **play areas** remain closed. Playing fields are to be kept open and available for exercise. |
| 1.2 | **Benches** remain accessible. Obviously everyone should wash their hands when they get home. |
| 1.3 | Angela Bishop has been co-ordinating volunteers and supporting local residents and will write a report on what people have been doing to help residents since the lockdown, including our new **Acle Food Bank.** |
| 1.4 | **Broadland District Council’s 01508 533933 and Norfolk County Council’s 0344 8008020 numbers have been widely advertised; online, on our noticeboard and in letters to each household from BDC.** |
| 1.5 | As before, there is lots of information on **facebook,** including theFacebook page: Acle Emergency Planning – Resilience |
| 1.6 | I applied for funding from the **Norfolk Community Foundation** towards resilience costs and we have been given £1,000. This has to be repaid if not used. |
| 1.7 | **Council meetings** – The Government introduced legislation, (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020) which took effect on 4th April to permit virtual meetings for the first time, and this legislation is in place until 7th May 2021, although it can be repealed.  The new legislation does say that the **public** must be allowed to see and hear the meeting, so interested residents should email me for a link to the meeting. I will mute any members of the public once the public forum is concluded. Any councillor who declares a pecuniary interest can be moved to the waiting room while that item is discussed. |
| 1.8 | I was contacted by a resident who explained that bonfires and woodburners cause issues for anyone with COPD or similar. I can understand that, with more people at home, and doing gardening, and looking to save money with their heating, both these might be increased. BDC put up something about it on facebook so I shared it to our page, to raise people’s awareness. |
| 2 | **Minutes**  Minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2020 are on the website. |
| 3 | **Matters Arising from the Meeting of 30th March** |
|  | Covered elsewhere in this report. |
| 4 | **Correspondence Received:** |
| 4.1 | The Broads Authority sent notice that it will henceforth no longer be sending paper copies of planning applications. |
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| 5 | **Projects:** |
| 5.1 | **Youth club** – this remains closed. |
| 5.2 | **New Cemetery** – it is hoped to purchase the land for the new cemetery shortly. |
| 5.3 | **Barclays Building**  – negotiations continue for Barclays to surrender the lease on the building. |
| 5.4 | **Pre-school** is closed. |
| 6 | **Planning** |
| 6.1 | Planning results from **Broadland District Council**: |
|  | 1. **8 Hillcrest** - Amendment to existing planning permission 20200267 by (1) insertion of a second rooflight to the stairwell and rooflight above the back door (2) Timber frame detail added to the porch.(20200698) – full approval. 2. There have been no new planning applications for Acle registered at BDC |
|  | iii) Revised plans for the Herondale site were registered on the BDC website on 16th April and will be considered by the Parish Council at Monday’s meeting. (Planning application no: 20191954) |
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| 7 | **Agenda items:** |
| 7.1 | Charities are reporting large decreases in donations ; The Council may like to consider making donations to:   1. Vision Norfolk (Nfk & Norwich Association for the Blind) 2. Nfk Accident Rescue Service – needs to buy PPE 3. Norfolk Citizens Advice 4. East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices 5. Priscilla Bacon Hospice 6. East Anglian Air Ambulance – also need PPE |
| 7.2 | Acle Recreation Centre asked for confirmation that the Parish Council would be allocating the grant of £7,500 during 20/21, as was agreed in the budget, so that they can plan for the forthcoming year. |
| 7.3 | The Visit Acle hosting company can upgrade the website to include an SSL so that it no longer shows up as “not secure” in front of the site name – for a one-off cost of £75 + VAT. |
| 7.4 | The councillors will discuss whether to have an Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, at which the chairman is elected. The Government has removed the requirement to hold an APCM, but councils can still hold these meetings if they want to. |
| 8 | **Any Other Business** |
| 8.1 | I have received the annual notification of the money to be paid by NCC towards the verge-cutting costs. It is a small increase on last year. I have accepted the offer, as usual, and have sent off an invoice to request the funds. |
| 8.2 | The councillors were all in favour of requesting footway lighting on the adoptable roads on the Norwich Road development. |
| 8.3 | The Council was planning a big party for VE Day on 10th May and has received £450 from the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant and £200 from BDC. Both are able to be postponed so I have done this and, hopefully, we can have a party later in the year.  There is a campaign on facebook to decorate your front garden/windows with red, white and blue, and union jack bunting etc on the actual day, which is Friday, 8th May. |
| 8.4 | The open space maintenance on the new Leffins Lane site will be managed by a management company and the Parish Council will only be taking on the footway lights on the adoptable roads. |
| 8.8 | The local police have been very busy with online fraud and, very sadly, a doubling of cases of domestic abuse. Crime statistics are no longer available on their website as they are prioritising other work at present. |
|  | Pauline James – parish clerk - 20th April 2020 |