**Acle Parish Council**

**Clerk’s report for Parish Council meeting on 24th May 2021**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Agenda items:** |
| 1.1 | **Acle Foodbank**Sally Aldridge can give an update on the foodbank. We continue to receive small donations via the BDC Community Lottery. |
| 1.2 | **Shop Acle** Angela Bishop continues to publicise local businesses via the Shop Acle facebook page. |
| 1.3 | **Land for New Cemetery**Nicholas Crane apologised for the delay but is now sending instructions to his solicitor to progress the sale of the land to the parish council. |
| 1.4 | **Acle’s Beeline** Richard will give a report at the meeting. |
| 1.5 | **Rural Village Services Group**The Rural Services Network has come back to me suggesting that Acle might prefer to be a member of the Villages Group, rather than the Market Towns Group, as they had previously suggested. This Village Group is a new group that they are just setting up and they are keen to have a Village from the Broadland area. The idea of a Village Group appeals more to me than the Town Group, as Towns tend to have several staff, council chambers etc.From their website:The Rural Services Network is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association.  We are a membership organisation and work on behalf of our members as the national champion for rural services. We support our member organisations through the sharing of best practice and rural expertise, and advocate on their behalf to ensure that the rural voice is raised up the agenda with parliamentarians and decision makers.The Rural Services Network has different levels of membership and currently represents:* 100 Local Authorities in Sparse Membership
* 16 Local Authorities in Rural Assembly Membership
* 215 Organisations across England as part of the Rural Services Partnership
* 210 Rural Market Towns and Larger Parishes

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Services located within, or provided locally to, villages and their surrounding areas are vitally important to the social and economic wellbeing of rural communities and contribute very considerably to the quality of life of their residents.RSN is concerned both about the current levels of service provision to rural villages and about likely future pressures, particularly in the context of an ageing population.  To date, this important topic does not receive the level of attention that it warrants.  Accordingly, to facilitate better understanding and to raise the profile of village service needs at a national level, RSN intends to establish a membership group of Parish Councils to further this work.In order ensure that **The Rural Village Services Group** is as inclusive as possible the membership subscription level will be set at a low level. Here are the details:-**Rural Villages Services Group** – parishes in rural areas (generally of a population size of 2750 or above) containing a central village or villages from which there are local services (for instance shop, post office, church, village hall) flowing to the population of the parish.* £70 per annum plus VAT for Local Councils of up to 2,750 population.
* £80 similarly plus VAT p.a. for Local Councils with 2,750 to 5,000 population.
* £90 plus VAT for parishes above 5,000 population.

**It is intended members of the Rural Village Group will receive the following service:-*** Weekly edition of the Rural Bulletin, the RSN publication which includes relevant rural news and articles highlighting key issues affecting rural service delivery and communities.
* Monthly Funding Digest which sets out funding and grant opportunities along with key Government Consultations relating to rural areas
* An Area Profile of their Principal Council issued once a year setting out key statistics in relation to the rural area. This will help to give the overall picture of their local area to help plan services and understand local issues.
* Dedicated Rural Village Group Newsletter twice a year setting out key issues for rural villages for example rural transport, broadband, and affordable housing.
* An Annual Rural Poll (via Survey Monkey) seeking to establish the top (up to 5) issues currently facing Group Member Councils. The results to be reported to and fully discussed by the yearly meeting.
* Attendance at a yearly meeting of the Rural Village Group Membership (via Zoom) to consider key issues at a strategic level for rural villages. A second part of this meeting would consider Rural Vulnerability and its inter-relationship with Utility Company services.
* Involvement in the RSN Consultation Programme, this could include responding to Government White Papers, Call for Evidence and Select Committee Inquiries. In addition, they will help to develop the rural voice at a national level to ensure rural are represented. This would be in the form of surveys, calls for evidence / case studies.
* Cataloguing of good practice and learning material related to key policy areas and challenges or opportunities for rural parishes.

 |
| 1.6 | **Charitable Donations**Citizens Advice and the Air Ambulance have both asked for a donation. Would you like to nominate some charities for donations? Last year you gave donations to:Nfk Accident Rescue ServiceNfk Citizens AdviceEACHPriscilla BaconAir AmbulanceNHS CharitiesNfk & Nch BlindLeonard Cheshire Age UKScotty’s Little SoldiersSamaritansYoung MindsAnna FreudNfk and Waveney MindMenscraft |
| 1.7 | **Dr Bike Sessions**Angela has booked: Thursday, 3rd June (outside Barclays, paid for by us), Saturday, 14th August (a workshop on the grass to the rear of Barclays, paid for by Cycling UK) and 23rd October (probably paid for by Cycling UK).  |
| 2 | **Matters Arising from the Meeting of 26th April and 4th May**  |
| 2.1 | **Flooding**Angela Bishop and I have a Zoom meeting with BDC and Clarion on 3rd June to discuss the flooding in Beighton Road. Clarion did get in touch on 30th April to confirm that they have instructed work on the ditch in Beighton Road, structural surveys have been done of all the houses affected by the flooding, repair works have been done. Two residents have decided to move to other Clarion properties. A flood defence contractor has advised on further works to be done, and these suggestions will be considered, They have discussed with NCC what other works can be done to reduce flooding in the future. |
| 3 | **Planning:** |
| 3.1 | **Southfields, 7 South Walsham Road** - Provision of Building to include Single Bay Garage, Store and Hobby Room on Front Garden (20210861).  |
| 3.2 | **Corner Way, New Road** - Erection of Single Storey Rear Extension (Prior Notification) (20210915). Note that this is an application to BDC to determine whether they need planning permission or not, given that it is for a garden room in the rear garden, so this application is currently for information only. |
| 3.3 | **Broadland District Council** decisions:* 1. **10 Charles Close** – proposed front and rear extensions (20210467) – full approval.
	2. **20 Hermitage Close** – fell 2 x willow trees subject to a TPO (20210450) – split decision – agreed that two stems with decay could be removed, but the trees could not be felled
 |
| 4 | **Accounts and Annual Return** |
|  | The draft accounts are on the Parish Council’s website. |
| 5 | **A Finance Report** will be presented at the meeting. |
| 6 | **Summer Markets** |
|  | Angela Bishop and Wendy Kenny have been busy following up contacts for people to have a stall at the proposed Summer Markets. It has been featured in the local press**.** They are requesting a sum of money to be allocated to the project so that we can pay for advertising, banners and other costs.It is proposed to charge £15 per stall, and the markets to be in front of Barclays, from 3 – 7 pm on Thursdays, possibly starting 10th or 17th June. Local businesses, such as the Enchanted Florist, Scooters and the Charity Shop have agreed to stay open until 7pm to encourage more footfall in The Street. |
| 7 | **The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and the Christmas Market and Carol Service** |
|  | We also need some funds allocated for these future events. |
| 8 | **Chocolate Box:**The specification for the refurbishment works is expected shortly. |
| 9 | **Barclays:**The plans have been submitted to BDC for a small extension and change of use for the pre-school. |
| 10 | **Highways:** |
| 10.1 | **Hanging baskets**There will be an update at the meeting. |
| 10.2 | The **Mobile Speed Monitoring Device (SAM**) has been set up on Reedham Road, on the approach to Moulton St Mary.  |
| 10.3 | **Acle Academy** got in touch to ask for support for the problems with people parking near to the school. I have written to NCC Highways asking for the single yellow lines to be refreshed, but also supporting the school’s request for double yellow lines and/or any other ideas to slow traffic and to prevent parking. PC Jackie Chambers has been on site a few times to speak to parents who park on the single yellow lines, but who mostly move on very quickly when they see the police officers! |
| 10.4 | PC Chambers has also done a leaflet drop in **Springfield** to remind residents to park and drive courteously. |
| 10.5 | The owner of **The Hermitage** has sited a large container on the car park next to the allotments. The owner leases this from us, under a 99 year lease. |
| 11 | **Adoption of Jubilee Wood** |
|  | NCC got in touch to ask for confirmation that APC wants to acquire the freehold of Jubilee Woo, to the west of the village. Acle Lands Trust would take on the maintenance of the woods. |
| 12 | **Grant for Acle Community Gym** |
|  | The group has requested a grant for running costs. |
|  | Pauline James – 24th May 2021 |