**Acle Parish Council**

**Clerk’s report for Parish Council meeting on 27th September 2021**

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| **1.** | **Agenda items:** |
| 1.1 | **Acle Foodbank**  Sally can give an update on the foodbank. Brundall & Blofield Good Neighbours are now collecting the parcels for residents in their parishes, fortnightly, prepared by Sally. We are using Foodbank funds to pay for the food for all parcels, funded by grants, donations from residents and various parish councils, not from the precept. On the recommendation of B&B GN I have set up a freephone number for residents to use, where the number can be diverted to different people to take it in turns to receive calls, or can be left to an answerphone. Acle Methodist Church has donated their harvest festival donations to the foodbank. |
| 1.2 | **Acle’s Beeline** Richard can give a report on Monday. |
| 1.3 | **Summer Markets** Angela and Wendy will report on Monday. |
| 1.4 | **Men’s Shed** An update will be given at the meeting. |
|  | **Flooding** Any update can be discussed at the meeting. |
| 2 | **Matters Arising from the Meeting of 19th July** |
| 2.1 | NCC have still not finished the **parking restrictions** process. They have said that some amendments are necessary to the report that goes to the Committee for approval. |
| 2.2 | Nigel Robson has spoken to Nick Farrow who currently leases **Jubilee Wood** from NCC, along with the adjacent land. Nigel will report at the October meeting.  Nigel also said that NCC County Farms are looking to plant thousands of new trees and might be interested in extending Jubilee Wood. |
| 2.3 | Crocus Homes were very excited about the **swift boxes** and have immediately ordered 10 swift bricks (where the box is in a specially modified brick).  Lovells (Norwich Road site) were also very keen, and offered to make up some boxes using offcuts from the site. I have also asked if they might be prepared to give some offcuts to the Men’s Shed to make up some bird boxes too. |
| 2.4 | In August I sent contact details of various landowners to Oscar Stelzer-Hiller, who was sorting out permissions for the **drone filming**. I’ve just asked for an update. |
| **3** | **Correspondence Received:** |
| 3.1 | I contacted **Cuppa Care** when I saw a post on facebook. They take a small bus to certain locations and offer support and advice. They have said that they are considering coming to Acle from November. I did suggest that they might be able to use the Chocolate Box offices once the building is refurbished, as it will get too cold soon for residents to sit outside a small bus… |
| 3.2 | BDC got in touch to say they have invoiced Crocus for some **S106 money** from the development at Leffins Lane. This money can be spent by APC, on sport or allotments, but each spend must be agreed with the BDC officer. The officer was aware of our discussion about paying for the drainage of the football pitch. I told the officer that the Rec Centre was going to try to aerate the pitch first, and that we were paying for an aerator, and the officer has agreed to pay for this once she has the money from the developer, so this has worked out nicely! |
| 3.3 | I received a complaint from a resident about loud music, late at night, at the **Kings** **Head**. I have passed the information on to BDC. |
| 3.4 | The Norfolk Association of Local Councils has been in touch about some **Memorial Tokens** that are to be presented to communities as a thank you for support offered to residents during the pandemic. Apparently the token can be fixed indoors or outdoors, but I don’t know much more about it. The Lady Dannatt, who is Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, will be announcing the scheme later this month, and then the tokens will be presented at community events or parish council meetings. |
| 3.5 | I circulated information about a group of parish councils who are fighting the current plans for cables from the North Sea wind **turbines**. |
| 3.6 | **Acle Tennis** **Club** has invited councillors to attend an open event on the afternoon of Sunday, 10th October. The PC helped fund their improvements. Jackie has offered to attend. |
| 3.7 | I received a complaint about the **dog poo bins** near the Hermitage being surrounded by bags of rubbish from people off boats. I asked Nigel Brennan (district councillor appointed to the Broads Authority) to raise this with the BA. This is a common complaint, but it doesn’t seem fair that the BA does not provide adequate waste facilities for boat users, when they get the toll monies. |
| 3.8 | I had a phone call from Hugh Crane Cleaning to say that they had gone to get the **defibrillator** from Acle Academy, only to find it covered in cobwebs and the cabinet very difficult to open.  I was speaking to Ken Wallis- Gare, who lives in Upton and works for the emergency services. During lockdowns he has been checking umpteen defibrillators around the district. I explained that the Co-Op had offered us a second-hand unit some time ago, but it had all gone quiet, and he sent me a price for a new unit, to be discussed under item 13. Ken has offered to add this defibrillator into his checks. |
| 3.9 | I had a message from a resident who complained that the **X1** had driven straight past when she was waiting in the bus shelter. First Bus have confirmed that there is no obligation for the drivers to stop in Acle as the stops on both sides of the road are “alighting only”. |
| 3.10 | The **Greater Norwich Local Plan** has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for the next stage of the process. |
| 3.11 | The NCC report into the **flooding in Winter** 20-21 has been published. It is disappointing as it only mentions 1 property being flooded and gives little in the way of proposals to reduce the likelihood of repeat occurrences, other than to “monitor”. |
| 13.12 | I attended the online Safer Neighbourhood meeting with the Police on 21st September. PC Jackie Chambers reported that local crimes rates are low. They did find some cannabis in a garden in Acle, following a report to Crime Stoppers, but it was not being grown on a commercial basis. There has been one burglary in Acle, in July. Most crimes are domestic, and online fraud. They have been carrying out speed checks in the area. |
| 4 | **Planning: (Agenda item 5)** |
| 4.1 | **49A Damgate Lane –** sectional building for garden room/office (20211461). |
| 4.2 | **Acle Garden Machinery –** Raise and use land as part of the unit additional to that permitted by PP20190618 and erect extension of storage shed permitted by PP 20190618 (20211179). |
| 4.3 | I called a quick planning meeting on 9th August. The following comments were agreed by Jamie, Sally, Sarah and Jackie:  **Rendl, Middlesex Lane –** balustrade, with obscure glass (20211217). No objections.  **Oak Hill Barn, The Hill** – garden office (20211225). No objections.  **Land north of Norwich Road** – various, including surface water basis (20211254 & 20210261). These plans were noted. Sally asked if the basins would be fenced and Lovells have confirmed that the basins will not be fenced. |
| 5 | **Finance Report: (agenda item 6)**  The report will be available at the meeting.  The **external audit** for the year ended 31st March has been completed by the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, without comment. I have published the completion of the audit on our website, as required. |
| 6 | **Recreation Centre: (agenda item 7)** As Simon Darter was a Parish Council-appointed trustee, Acle PC needs to appoint a new **trustee** to take his place. |
| 7. | **Acle United Football Club (agenda item 8)** have asked for a grant towards:   1. The addition of higher gates for the enclosure where the dugouts are kept as they keep getting vandalised 2. The cost of tall netting to stop the footballs being kicked into scrubland on Mr Molineux’s land |
| 8 | **Chocolate Box: (agenda item 9)**  Planning permission was granted on 7th September, with no extra conditions. I therefore placed the order for the doors and windows, as agreed previously.  Broadland Windows said:  *At the moment dual colour aluminium is taking around  12 weeks from order we then need around 4 weeks to manufacture also bearing in mind we shut down for 2 weeks over Christmas ,we expect to be ready for installation early February 2022*  Jamie, Sarah and Sarah’s husband removed the conifers from the car park next to the Chocolate Box and replanted them at the Springfield play area. Jamie’s daughter Megan weeded and tidied the car park area. |
| 7 | **Barclays: (agenda item 10) P**lanning Permission was finally granted on 6th September. Conditions are:  The retail units can trade under Use Class E (retail sales, cafés, banks, estate agents, offices)  The retail units can only open between:  07.30 – 22.00 Monday to Friday  08.30 – 21.00 Saturday  10.00 – 16.00 Sunday and bank holidays  The pre-school can only open between:  07.45 – 18.15 Monday – Friday  08.45 – 16.15 Saturday  Not open on Sunday and bank holidays  Details of the acoustic fencing have to be agreed with the planning officer  Any new external lighting has to be agreed with the officer |
| 8 | **New Cemetery: (agenda item 11)**  I met our solicitor on site so that he could fully understand the unadopted track (over which we will have right of way), the public footpath that goes over the land we are buying, and the access we will have over the Cranes’ land to reach the cemetery. He has sent some further enquiries to the Cranes’ solicitor.  I sent on her email to the Rec Centre to answer the question about the playing field extension. |
| 9 | **Highways: (agenda item 12)** |
| 9.1 | There was an online talk the other day from NCC highways. There was not much new discussed, but it may be useful to note that highways inspectors, who used to be driven around the district so that they could take a good look at the roads, are now having to drive themselves, which makes it more difficult to see potholes etc.  They are still processing reports of flooding and damage from the winter.  The verges of rural roads are cut twice a year, with the second cut being done in order of priority – eg junctions are cut first. Verges used to be cut three times per year. |
| 9.2 | **Crown-shaped planter:**  I have asked the Men’s Shed to make us a new planter for next year. |
| 9.3 | **Bus shelter**:  Lana tells me that someone has been sticking posters on our bus shelter again.. |
| 9.4 | **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign:** Jamie can give a report. |
| 10 | **Defibrillator: (agenda item 13)** |
|  | Ken Wallis-Gare, who works for the emergency services, has recommended a package for a defibrillator and storage case, for £1,250 + VAT. Ken has offered to check the defibrillator regularly. We could use CIL money for this purchase. (Amazon have currently got the defibrillator, without cabinet, at £1,197 so this does seem a good price.)  Website is here: https://www.ipad-aed.com/ipad-sp1/  We just need to pay for the electrical connection to keep the cabinet frost free in the former phone box in the street.  I’ve sent the details to the Rec Centre as they were thinking of buying one a while ago. |
| 11 | **Community Assets: (agenda item 14)** |
|  | Communities can request Broadland District Council to list buildings or land as Assets of Community Value. Residential property cannot be listed. Assets must be shown to further the social wellbeing or social interest of the local community. If accepted then, if the asset is put up for sale (not as a going concern,) the community gets a 6-week interim period during which they must express an interest in bidding. There is then a 6-month moratorium to allow the community to put a bid together.  There is no community right to BUY the asset, just to BID.  We have listed:  Lloyds Bank building Herondale building Library building Public Toilets building Signal Box building  The Lloyds Bank listing expires on 5th December this year. BDC have asked if we wish to apply to extend this. The building is owned by a Mr Leonard in Reedham. |
| 12 | **Events: (agenda item 15)**  Angela will report on the Christmas event and the Jubilee events. |
| 13 | **Co-Option of a new councillor: (agenda item 16)** I am aware of three candidates: Jon Wright, Indra Goodson and Clive Campion. I’ve invited all three to attend the meeting on Monday. |
| 14 | **Clerk’s Hours: (agenda item 18) - should be in private session** To discuss employing a deputy clerk to assist with the work. |
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|  | Pauline – 23rd September 2021 |