The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Acle on Monday, 11th April 2022

Held in the Methodist Church at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Parish councillors – Angela Bishop (Chair), Jamie Pizey (Vice-Chair), Sally Aldridge, Sarah Carter, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Indra Goodson, Tony Hemmingway, Wendy Kenny and Richard Powell, David Stephenson, parish clerk Pauline James, County Councillor and District Councillor Lana Hempsall and 7 residents.

**Apologies:**

Rev’d Martin Greenland, Hannah Jackson, Pam Lambert and Becky Furr.

**Broadland District Council and Norfolk County Council:**

Lana Hempsall gave a report; at Norfolk County Council Lana has been appointed as Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Committee which has reviewed various policies, worked on the Electric Vehicle Strategy and other environmental issues, and Better Together, for Norfolk. The Council decided to invest £39,000,000 more in Adult Social Services and £11,000,000 more in Children’s Services, with savings made by rationalising services.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points will be installed at the Recreation Centre shortly, paid for by Lana’s Councillor’s funding and a grant from the Department for Transport.

Lana also reported on the ZEBRA scheme. ZEBRA stands for ‘Zero Emission Bus Regional Area’, which is a new scheme introduced by the Department for Transport to encourage local authorities to work in conjunction with local transport partners and apply for additional support funding to accelerate the introduction of fully electric public transport in towns and cities across the UK. It is planned to fund 10 electric buses, in Norwich at present, but with more to come in the future.

Lana reported on her visits to the Swallowtail Place development. The first residents are expected to move in in June. She also talked about work to resolve the flooding at Beighton Road.

At Broadland District Council, the Council had agreed a zero increase in Council Tax, with savings made by the merger with South Norfolk Council. Her councillor’s grant helped the Football Club with the cost of the new dugouts.

Lana was asked to report back on where the various recyclable items go once they have been collected and was asked to find out if the fee to take DIY rubbish to council recycling centres was to be scrapped, as mentioned in the news that day.

Lana was thanked for her reports and she left the meeting.

**Police Report:**

The parish clerk read a report from the local police officers.

**Minutes of the 2021 Meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2021 were approved, and were signed by Parish Council Chair Angela Bishop, on behalf of the Meeting.

**Matters Arising from these Minutes:**

Following the request at the 2021 meeting, the Parish Council gave a grant to the Acle Community Gym.

**Acle Parish Council:**

Angela Bishop gave a report: The Council is made up of 12 volunteers, a clerk and a deputy clerk. The councillors help with the Recreation Centre, Acle Good Neighbours, Tea & Talk, Acle and District Voluntary Aid (AVA), Acle Archive, Dementia-friendly Garden, Acle Lands Trust, Foodbank, Men’s Shed and many more groups. The Council returned to face-to-face meetings in May 2021, and has accomplished a great deal this year, with an emphasis on supporting the community, including supporting Cuppa Care and liaising with Broadland and Norfolk Councils. The Resilience Group is made up of four councillors, and aims to help residents in times of flood, snow or pandemic.

The Council publicised local businesses with its Shop Acle scheme. The Business Directory that was published contained 125 local businesses and was delivered to every home in 2021.

BDC kindly paid for 6 market stalls. The Council ran a Summer Market over several weeks, and a one-off Christmas Market, alongside the Carol Service.

For the Jubilee there will be a Big Band concert on Friday, 3rd June, a Children’s Party on Saturday, 4th June and a Street Party on Sunday, 5th June.

**Acle Good Neighbours:**

Sally Aldridge gave a report which is filed with these minutes.

**Acle Lands Trust:**

Nigel Robson gave a report which is filed with these minutes.

The Parish Councillors sent their thanks to all the volunteers.

**Acle Recreation Centre:**

Trustee Barry Brooks gave a report; Income at the Recreation Centre decreased by 78% while it was shut but, thanks to various grants and support for furloughed staff, there is only a £3,000 loss for the year to 31st December 2020. Some outdoor facilities have re-opened and some indoor groups will start back as soon as permitted. Barry thanked the Parish Council for their financial support, and the trustees and staff at the Centre.

**Acle Beeline:**

Richard Powell reported on plans to increase wild flowers in the village to assist pollinators. The Beeline scheme aims to put in areas of suitable plants to create accessible lines of plants for bees and other pollinators. It’s a long-term project, and locally it is starting by leaving areas of grass uncut around the village, including the Damgate Lane play area, churchyard and the rear parts of some verges.

**Parishioners’ Comments and Questions:**1. Broadland Tree Warden Network – John Fleetwood introduced Anna Rodriguez, who has volunteered as Acle’s Tree Warden. There is possible funding for trees planted on publicly owned and accessible land.

2. Vernon Cumpstey asked for a grant to assist with the running of Acle Community Gym. It was agreed to discuss this at a Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.40 p.m.

Signed.................................................................... Dated...............................................

Chairman of the Parish Council on behalf of the Meeting