**Acle Parish Council**

**Clerks’ report for Parish Council meeting on 28th February 2022**

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| **1.** | **Clerks’ Report - Matters Arising from the Meeting of 31st January:** |
| 1.1 | **Acle & District Men’s Shed** I met with Alex Mackay from Carters, together with Hannah from Saffron, Barry and Tony, and my Dad (representing the Men’s Shed). Carters have kindly agreed to level the site for the portacabins, put in the concrete pads for the legs, and put in a conduit for the electricity supply.   The scaffolding for the indoor bowls has been removed this week, so work can start on the foundations for the portacabins, and then the ramp to enable disabled access.  BF- I will be putting together a draft occupational licence for your consideration between the Men’s Shed and Parish Council and have consulted with Pauline about what this should entail. |
| 1.2 | **Coronation Throne:** John Holt, Acle Men’s Shed, has written:  *For the Jubilee celebrations in June, Acle and District Men’s Shed suggest they could construct something to go on Acle Green. This would be along the lines of the Coronation Throne which lives in Westminster Abbey. We have approached an artist who says she could decorate the chair to make it colourful. For safety and security reasons the legs of the chair would be set into the soil.*  *Perhaps some other group could make flower planters to be positioned alongside the chair.*  *Another suggestion is that smaller versions of the chair could be made by, perhaps, Acle Academy to be placed in the 4 or 5 play areas.* |
| 1.3 | **Fletcher Room - BF** Acle Pre-School trustees have applied to the National Lottery Community Grant scheme and are seeking support from Norfolk Community Foundation regarding other fundraising opportunities for a new modular building.  I carried out an inspection visit on the 14th February. The extractor fans have been replaced and the outside bollard lights are now in working order on a timer. George Taylor has trimmed the eucalyptus and weeping silver birch tree.   A Legionella Risk Assessment was undertaken on the 15th February.  The Pre-School have made the sheds watertight, cleared the rubbish and cut back the overgrown hedges.  The fire extinguisher service has been done. |
| 1.4 | **Public Toilets – BF:** A Legionella Risk Assessment was undertaken on the 15th February. |
| 1.5 | **The Flats – BF:**  A Legionella Risk Assessment was carried by Infinity at Barclays on 15th February.  I completed an inspection visit to Flat 44 on 3rd February.   The annual gas check for Flat 44 was also carried out on the 3rd February. |
| 1.6 | **Play Areas – BF:**  Sovereign have provided a quote to provide a table tennis table and x4 piece adult gym equipment (double walker, double skier, arm and pedal bike and single rower) at Damgate Lane play area.  The National Lottery Community Funds grant was unsuccessful. However, they recommended I make an application to the Awards for All Programme for funding. This was completed on 21.02.22.  George Taylor will be fitting the new play area signage at Damgate Lane, Beighton Road and Springfield parks. George will also remove the dead conifers at Springfield Play Area. George has informed us that one of the pedestrian gates at the Springfield play area has sheared off at the hinge, which is why it doesn’t shut properly, and cannot simply be adjusted to shut. |
| 1.7 | We had an interesting meeting with officers from NCC about the **Reclaim the Rain** scheme. The scheme is funded by a DEFRA grant, over 6 years, looking for suitable locations to develop practical innovation to change policies for flood funding and management. They want to consider schemes to stop flood water, but also to store and reuse water locally, such as supplying the stored water to a local landowner or to a local habitat.  We talked about:   * Low-lying areas in the village * Storage possibilities in grassed areas * Using water stored in lagoons at Lovell site * The natural springs in the land in the underpass * New pond at the Wrights’ land * NCC asked councillors to provide a map showing the locations of springs * Education of residents, Slow the Flow * NCC had jetted the whole of the highways drainage system at Beighton Road, and said the drainage is not adequate for the water coming off the field, might put in additional storage capacity. Said landowners cannot be forced to collect the water running off their land. |
|  | **General matters arising** |
| 1.8 | I sent NCC a reminder about my request for permission to site a new **grit bin** at Englands Road on 14th February. No reply yet. |
| 1.9 | There has been no further correspondence about the trees alongside the railway track. We are waiting for Network Rail to review the situation and advise if they will remove the trees themselves. |
| **2** | **Correspondence Received:** |
| 2.1 | We’ve had a report re the **Youth Club** from the YMCA. The numbers attending are disappointing but will hopefully increase with better weather. |
| 2.2 | The **Police** sent a report on local crimes. |
| 2.3 | I’ve publicised details of the **Norfolk Community Law Service**, which offers free legal advice to residents. |
| 3 | **Planning: (Agenda item 5)** |
| 3.1 | Revised plans have been received for the Beighton Road Farm site. There is already planning permission for the barns to be converted into 6 dwellings. There was then a proposal last year to reduce it to 3 dwellings. |
| 3.2 | I’ve just received notification of the application for outline permission for a bungalow at 27 Mill Lane. This is renewed every 3 years. |
| 3.2 | A **TPO** has been served on Mayfield, in Norwich Road, opposite Acle Garden Machinery, a sweet chestnut. |
| 4 | **Finance Report will be in the minutes.** |
| 5 | **Recreation Centre: (agenda item 7)** The solar panels have been installed and I’ve paid the PC’s invoice for the £20,000 + VAT.  The nominees for the PC-appointed trustees are:  Diane Fisher Joe Aldous Sarah Cameron Jackie Clover Barry Coveley Dennis Fisher Denis Goodley Tom Hiller Jamie Pizey  I’ll ask them to write a short report for you, ready for Monday night, if they are not able to attend the meeting. |
| 6 | **Chocolate Box: (agenda item 8) BF**  Louisa has cleared the area at the back and the bramble has been removed.  Barry met with Andrew Goodall from Flameskill who carried out the fire assessment at the Chocolate Box, Foodbank and empty offices on 21st February 2022.  The locks at the foodbank/offices front door were changed on 14.02.22 following a suspected break in (Barry Coverley found the door wide open at 8am same day). There was no evidence of anything being stolen or damaged. There have previously been issues with shutting the door due to a fault on the lock mechanism which Tony had addressed. The incident was reported to Norfolk Constabulary but they are not taking any further action.  The sub working party have obtained 3 quotes from architects regarding the Chocolate Box renovation. The sub working party hope to meet next week to review the quotes in more detail (i.e., considering cost, skills/experience, communication/working relationships and timescales to undertake the work), and report to the working party/full council their recommendations.  Howard Lines carried out an electrical test at the foodbank and offices and Chocolate Box on 24th February 2022. |
| 7 | **Barclays: (agenda item 9) BF** Barry met with Flameskill to discuss how we safeguard the tenants above Barclays whilst it is in temporary use by Louisa. It was recommended that plywood is fitted to the stairwell to give added protection. T  Tony and Barry have added additional sockets and fitted a heater in the office Louisa will use which will be tested by Howard Lines – Connect Electrical - on 24th February 2022.  Tony and Barry arranged for the ceiling to be repaired. This looks much better and they have temporarily boxed in the area where the fuse box is located.  Louisa has measured floor plans and has been advised she can visit Barclays as often as she likes to consider where all her stock will go. Tony will be providing a temporary safe.  A Legionella Risk Assessment was carried by Infinity at Barclays on 15th February.  The sub working party (Jamie, Barry, Tony, Becky and Angela) have obtained 3 quotes from architects regarding the Barclays renovation as 3 commercial units (in agenda file to view). The sub working party hope to meet next week to review the quotes in more detail (i.e., considering cost, skills/experience, communication/working relationships and timescales to undertake the work), and report to the working party/full council their recommendations.  Barry and Tony have sanded, cleaned and varnished the front door at Barclays. Thank you very much for all the DIY work you have undertaken on behalf of the parish.  I have obtained a quote from East Coast Insulations for the removal of the asbestos in the building. Barry is meeting with this company, to go over the practicalities of the removal of the asbestos (which is in the artex on the ceilings in the offices and in the toilets area). |
| 8 | **New Cemetery: (agenda item 10)**  The purchase of the new land has been completed.  BF - I have obtained 3 quotes for the fencing, gate, disabled parking space and hearse turnaround for the new cemetery.  I have spoken with Dave Savory – Chair of Bure Valley Conservation Group (BVCG) and they are keen to work with the parish council and Acles Land Trust (pending their approval) to plant the new hedgerow. Richard Powell and Jackie Clover have agreed to meet with Dave and I to draw up a clear management plan – date to be confirmed when Richard is available.  I have applied to Broadland District Council Community Tree Planting Grant for £500. |
| 9 | **Purchase of marshes and reedbeds: (agenda item 11)**  To discuss the option to put in an offer on two parcels of marsh and reed bed on A47, near to Acle Lands Trust land, and the possible third piece of land. |
| 10 | **Highways: (agenda item 12)** |
| 10.1 | **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign:** Jamie Pizey sent a report:  Report for Beighton Rd location (monitoring towards the A47 slip rd near Hillcrest)  Jan 30th-Feb 24th 2022  Total vehicle count for period: 15,122  Average daily count: 645 (mon-fri) & 562 (mon-sun)  Peak times: AM 8-9   PM 4-5  Overall average speed: 25.8mph  85th Percentile average speed: 30.9mph (these would be vehicles travelling the full length of the road, unhindered).  Number of vehicles above 30mph limit: 2670 which is ~17.5%  Average speeder: ~33.3mph  Max Speed: 55mph on 10/02/22 @ 19:20hrs  Period of higher speeders: 7-9am |
| 10.2 | **Parking scheme:**  The work will start soon to add signage and new yellow lines. |
| 11 | **Events: (agenda item 13)**  Angela will report on the Jubilee events. |
| 12 | **Tree Planting: (agenda item 14)** It was agreed to discuss planting some trees for the Queen’s Jubilee. |
|  | Pauline and Becky – 24th February 2022 |