Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 27th April 2020  
Venue: Online Meeting  
Time: 7.00 p.m.

Following the introduction of new 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 2020, this Parish Council meeting was a virtual meeting, held online. This legislation may remain in place until 7th May 2021.  
  
**PRESENT:**   
Councillors: Sally Aldridge, Angela Bishop, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Jayne Greenacre, Brian Grint, Tony Hemmingway (Chairman), Hannah Jackson, Wendy Kenny, Jamie Pizey, Richard Powell and Anna Wade.

Also Parish Clerk, Pauline James.

Broadland District Councillor Lana Hempsall gave a report: There have been some delays on the Norwich Road development because of work to check the levels, and discussions around protection of the wells. BDC has paid out many grants to local businesses and has given support to many local residents during the Coronavirus lockdown. She has reported some flytipping.

Norfolk County Councillor Brian Iles has been receiving calls from local residents and businesses, with concerns and worries about the current situation. He has been discussing plans for when the recycling centres re-open.

There were six members of the public present.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **APOLOGIES** None. | | |
| **2** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Barry Coveley and Jamie Pizey reminded the meeting that they are both trustees of Acle Recreation Centre. Angela Bishop reported that she sometimes works for Norsecare and Norfolk County Council, who would be managing the Herondale site. | | |
| **3** | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of 30th March 2020 were agreed to be correct, and will be signed at a later date by Tony Hemmingway, on behalf of the Parish Council. | | |
| **4** | **CLERK’S REPORT** | | |
| 4.1 | The clerk had circulated a report to all the councillors in advance of the meeting and posted it on the website. The contents of the report were noted. | | |
| 4.2 | It had been reported that the Parish Council would not be taking on the management of the open spaces on the Leffins Lane site because of the complication of the underground water storage system being under that open space.  Crocus Construction have now asked if the Parish Council still wants to take on the footway lighting on the adoptable roads. The management company has offered to run the footway lights as well. The residents would be charged an annual fee for this. It was noted that residents would also be paying for a share of Acle lights, through the precept, even though they don’t benefit from those, and there were concerns what would happen if the management company were to fail or perform poorly. The clerk was asked to find out more information. | | |
| 4.3 | There was some discussion about whether to have the hanging baskets this year or whether to do some other type of floral displays. It was noted that it would be difficult to carry out maintenance on the bowser without risk of infection. The councillors agreed to have planters and additional planting around the village and to dedicate the planting to keyworkers and volunteers during the lockdown. | | |
| 4.4 | Crocus reported that they have been pressing Norfolk County Council Highways for a decision on the path at the north of Springfield. A 33m vision splay has been agreed, so work can now continue. | | |
| 4.5 | BDC had sent information about an organisation called Shopappy, where residents can place orders with several local businesses in one order, and for one delivery. The councillors did not feel that there were sufficient businesses in the village that could join this scheme if the Co-Op is not able to do online shopping. | | |
| 4.6 | Angela Bishop was thanked for her comprehensive report on the work of the Resilience Group and the setting up of Acle Foodbank, and for her hard work in supporting local residents. The report has been posted on the website. | | |
| 4.7 | The clerk has spoken to Nicholas Crane about buying the land at the top of Pyebush Lane for a new cemetery. He wants the plan of the land amended slightly but he is then ready to proceed. | | |
| 4.8 | NCC contacted the clerk to say that the legal work was ready to do the consultation on the planned parking restrictions but that they could not proceed with the consultation during the lockdown. | | |
| **5** | **PLANNING** | | |
|  | BDC stopped posting site notices for planning applications and undertaking site visits when the lockdown started. They have decided to start again from 27th April, where it is possible to do so safely. | | |
|  | Revised plans have been published for the Herondale site (20191954). The balconies on the East-facing rooms have been replaced with full-length windows and the extensions towards the East have been reduced by 1 metre, which results in one more tree being retained. East-facing windows in corridors will be obscure-glazed.  The councillors heard objections from neighbours about the overlooking of their home and garden. The councillors discussed the size and scale of the development and the concerns about parking.  (Angela Bishop abstained from the voting as she sometimes works for NCC/Norsecare)  The councillors all agreed that they were in favour of affordable rented and shared-ownership flats for the elderly. Some councillors (5) supported the development, some (4) had no objections and some (2) objected to the size and scale of the development. It was agreed to report a mixed view on the plans. | | |
| **6** | **FINANCE** The finance report had been circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting and posted on the website: | |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Receipts:** |  | £ | | Nfk Com’y Foundation | Grant towards VE Day | 450.00 | | 44 The Street | Rent for one month | 600.00 | | Various | Burial and memorial fees | 640.00 | | HMRC | VAT refund | 2,459.82 | | Lloyds | Interest | 14.44 | | Various | Donations for foodbank | 130.00 | | Nationwide | Annual interest | 770.92 | | Lloyds Inv A/c | Interest | 34.56 | | BDC | Interest on deposit | 504.15 | | **Payments made:** |  |  | | NCC | 50% cost of speed sign | 3,075.00 | | Access | Insurance for Good Neighbours | 204.72 | | Rialtas | Making Tax Digital for VAT | 141.60 | | SWALEC | Electricity for streetlights | 625.52 | | **Online payments:** |  |  | | Employment costs: |  | 4,670.89 | | Mills & Reeve | Various legal fees re Springfield | 700.25 | | Community Action | Subscription | 20.00 | | T T Jones | Streetlight repairs | 1,055.16 | | Hayes Computing | Annual hosting of website | 144.00 | | Nflk Ass’n of Councils | Subscription | 485.93 | | Internal Drainage Board | Drainage rates | 46.56 | | Angela Bishop | Resilience costs | 57.00 | | Garden Guardian | Grasscutting | 1,535.41 | | Upton PC | Share of Parish Online subs | 20.00 | | **Balance c/f 27.04.20** |  | 321,963.44 | | **Balances in Savings:** |  |  | | Government Stocks |  | 138,769.00 | | BDC | Parish investment scheme | 250,504.15 | | Cambridge B/Soc | Instant access | 91,507.72 | | Lloyds Bank | 32-day notice | 102,135.40 | | Nationwide B/Soc | 45-day saver | 91,219.69 | | Total monies |  | 996,099.40 | |  |  |  | | Loan | Strumpshaw Parish Council | 21,000.00 | | Loan | Acle Recreation Centre | 15,000.00 | |  |  | 1,032,099.40 | | |
|  | Outstanding commitments: Parking amendments, purchase of land for cemetery.  Wendy Kenny had checked the March online payments to the bank statements.  Tony Hemmingway and Barry Coveley have checked the proposed April online payments to invoices.  The payments were authorised for payment.  The clerk reported that the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 were almost complete and will be audited by John Gallop shortly. |
| **7** | **DONATIONS TO CHARITIES** | | |
|  | It was agreed to consider donations to charities, many of which have reported a significant decrease in their funding streams. It was agreed to give donations of £40 to the following:  i)Vision Norfolk (Nfk & Norwich Association for the Blind)  ii) Nfk Accident Rescue Service – need to buy PPE  iii) Norfolk Citizens Advice  iv) East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices  v)Priscilla Bacon Hospice  vi)East Anglian Air Ambulance – also need PPE  vii) Red Cross  viii) NHS Charities  It was also agreed to give a donation of £100 to Surfers against Sewage, which is the organisation behind plastic free communities. £100 had been budgeted for the project in Acle, but no money has spent so this amount will be given as a grant. | | |
| **8** | **ACLE RECREATION CENTRE GRANT** | | |
|  | Acle Recreation Centre had 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. Recently the Parish Council has paid some of their insurance bill, (for the increase resulting from the re-valuation of the Centre, and the amount relating to insuring the skateboard park), and then paid for some bills with VAT on, so as to increase the value of its grant. It was agreed that the same would be done for 2020/21.  Correspondence received about the process of appointing trustees had been circulated to the councillors. The clerk will reply. | | |
| **9** | **VISIT ACLE WEBSITE** It was agreed to pay £75.00 + VAT to pay for a certificate so as to remove “not secure” from the address for the Visit Acle website. | | |
| **10** | **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** It was agreed that, now that virtual meetings are possible, the May meeting would be the usual Annual Parish Council Meeting. | | |
| **11** | **BARCLAYS SITE** | | |
|  | The Parish Council is negotiating with Barclays a surrender of their lease, rather than them sub-letting the building. | | |
|  | The next meeting will be on Monday, 18th May at 7.00pm via a Zoom link. | | |