The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Acle on Monday, 17th April 2023

Held in the Methodist Church at 7.00pm

**Present:**

Parish councillors: Jamie Pizey (Vice-Chair), Sally Aldridge, Jackie Clover, Barry Coveley, Tony Hemmingway, Wendy Kenny and Richard Powell, parish clerk Pauline James, deputy clerk Fiona Richardson, assistant clerk Kristina Smyth, County Councillor and District Councillor Lana Hempsall and nine residents.

**Apologies:**

Angela Bishop (Chair of the Parish Council), Sarah Carter, Indra Goodson and David Stephenson.

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

Lana Hempsall gave a report;

**Broadland District Council** – foodwaste collection has started. The area has a high recycling rate. Lana had given a grant to Acle & District Men’s Shed, Acle Pre-School and the Bowls Club. She reported on the recent Gypsy and Traveller site allocation consultation. The planning application for land south of Leffins Lane has not yet been decided.

**Norfolk County Council** – Lana had visited the village with the highways officer. NCC is funding car charging points at the Recreation Centre. Work has been programmed for repairs to the soakaways in St Edmunds Road. There was some discussion about improving the accessibility of the bus shelter at the former Barclays building.

**Police Report:**

The parish clerk read a report from the local police officers. The priorities for the local Safer Neighbourhood Team remain speeding and anti-social behaviour.

**Minutes of the 2022 Meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2022 were approved, and were signed by Parish Council Vice-Chair Jamie Pizey, on behalf of the Meeting.

**Matters Arising from these Minutes:**

1. Acle Community Gym closed during 2022. The equipment was sold and the proceeds handed over to the Parish Council for grants to other local groups.

**Acle Parish Council:**

Angela Bishop sent a report, which was read by Jamie Pizey and is appended to these minutes.

**Acle Good Neighbours and Foodbank:**

Sally Aldridge gave a report: Acle & District Foodbank continues to support local families.

**Acle Lands Trust:**

Richard Powell gave a report: the volunteers continue to work on the various sites in the village.

**Acle Recreation Centre:**

Trustee Barry Brooks gave a report; 2022 was a very successful year for the Centre. Bookings have increased. The new solar panels on the roof continue to reduce running costs. He thanked Acle Parish Council for its support over the year and reminded the meeting that all the Trustees are volunteers.

**Acle Beeline:**

Richard Powell reported: This is the third season that some of the village verges, and some of the Damgate lane Play Area, have been left uncut until the Autumn. He noted an increase in the number of species within the areas which are left uncut. He has added wildflower seeds, including yellow rattle to reduce the amount of grass. This coming Autumn he plans to strip some of the turf and plant wildflower species. He plans to give wildflower seeds to the local schools, the Recreation Centre and the Men’s Shed. An area in the churchyard is also left uncut, as a conservation area.

**Acle & District Men’s Shed:**The parish clerk read out a report from the Men’s Shed; the portacabins have been refurbished and connected. The club is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and is open to anyone over the age of 18.

**Parishioners’ Comments and Questions:**

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| 1. | Concern was raised that there were few younger people volunteering in the village, to take over when the current volunteers decide to stop working in the village. |
| 2. | There were complaints about the poor condition of The Street. The parish clerk confirmed that this has been reported to Norfolk County Council. |
| 3. | There was a report of water bubbling in the road in the Reedham Road underpass. The deputy clerk will report this to NCC. |
| 4. | It was reported that there are potholes on Damgate Lane, past the industrial units. These will be reported to NCC, if that part of the road is adopted. |
| 5. | There were concerns about drainage from the track to the new cemetery, once it is re-surfaced. This will be discussed with the contractors. |
| 6. | It was noted that Saffron Housing had carried out some improvements to the car parking spaces at Swallowtail Place. |
| 7. | It was suggested that it would be useful if buses could be persuaded to stop in Acle during the night (currently they bypass the village on their way between Norwich and Gt Yarmouth). Lana Hempsall will speak to staff at NCC about this. |
| 8. | The parish clerk will contact NCC about getting some signage for the bus shelters in The Street to indicate the direction of travel, to help tourists. |

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.20p.m.

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

Chair of the Parish Council on behalf of the Meeting