

## *Acle Parish Council*

Meeting Date: Monday, 30th June 2014  
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle  
Time: 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mrs Angela Bishop, Mrs J Clover, Mr J Harriss (Chairman), Mr A Hemmingway (Vice-chairman), Mrs L Hemsall (also district councillor), Mrs D Hurst, Mrs J Kenealy, Mr R Perry, Mrs M Steed and Mrs P Watson

### 1. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were seven members of the public present. Matters raised included overgrown vegetation in Habgood Close. PCSO Paul McAllister reported on recent crimes in the village. County Councillor Brian Iles gave a report including the decision that no County Farms land would be sold. As district councillor, Lana Hemsall reported on the forthcoming changes to recycling.

### 2. **APOLOGIES**

Ms Polly Bryant and Mr B Coveley.

### 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR ANY DISPENSATIONS**

Rodney Perry, Jackie Clover, Lana Hemsall and Polly Bryant declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any financial transactions with the Recreation Centre, as Trustees. John Harriss reminded the meeting that his son lives in Springfield so he has a non-pecuniary interest in that development.

Lana Hemsall reminded the meeting that she is a Broadland District Councillor, appointed to the Broads Authority, and as such she declares a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Broadland District Council or the Broads Authority which may be discussed at the meeting.

Rodney Perry declared an interest in the planning application for Hillside Farm as a near neighbour and Angela Bishop informed the meeting that her husband is a member of SWADDS.

### 4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were agreed to be correct and were signed by John Harriss, as chairman of the Parish Council.

### 5. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 5.1 The internal audit was completed without comment, and the Annual Return has been sent to Mazars, the external auditors.
- 5.2 The clerk obtained a copy of the BDC report into unsuccessful sites:
  - i) North side of Damgate Lane – highways concerns with exit onto Reedham Road, high flood risk, too close to sewerage station
  - ii) Rhino site - Loss of employment land if developed for housing, but remains within settlement limit.
- 5.2 Urban Flow has been appointed to carry out the traffic assessment on A1064. The traffic engineer, Paul Matthews, will visit Acle on the afternoon of 17<sup>th</sup> July and carry out a traffic assessment on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. YOUTH AMBASSADORS**

Oscar Steltzer-Hiller and Mollie Holmes attended the meeting but had nothing to report.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 7.1 Acle and District Voluntary Aid (AVA) request a grant towards the purchase of a new ambulance. (Pauline James as parish clerk informed the meeting that she is a trustee and Pat Watson that she is a volunteer helper). It was agreed to ask the charity if the new minibus could be used by other local groups.
- 7.2 South Walsham and District Dramatic Society (SWADDS) requested a grant towards new costumes and props, many of which were destroyed in the fire at the village hall. The councillors felt that this group was not local enough to Acle for a grant.
- 7.3 The Broads Authority sent notice that Gt Yarmouth Borough Council has ceased collection of waste from hire boats, including at the Bridge Stores at Acle Bridge. The Broads Authority is objecting to the cessation of this service. The clerk was asked to record the Parish Council's disappointment that the waste collection service was to cease as this will have an impact on the attractiveness of the area for tourists.
- 7.4 Correspondence was received from Waldon Telecom Ltd that it plans to upgrade the existing telecommunications base station at Hugh Crane Ltd on South Walsham Road. This was noted.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

- 8.1 Plans discussed at the meeting:
- i) **Mr & Mrs Wilson, Hillside Farm** – alterations and extensions (20140961). The councillors had no objections to the plans.
- ii) **Mr & Mrs Tranfield, Border Lodge, Damgate Lane** – sub-division of garden and extension to existing annexe to form separate dwelling (20140935). The councillors had no objections to the plans.

## **9. HIGHWAYS**

- 9.1 Norfolk County Council sent notice that Pyebush Lane, north of the cemetery, would no longer be a public vehicular right of way. Private use is unaffected, as is the public right of way for pedestrian use. This was noted.
- 9.2 Tony Hemmingway confirmed that he had checked all the hanging basket brackets before hanging the new baskets.
- 9.3 The clerk had contacted Highways about the lack of road markings at the top of the A47 sliproad and on Old Road.

## **10. STREET LIGHTING**

A few lights were reported for repair.

## **11. ACLE RECREATION CENTRE**

- 11.1 The minutes for the April meeting had been received and circulated to councillors.
- 11.2 Report from trustees: the refurbished kitchen is about to re-open.

11.3 An Open Day is being planned for Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September.

11.4 BDC had asked when repairs to the car park are likely.

## **12. POSSIBLE EXTENSION TO CEMETERY AND PLAYING FIELDS**

There was no response from the landowner to the latest request to purchase some land for an extension to the Pyebush Lane cemetery and the playing fields. In order to commence the process for a Compulsory Purchase Order the Parish Council needs to write to BDC with details of the site, the background of the issue, confirmation that Planning Permission has been obtained, details of the negotiations and confirmation that the Parish Council would pay BDC's costs.

Lana Hemsall said that she was against the principle of Compulsory Purchase Orders and would resign from the Parish Council if it proceeded. Angela Bishop and Janet Kenealy requested more details on the history of the issue before making a decision. It was therefore agreed to defer the decision until the next meeting and that the clerk would produce a précis of the history of the attempts to purchase the land.

## **13. REPORT ON 1940S WEEKEND**

Angela Bishop reported on a very successful weekend, with over 100 people attending from Acle and surrounding villages. The councillors thanked Angela for organising the event and Pat Watson for her help.

## **14. PENSION SCHEME**

The revised Employer's Policy Statement – Exercise of Discretionary Powers – was drafted by the clerk, in line with recommendations from the Norfolk Pension Fund, and in agreement with the previous version, from 2008. The finance committee reviewed the document and the Council agreed to adopt the Policy.

## **15. SPRINGFIELD LAND**

15.1 John Harriss and the clerk reported on a meeting with Alan Irvine, the Council's planning agent. He had explained that Saffron had received lower values for the proposed houses than had been discussed previously, but it was noted that house prices were rising each month at present. Saffron is suggesting that there should be a purchase price, plus 85% of any uplift payable to the parish council. It was noted that 100% of a higher price, with no uplift, might be better for the Council than 100% of a lower price, with 85% of any uplift.

The committee will meet with Saffron on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

15.2 The councillors agreed that requests from local neighbours for new boundary fences should be left for the purchase of the land to deal with. It was also agreed to keep the pill box on Council land. It was confirmed that the vegetation on Old Road would be cut back to improve visibility for those using the new footpath. The councillors also agreed that the Parish Council would own the new play area.

15.3 Comments from consultees:

- Environmental Contracts Officer (BDC) – comments about rubbish bins and the open space
- Conservation Officer (BDC) – comments about design, boundaries and pill box

- Anglian Water – standard planning conditions suggested and confirmed that there is adequate capacity in existing system
- Environment Agency – standard planning conditions suggested
- Norfolk Constabulary – recommendations on Secured by Design ideas
- Norfolk County Council – proposed changes to the radii of some bends in the roads and turning circles, and stated that an emergency access is not required for this development and that NCC would not support pedestrian access. (BDC is keen on the pedestrian access)
- Highways Agency and Broads Authority – no objections

15.4 BDC was expecting 100% affordable housing to be offered on local lettings policy for first time only, then from general housing lists. The Parish Council’s draft S.106 heads of terms asked for 100% local lettings policy on all 12 homes, in perpetuity. BDC has now offered a second option of applying a local lettings policy in perpetuity for 8 of the affordable dwellings, but with 3 bungalows and 1 x 1 bed house for general needs from the start. The councillors agreed that this was a good compromise and agreed to proceed with this.

## 16. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Debra Hurst reported on a meeting at BDC where it was reported that the progress of the Plan would be considerably slower than was expected; Ingham Pinnock submitted Acle’s Neighbourhood Plan on 7th May. This could not then be considered by BDC before the Cabinet meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July. With the timing of the BDC’s meeting it is unlikely that the referendum will happen before Christmas. The councillors expressed their disappointment at this delay.

The Broads Authority planning committee had no objections to the Plan.

## 17. ACLE IN BLOOM

Jackie Clover reported on preparations for the judging on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The headteacher of Acle Academy has joined the committee and will work on projects for next year, including an offer to plant the hanging baskets for 2015.

## 18. DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY VILLAGES

Angela Bishop explained that a village can be designated “dementia friendly” when residents and businesses have received training. The councillors supported the initiative.

## 19. ACLE LANDS TRUST

The Lands Trust confirmed that Natural England will pay the grant to them promptly to enable repayment of the loan to the Parish Council. The quote is £9,500 for the scrub clearance contract at the Constable Doles. It was agreed to lend the Trust the money to enable the work to be done.

## 20. FINANCE

### Receipts:

BDC – final part of Neighbourhood Plan grant	1,500.00
BDC – public toilets grant, final re 13/14	1,149.60
BDC – public toilets grant, 50% re 14/15	5,863.00
Reimbursement stationery	79.03
Cemetery fees	420.00
Saffron Housing – 50% planning fee	2,310.00
VAT refund	2,375.65
BDC – recycling credit	110.21

BDC – new homes bonus	1,387.90
<b>Payments:</b>	
Bunzl – supplies	400.99
Nfk ALC - conference	45.00
Apex Trees – work at Damgate Lane	100.00
G Nicholls – singer for 1940s event	150.00
<b>Cheques for payment:</b>	
Watering baskets	410.51
P James – clerk’s fee and exps SO	1,000.00
• cheque for balance	231.47
M Ward – cleaning SO	650.00
• cheque for balance	76.24
HMRC - PAYE & NIC	394.38
Norfolk Pension Fund	305.44
T T Jones – lighting repairs	395.72
Acle Methodist Church – room hire	25.50
Hugh Crane – consumables	68.90
Copy IT – copying fees	141.80
Garden Guardian – grasscutting	1,064.26
Mills & Reeve – legal fees re Springfield	729.60
Wilkersons – supplies	46.43
Recreation Centre – youth club room hire	76.00
Norse – grasscutting Fletcher Room	90.49
M Satchel – tree works	800.00
Tyrell & Brown – part grant for parish room	854.40
John Gallop – internal audit	320.00
John Harriss – expenses	18.00
Balance c/f at bank 30.6.2014	50,433.39
Government Stocks at 6.4.2014	<u>123,865.00</u>
Total monies	<u>174,298.39</u>

Janet Kenealy had checked the clerk’s bank reconciliation to bank statements.

It was noted that a large branch dropped from the willow at the allotments which required emergency work. This was ratified.

**21. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Fletcher Room meeting with Peter Elwick, Development Worker from Norfolk County Council Children's Services on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July
- Clerk to attend Nfk ALC conference
- Clerk to attend Zurich Health & Safety conference on 9<sup>th</sup> July
- Clerk attended a free, full-day training course on Access databases
- Meeting of personnel committee

**22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014.**

**At this point it was resolved under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude members of the public to discuss correspondence from the Recreation Centre.**

Rodney Perry left the meeting.

Lana Hemsall reported on correspondence from the Recreation Centre trustees and her reply to them. The councillors agreed to record their support for Lana and her work on the governance of the Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Signed.....  
Chairman

Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014