Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 28th September 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:**   
Chair: Angela Bishop  
Vice-Chair: Jamie Pizey *(joined the meeting at 8.33)*  
Councillors: Sally Aldridge, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Anna Holt, Hannah Jackson, Wendy Kenny and Richard Powell

Also Parish Clerk, Pauline James.

There were nine members of the public present. Dennis Fisher reported on work done to remove fallen trees on the Acle Lands Trust land, following the recent storms. Angela Bishop sent the Council’s thanks to all the volunteers. There was some discussion about the unadopted, shared, access road being used for construction traffic for the Herondale site.

Broadland District Councillor Lana Hempsall gave a report: she has spoken to the planning officer dealing with the Herondale site to ensure the developers are aware of the location of the various utilities in the area. She will ask Saffron’s construction manager to get in contact with the parish clerk. She announced that Broadland District Council is launching a community lottery that can benefit local causes.

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** Jayne Greenacre and Tony Hemmingway. | |
| **2** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Barry Coveley and Jamie Pizey reminded the meeting that they are both trustees of Acle Recreation Centre. Angela Bishop, Barry Coveley and Anna Holt each had an interest in payments for reimbursement of costs. | |
| **3** | **MINUTES** The minutes of the meetings of 24th August and 23rd September 2020 were agreed to be correct, and will be signed by Angela Bishop, as Chair of the Parish Council, at a later date. | |
| **4** | **CLERK’S REPORT** | |
|  | 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. | |
| 4.1 | **Purchase of The Chocolate Box:**  The survey had been completed and will be discussed at the end of the meeting.  The searches have all been ordered. | |
| 4.2 | **Acle Foodbank:**  The stock has been moved to The Chocolate Box. The councillors thanked all those who transported the food, and to those who have been working in the foodbank, and delivering food to families.  The drop-off point is still at the Methodist Church, Thursdays from 10.00 – 11.00am.  Foodbank deliveries to those families who had been supported over the summer have ceased. Two families are being supported currently, along with an emergency delivery to one family. Sadly, it is expected that more people will need support over the coming months. | |
| 4.3 | **Shop Local – Shop Acle and Resilience Work:**  A second, ½-page advert has been placed in the Village Book for the next edition. An advert was also placed in the NR29 Guide, which is delivered in the village north of Acle Bridge.  There is some interest in a pumpkin trail around the village, instead of doing “trick or treat” this year. Some local businesses have offered prizes. | |
| 4.4 | The September **Farmers’ Market** had been very successful and well attended. The next event is on Saturday, 10th October. There had been some consideration to hold the event in the Recreation Centre main hall, but the market organisers have decided to return to the parish room at St Edmunds Church. The councillors thanked Wendy Kenny, who had organised the two events held in the Recreation Centre car park, and thanked the Recreation Centre trustees for their support and assistance. | |
| 4.5 | **Herondale:** Councillors expressed their concern about the shared, unadopted access road being used by construction traffic, with the risks to people visiting the medical centre and the library. Councillors questioned why a temporary access road could not have been constructed directly onto Bridewell Lane. The clerk will contact Saffron to ask what measures are in place to minimise risk to other users and to ensure the road is not damaged. | |
| 4.6 | **Acle & District Men’s Shed:**  Following a Zoom meeting, a small group is to meet to start the process of setting up a Men’s Shed – constitution, bank account etc.  A £500 donation has been offered by Clarion Housing since it could benefit some of their tenants. Saffron Housing has also been approached for a donation.  Lana Hempsall said she may be able to give some funding from her district councillor’s funds | |
| 4.7 | **Boundary Changes for Norfolk County Council:**  The Acle division currently includes Lingwood, Beighton, Moulton St Mary, Reedham, Halvergate and Tunstall. It is proposed to add Upton, Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood, to equal up the numbers of residents represented by each councillor. There were no comments on these proposals. | |
| 4.8 | **Donation to the Poppy Appeal:**  It was agreed to increase the grant to £200, owing to difficulties in the Charity raising funds this year. | |
| 4.9 | **Grant for Acle Rainbows:** There was a grant request for £257.28, being half the cost of the rent of the Bure Room to 21st July 2021. This was agreed. | |
| 4.10 | **Government’s Planning White Paper “Planning for the Future” and Consultation on “Changes to the Planning system”:**  1. The aim is to simplify and speed up the planning system. There is also an emphasis on more of the system being online.  2. New district council Local Plans will be needed, taking less than 30 months to produce, that will allocate all land into Growth, Renewal and Protected areas.  3. Once land is in the Growth area, any proposal that is put forward, that meets Government guidelines, will automatically be approved, without any further consultation of district councils, parish councils or neighbours. CPRE's view is that, since most people only get involved in the planning process when their neighbours want to build an extension, this will mean that local people will have next to no input into Local Plans.  4. S106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy will be amalgamated into a new Community Levy but there are no details yet as to whether parish councils will receive any of this money and if they do, whether those with a Neighbourhood Plan will receive 25% instead of the normal 15%.  5. CPRE says there has not been enough pressure to ensure existing sites are built-out before other sites are designated for housing.  6. There is little detail yet as to what land will be Protected, other than saying that if it is not Growth land, or Renewal Land, then it is Protected land. This will therefore depend on how much land is included in the Growth zones.  7. It is proposed that First Homes, (which are homes sold to first time buyers at a discount, with the discount applying whenever the home is sold in the future), should make up a minimum of 25% of affordable housing secured through Section 106, with this requirement carried through to the new levy.  8. It is proposed that the threshold at which a development is exempt from Section 106 requirements to provide affordable homes from a site of 10 homes to 40 or 50 homes for an initial period of 18 months.  The councillors expressed their concerns about some of these issues. It was felt unlikely that many people would engage sufficiently with the Local Plan process and they would then feel aggrieved that they had no opportunity to object to developments in Growth areas at a later date. It is clear, also, that many residents have no, or limited, access to the internet.  The clerk will complete the consultation forms, after further research and any comments from the councillors. | |
| 4.11 | **Revised scheme for dualling of A47 at North Burlingham:** The clerk had attended an online meeting with Highways England about the dualling of the A47 at North Burlingham. The plans are about to be submitted, and the start of work is planned for December 2022. Very few of the issues raised by any of the parishes along the route have been addressed or resolved. | |
| **5** | **PLANNING** | |
|  | None | |
| 6 | **FINANCE** The finance report had been circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting and posted on the website: |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Receipts:** |  | £ | | 44 The Street | Rent for one month | 600.00 | | 42 The Street | Rent | 697.00 | | Upton PC | Reimbursement of costs | 85.95 | | Various | Funerals and memorials | 770.00 | | Various | Donations for foodbank | 30.00 | | Broadland D C | Small Business Grant | 10,000.00 | | **Payments made:** |  |  | | Cricket Club | Covid-19 support | 110.57 | | Street Solutions | Bin for cemetery car park | 107.78 | | SLCC | Conference | 30.00 | | SWALEC DD | Electricity for streetlights | 733.56 | | Mills & Reeve | Searches for Chocolate Box | 773.49 | | Siemens DD | Copier rental | 205.26 | | PHS | Waste disposal compliance | 91.80 | | Mills & Reeve | Additional searches | 366.72 | | **Online payments:** |  |  | | Employment costs: |  | 5,323.81 | | Pauline James | Reimb. Christmas lamps | 698.00 | | Hugh Crane Cleaning | Consumables | 153.27 | | Brown & Co | Survey of Chocolate Box | 2,400.00 | | Rhino | Wood for Barclays building | 3.11 | | Barry Coveley | Keys for Barclays building | 17.50 | | T T Jones | Lighting repairs | 473.48 | | Mills & Reeve | Legal work re lease | 2,085.24 | | Collier Turfcare | Outdoor Bowls | 2,202.82 | | Wilkersons | Supplies | 64.97 | | NR29 Guide | Advertising | 107.00 | | Angela Bishop | Expenses | 44.70 | | Anna Holt | Expenses | 16.17 | | Newline | 3 x sanitiser stations (Rec Centre) | 453.60 | | Community Heartbeat | Rec Centre grant (part) | 282.00 | | Worker Bee | Advert in Village Book | 149.76 | | Garden Guardian | Grasscutting | 1,535.41 | | **Balance c/f 28.09.20** |  | 390,276.59 | | **Balances in Savings:** |  |  | | Government Stocks |  | 140,781.00 | | BDC | Parish investment scheme | 250,504.15 | | Cambridge B/Soc | Instant access | 91,507.72 | | Lloyds Bank | 32-day notice | 102,176.56 | | Nationwide B/Soc | 45-day saver | 91,219.69 | | Total monies |  | 1,066,465.70 | | Loan | Acle St Edmund Church | 7,281.60 | | Loan | Strumpshaw Parish Council | 21,000.00 | | Loan | Acle Recreation Centre | 15,000.00 | |  |  | 1,109,747.30 | |

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|  | * Clerk’s fee includes back pay to 1st April for a nationally agreed pay rise of 57pence per hour. Pension payments, tax and National Insurance payments are increased accordingly.   Outstanding commitments: Parking amendments, purchase of land for cemetery and purchase of Chocolate Box.  Wendy Kenny had checked the August online payments, and payments made between meetings, to the bank statements, and the clerk’s bank reconciliation, dated 3rd September 2020.  Invoices for the proposed September online payments had been shared with the councillors.  The clerk presented the actual v budget report for the 6 months to September 2020. There were no questions on the report.  The clerk had reviewed each line of the Council’s budget and has moved unused funds to Contingency to pay for Covid-19 measures and support of local businesses. This was noted. |

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| **7** | **RECREATION CENTRE**  Trustee Barry Brooks reported that some clubs are returning to the Centre, and are appreciating the rent reduction funded by the Parish Council.  The Centre’s next repayment of the loan from the Parish Council is due shortly. The trustees will be reviewing the Centre’s finances and may approach the Council for a deferment of the loan repayment if appropriate. |
| **8** | **FORMER BARCLAYS BUILDING**  At the meeting of 23rd September it was agreed to get various small works done to improve the appearance of the building.  Councillors are meeting with a surveyor and architect shortly, to consider options.  Rates bill has been received, suggesting it will be £9,984 for 365 days.  The building has been registered with the Broadland District Council Solar Together Norfolk collective buying scheme. |
| **9** | **NOTICEBOARDS FOR ARCHIVE DISPLAYS**  Nothing to report at this stage. |
| **10** | **HIGHWAYS AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** |
| 10.1 | Litter bins and benches have been delivered and will be fitted shortly. |
| 10.2 | Crocus/ Saffron said that they would expect that the Parish Council would be able to re-use the grit bin from the Herondale site. |
| 10.3 | A new string of Christmas lights was fitted on the Manor House, on The Green. |
| 10.4 | Anna Holt reported on a successful community litter pick; 13 people joined in the event. 10 bags of rubbish were collected. The Council thanked Anna for arranging this and the volunteers for giving up their time. |
| 10.5 | The clerk was asked to investigate the siting of a new litter bin on Oaks Lea, near to the footpath through to Old Road. |
| 10.6 | It was agreed not to use the litter collecting A-frame board at present as it would not be possible to sanitise the litter picking tools. |
| 11 | **CAR PARK** The clerk was asked to contact the bus companies to find out if they could arrange for the buses to stop on the A47 sliproads if there were a car park nearby.  The clerk will also raise this again with the planners and the landowner.  *Jamie Pizey joined the meeting at this point.* |
| 12 | **FLETCHER ROOM SITE** The clerk was asked to contact Norfolk Property Services to ask if they would extend the lease for the Fletcher Room, and whether they would consider selling the land to the Parish Council. |
| **13** | **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**   * website |
| **14** | **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**  Jackie Brooks, Sarah Cartwright and David Stephenson were present. They each spoke briefly about their interest in the village and why they would like to be co-opted . All the candidates were thanked for attending. |