

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Acle held on Monday, 11th April 2011
held in the Methodist Church at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Parish Councillors - Barry Brooks, Roger Clarke, Barry Coveley, Diane Fisher, Brian Grint, John Harriss, Nigel Law, Rodney Perry, Basil Tibbenham (Chairman), County Councillor Brian Iles and nineteen residents.

Apologies:

Parish Councillors: David Dickeson, Evelyn Elliott, PC Paul Fox and District Councillor Charlotte Casimir.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2010 were agreed to be correct and were signed on behalf of the meeting by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Basil Tibbenham.

Matters Arising:

1. Norfolk County Council would not consider adopting the access road to the Recreation Centre .
2. NCC has agreed to investigate ways of preventing the water from The Limes from flowing over the pavement in The Street.

Chairman's Report:

Basil Tibbenham read his report on the work of the Parish Council for the year to 31st March 2011. There were no questions on the report.

Roger Clarke said a few words on the occasion of Basil Tibbenham's retirement from the Parish Council after over 40 years. Mr Clarke said that the Parish Council had made huge achievements under Mr Tibbenham's leadership, including the recreational facilities, and that he was always calm and courteous. The councillors and residents applauded Mr Tibbenham and thanked him for his hard work.

Broadland District Council:

In the absence of Charlotte Casimir, Brian Iles read her report on district council matters for the year.

Ms Casimir said that there is little to report from Broadland District Council which directly affects Acle. Generally there have been difficult decisions to make on cuts to public spending. She regretted that she was unable to attend any Parish Council meetings because of her work commitments. She is standing down at the District elections as she now lives out of the area.

County Council:

Brian Iles reported that he very rarely has any work from Acle as the village organises itself successfully. This year has been the most difficult year he has ever experienced at County Council level because of the decisions to be made to save £155m over the next 4 years, including

1300 equivalent full-time jobs to be cut. The Council is trying not to remove funding entirely from any one sector and Mr Iles has campaigned in particular for the protection of historic buildings. There have been cuts in the road building programme; hopefully the dualling of the A47 is secure but it looks unlikely that the Northern Distributor Route will be built. The Government has given additional money for road repairs after the cold winter. The schools programme will also be cut back and subsidies for some bus services will be withdrawn. The decision to appoint a contractor to build an incinerator at Kings Lynn was controversial but the Council was under pressure to agree a method to reduce landfill. Modern incineration is very efficient and the heat produced will be sold to local businesses.

Mr Iles answered a question about the withdrawal of the Saturday park and ride bus service at Postwick by explaining that the County Council could no longer afford the subsidy for the service.

He also confirmed that the incinerator would take waste from across the whole county.

He commented on the excellent new library facilities in Acle and stated that funds were available for running the library and Sure Start centre, for the present.

Brian was thanked for his report and for his support over the year.

Police Matters:

PC Paul Fox sent a report that there have been 76 recorded crimes over the year, which is a significant decrease on last year's figures. 9 Burglary Dwellings, 9 Burglary Other Than Dwellings, 16 assaults, 9 reports of criminal damage, 20 thefts, 5 arsons and 8 other crimes. Paul Fox was thanked for his work for the parish over the year.

Parishioners' Forum:

1. There was a report of people driving the wrong way past the Co-Op. The clerk explained that the County Council has inspected the site and does not want to put up any additional signage.
2. There was also a complaint about vehicles parked on the footway outside Queens Head House as this restricts visibility. The councillors reported that new yellow lines are to be painted in this area shortly, which may help the situation.

John Harriss then endorsed Roger Clarke's words of thanks to Basil Tibbenham, but also wanted to thank Mr Clarke, who is also standing down as parish councillor after over 30 years, for his contribution to the village over the years. The meeting joined in thanking Mr Clarke and also David Dickeson who is also standing down at the forthcoming elections.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.10 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Dated.....

DRAFT