**Acle Parish Council**

**Clerks’ report for Parish Council meeting on 12th November 2022**

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| **1.** | **Matters Arising from the Meetings of 28th November (Agenda item 4)** |
| 1.1 | PJ **– Acle & District Men’s Shed** memberscontinue to work on the portakabins. |
| 1.2 | FR - Unfortunately, due to a supply issue, NCC were unable to provide the hedgerow plants for the **new cemetery** in time for the 7th December. Bure Valley Conservation Group will find a new date to do the planting in the new year.  Pauline and I have been to the new cemetery and marked out the boundary with spray paint and string should the builder be able to come out and redo the fence in the meantime. |
| 1.3 | FR – **Damgate Lane Play Area**  The safety surface for the basket swing has been ordered and is being stored by George Taylor, he will install this for us in the near future. |
| 1.4 | FR – **Flats at Barclays**  I received notifications from the flats that they have been having difficulties with delivery drivers locating them. I have asked for Tudor Print to produce some signs which will indicate the Flat locations. |
| **2** | **Correspondence Received and Meetings Attended:** |
| 2.1 | PJ – Sally and I met with Theresa Lavery, who is one of two **social prescribers/ community** connectors based at Acle Surgery. We will be publicising this new service so that local residents can get the appropriate help and support with all the available services.  I have been advertising these Community Connectors on facebook and our websites. Sally Aldridge will put a leaflet in the next food parcels from the foodbank. |
| 2.2 | PJ – I dipped into a **Norfolk Pension Fund** zoom meeting with the actuaries; the employer’s contribution is expected to decrease slightly from next year. |
| 2.3 | PJ – I attended a free Zoom talk on tree planting, and NCC’s plans to plant 1 million trees across Norfolk. They have so far planted 68,000 with thousands more planned for the coming months. |
| 2.4 | PJ – I attended a free Zoom talk on **Wilder Woodlands** by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and Tree Planting Grants from BDC, which will be useful for our existing and our new hedges. |
| 2.5 | FR - I have just met with Michaela Beaumont and Polly Cobb from **BDC.**  They want to engage with Acle on a number of different **projects** to help the Community:  Mindful Towns & Villages - <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/18078/Mindful-Towns>  Please follow the link above.  This would involve the Parish acting as the main administrator for getting this going.  It would be engaging with local businesses and clubs to find key "willing" people to go on a training session where they would become a "Mental Health Champion".  The training programme would be provided as 1 online session and 1 in person session.  It will be teaching people how to spot a person in need and giving the Champion the tools and information to signpost a person in need to the correct advice/activity.  If we are able to get this going we would then become a "Mindful Village".  Nourishing Norfolk - <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/what-we-ve-been-up-to/nourishing-norfolk-oct-22/>  Now this one, I liked a lot.  Have a look at the Kenninghall Food Hub.  It is effectively a supermarket where people pay a subscription and they are able to shop in this supermarket and have discounted food.  It is obviously directed towards people who are struggling.  I have asked for them to send me more information on this to show you.  There is money available to get this started.  Acle has been highlighted as 1 of 2 areas that are struggling for people needing help with food costs.  Get it Started - For any small Community Group wanting to start something new, £300 grant.  I may just advertise this on Facebook.  Community Fridge - <https://www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge>  Up to 2k start up.  So this is an area setup where businesses can donate their perishable but perfectly usable unwanted food to be stored in a public space.  People (available to anyone) can then come and help themselves.  The idea being to reduce food waste.  She did indicate that there might be a bit more work required with this one so perhaps needs some more investigation.  Food Larder - I think similar to above but non-perishable items.  Anything Green - if we have any ideas on how to cross paths with outdoor green spaces and mental health they are open for suggestions and willing to see if there is anything they can do to assist money wise.  Slow Cooking Courses - could be one for BGC community area.  They offer free courses to the community on cooking in a slow cooker.  Courses are available to 8 people at a time and you only need a table and sink area.  Michaela may be able to come to the APC Meeting on the 27th Feb to present if any of these we want to go ahead with.  She is talking March time for these projects, which hopefully all the builds will be somewhere towards sorted so perhaps this could be a next project.  She is especially keen on the top 2 items. |
| 2.6 | PJ – I attended the Teams meeting with the local Police. The crime figures remain low in this area, with most incidents being domestic.  They have been into Acle Pre-School to talk about Stranger Danger, and have been doing some drone work in the village.  They are keen to do some more public engagement but need somewhere warm to be. I told them about the meeting area in Swallowtail Place and our soon-to-be- ready BG Centre.  I also told them about social prescribers as they were also unaware.. |
| 3 | **PJ - Planning: (Agenda item 5)** |
| 3.1 | We’ve received notification that a request has been submitted for a Screening Opinion for the land **south of Leffins Lane**. This is not a planning application and we are not being consulted for an opinion on the proposal. This is a formal process whereby an applicant can ask BDC to decide whether an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required if a planning application were to be submitted. This is for information only.  I have received two or three emails and letters from residents who object to the proposal. I’ll keep these until a planning application is submitted and you are required to give comments on the proposal. |
| 4 | **PJ - Finance Report: (Agenda item 6)** The finance report will be available at the meeting. |
| 5.1 | **Recreation Centre: (Agenda item 7)**  Nothing further to report. |
| 6 | **Chocolate Box and The Brian Grint Centre: (Agenda item 8)**  PJ - There has been one site meeting since our last APC meeting, yesterday, 7th December.  As of yesterday, the Brian Grint Centre is now decorated and painted, with just the kitchenette in the upstairs south room freshly plastered and awaiting decorating. The heating was on, to help it dry out, and the rooms felt very warm and welcoming. We spotted a few small items which will require remedial work but, overall, we were very pleased with how it looks now. |
| 7.1 | **Barclays: (Agenda item 9)**  The site meeting above also included the Barclays building.  PJ – Fiona, Angela, Jamie and I met to consider details regarding the negotiation of the lease for Unit 3.  Fiona has been dealing with the draft marketing details from Bycrofts, and has had a CGI of the building produced, for marketing purposes, which is in the agenda folder.  WTC is proposing to pave the frontage at Barclays, with a pathway adjacent to the pavement and at the sides, to deal with the gradients. The pathway to the south will allow access to the flats and to unit 4.  It was noted that the gutter, fascia and flat roof drainage on Unit 3 is in poor condition. Fiona will obtain quote from the roofing company to have all of this repaired and elements replaced. |
| 8 | **Precept and Budget (Agenda item 10)** |
|  | PJ - The Budget working group met on 5th to go through my draft budget line by line, and to review the proposed use of earmarked reserves.  The number of new houses in Acle means that the average Band D number that BDC gives us has increased from 1,028 to 1,077 homes, which means that the precept is shared between more houses so some of the proposed increase would not be noticed. It is likely that, by the time the council tax bills go out in March 2023, there will be some more houses where people are paying council tax, so the Band D amount of precept (and all council tax bands) will decrease further. People on certain benefits do not pay council tax.  Having made the few adjustments discussed by the group, the increase in precept required to breakeven is £20,458. If you add this to the existing precept, this gives a new total precept of £143,818, which works out at a total precept payment of £133.54 per average Band D home per year, (143,818 divided by 1,077), or £11.13 per month, or 37 pence per day. People in lower band houses will pay less, and those in higher band houses will pay more. |
| 8 | **Highways (Agenda item 11)** |
| 8.1 | FR - I am awaiting a quote from a local handyman for doing the regular weeding of the flower beds on the A1064. |
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|  | Pauline James and Fiona Richardson – 8th December 2022 |