**Acle Parish Council**

**Clerk’s report for Parish Council meeting on 25th October 2021**

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| **1.** | **Agenda items:** |
| 1.1 | **Acle Foodbank (agenda item 4.i)**  Sally Aldridge will give an update on the foodbank. Brundall & Blofield Good Neighbours continue to collect the parcels for residents in their parishes, fortnightly, prepared by Sally. |
| 1.2 | **Acle’s Beeline (agenda item 4.ii)** Richard Powell will give a report on Monday. |
| 2 | **Matters Arising from the Meeting of 29th September:** |
| 2.1 | I have sent NCC an email asking for an update on the **parking restrictions** process. I’ll let you know on Monday if I receive a reply. |
| 2.2 | I have contacted the **defibrillator** company. The offer we had been told about was not on their website but via email. Once I get a formal quote from the company I will purchase the defibrillator and cabinet.  Ken Wallis-Gare has offered to do defibrillator training for the village if you feel this would be a good idea? |
| 2.3 | I removed posters from the bus shelter in The Street. One was a Police Notice about not parking on pavements. PC Jackie Chambers confirmed that she had not put up this poster, so I removed it. Someone has put another one up. |
| **3** | **Correspondence Received:** |
| 3.1 | A resident has asked for additional **lighting** on the pathway through from the End of Englands Road to Nursery Close. This pathway belongs to NCC so I have asked them to look at this. (Just as a note, the George Lane pathway diagonally from Englands Road to South Walsham Road, where we recently installed lights, is owned by the Parish Council.) |
| 3.2 | **Network Rail** has got in touch to say there are 14 ash trees adjacent to the railway track that need to be inspected and possibly felled. As with the other tree identified previously, we do not have any way to do this work so close to the railway and will need the assistance of Network Rail. |
| 4 | **Planning: (Agenda item 5)** |
| 4.1 | **East of England Co-Op** – installation of roof-mounted solar pv panels (20211806). |
| 4.2 | **Calthorpe House, 40 Old Road** – removal of Beech under TPO due to infection (20211800). We are not technically consulted on this type of application. |
| 4.3 | **Acle Garden Machinery –** application for approval of details reserved by condition (validation report for soils and external materials (2021819) and validation report. (20211825).  They are also re-consulting on the application to raise and use land under PP 20190618 as the land is higher than they originally said. (20211179) |
| 4.4 | **33 Springfield** – rear extension - application for confirmation that it falls under permitted development rules (20211922). We are not technically consulted on this type of application. |
| 5 | **Finance Report: (agenda item 6)**  The list of payments to be approved is attached. |
| 6 | **Recreation Centre: (agenda item 7)** The Rec Centrehave asked if the PC could pay for a **roller mower** costing £4,980**,** which would be towed behind their tractor. I have checked with BDC who have just confirmed that this could be funded from the S106 money from Leffins Lane. |
| 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 3. The cost of new team shelters 4. The cost of three new goalposts and nets   BDC have said they will allow S106 monies from the development at Leffins Lane to be used for the team shelters, the goalposts and probably the netting, but not for the gates at the enclosure.  Jim Stimpson rang me to say that the FA has offered a grant towards some of these costs, but they suggested that planning permission might be needed, and they would only give their grant once PP had been obtained. I told Jim that Parish Councils do not need planning permission for structures under 4m high and less than 200cu.m. on land that they own, under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, so Jim was going to go back to the FA and hopefully we’ll have an update on Monday night. |
| 8 | **Acle Cricket Club (agenda item 9)** have asked the PC to purchase covers for the cricket wicket and new practice nets, totalling about £10,950. BDC has already confirmed that these can be funded from the S106 monies.  (BDC are currently holding £38,788 of S106 money for sports provision, before the above expenditure) |
| 9 | **Chocolate Box: (agenda item 10)**  Following the decision to ask Brown & Co to take over the professional work on both projects, our architect, Fraser Hall, has sent out requests for quotes for a structural engineer, a mechanical and electrical engineer and a quantity surveyor. Brown & Co would carry out the CDM work, the technical design work, the tendering process and the construction management.  I have asked Fraser for a short update for Monday’s meeting.  One piece of good news is that Angela Bishop spotted a grant offer from Broadland DC for up to £1,000 for refurbishment of shop frontages, and I applied for the window we are reinstating, and they agreed to pay the £857 cost of that window, up to £1,000 if it comes in more expensive. |
|  | **Barclays: (agenda item 11)**  As above. |
| 11 | **New Cemetery: (agenda item 12)**  I have emailed our solicitor for an update on the purchase of the land. |
| 12 | **Men’s Shed: (agenda item 13)**  The current preferred site is at the Rec Centre, between the outdoor bowls and Swallowtail Place (was Herondale).  We had a zoom call this week with a representative from Carters and Saffron Housing. Both are keen to help. Carters offered to donate up to a two days’ cranage to get a modular building or two onto the site. They anticipate having a crane on site until the Spring.  Carters did not feel they could donate the work to construct pillars for the buildings (the land is on a slope) but did say they would quote to do the work if we clarified what work is needed.  Barry Coveley has been looking for second-hand buildings and has found a source for 32ft x 10ft buildings. The site could accommodate a slightly wider building, but this size of building seems to be fairly common.  We did ask if Saffron might consider allowing a gap or gate in the boundary fence to allow disabled access to the building, and easy access for their residents. They have an obligation to provide 47 parking spaces on the site, so they cannot sacrifice one of the spaces to provide an access. They did offer to look at whether they could construct an access point in the north-west corner of the site, where there is some grass next to the turning area for the refuse lorry, which would then require a path across the top of the play area. The Rec Centre trustees have, however, said that access cannot be across the play area, for safeguarding reasons, and that access will have to be from the Habgood Close end of the site.  Obviously they will need electricity (could come from the outdoor bowls with a sub-meter) but it would need to be a large enough cable to allow for the various machinery that might be in the sheds. |
| 13 | **Highways: (agenda item 14)** |
| 13.1 | **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign:** Jamie Pizey will give a report. |
| 13.2 | **Speed limit on Leffins Lane:**  There is to be an application to impose a 40mph speed limit on Leffins Lane, as part of the planning permission for the new houses.   I did ask if it could not be 30mph but the officer said that, because no houses front onto the road, it would not meet their criteria for 30mph. They say the average speed on the road is 42mph so they are confident that people will drive within a 45mph speed limit. |
| 13.3 | NCC agreed with our proposal for cycle parking on the Barclays site, behind the concrete bollards, behind the bus shelter.  The other site they liked was on the grass semi-circle outside the Primary School so they are waiting to get permission from the school. |
| 13.4 | Sally Aldridge asked if we should consider parking restrictions at the top of Mill Lane to stop people parking there but who live on the Norwich Road site. |
| 14 | **Community Assets: (agenda item 15)** |
|  | As I said last time, 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.  It was agreed at the last meeting to consider if there were any more buildings that should be listed…  BDC’s guidance states an asset can be considered:  “…where the use of the land or building currently, or in the recent past, furthers the social wellbeing, or the cultural, recreational or sporting interests of the local community. Local authorities will interpret and define ‘recent past’ themselves and the Communities Team will consider each nomination on a case by case basis, with particular reference to the benefit is has to the community. Those nominating a building or piece of land are advised to include examples of how the community uses the asset. For example, ‘…the youth centre is used by many community groups including; a weekly Scouts group, morning crèche sessions; fitness classes…’ etc.”  “The social use of the building or land is not deemed ‘ancillary’, i.e. of secondary purpose. This means that the use of the land or building to further social wellbeing or interests of the community must be its principal use. For example, a school’s primary purpose is educational. The aspects of the asset which fulfil social and community purposes are ancillary to this and therefore the asset would not be listed.”  “The use of the land/building will continue to further the social wellbeing or interests of the local community in the future. a). Where an asset is presently in social use there should be a presumption of continued viability, unless clear evidence suggests otherwise. b). For a social use which has lapsed and needs to be re-established the Council will need to take a view on the realism of re-establishing this within the next five years. NB: The type of social use of the building/land is allowed to change at any time”  As a reminder, we have listed:  Lloyds Bank building Herondale building Library building Public Toilets building Signal Box building  (The Post Office was listed until it was sold to the current owners and then the listing was cancelled. We found it was problematic in that you are trying to preserve the function of a post office, but a post office could be set up in any building, not just that one.)  I told BDC that you wanted to relist the Lloyds Bank building that expires on 5th December this year. They sent me a form to complete.  Obviously the listing for Herondale will cease when it expires, and I don’t think we can realistically suggest that we could buy Swallowtail Place! |
| 15 | Funding for **Cuppa Care Visits**: (agenda item 16)  Cuppa Care is funded by the Norwich Rotary Club. They visit villages with their minibus, provide free refreshment and offer support from Hear for Norfolk, Age UK Norwich, Vision Norfolk, Norfolk LGBT+ Project, Norfolk and Waveney Mind, Norfolk CAB, Age UK Norfolk and The Wellbeing Service. (I’ve put the link to an EDP article about their work and their fundraising efforts under item 16.1 in the folder.)  They would like to visit Acle now, once a month, on Monday mornings. During the Summer they have put up tables and chairs outside their mini-bus that I thought that this would not be very successful now that it is colder. I have contacted the Methodist Church and their hall is free on Monday mornings. I am therefore wondering if you would support this service for Acle residents by paying their room hire cost, of £20.40 for each visit. They could then set up inside the meeting room and have access to the kitchen and the toilets. The proposed dates are Mondays, 1st November, 13th December and 10th January. |
| 16 | **Jubilee Wood: (agenda item 17)**  Nigel Robson will attend the meeting on Monday to discuss this more. |
| 17 | **Events: (agenda item 18)**  Angela Bishop will report on the Christmas event and the Jubilee events. |
| 18 | **Short-listing candidates for Deputy Clerk and Assets Manager: (agenda item 20) (After public are excluded from the meeting)**  I have had 6 phone calls about the job advert, and 3 formal applications so far, but the closing date is Monday, so we might get some more. |
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|  | Pauline James – 22nd October 2021 |