

The Parish Council maintains the cemetery and most of the street lights, pays for the grass cutting on road verges, the hanging baskets, benches, bins, bus shelters, public conveniences and additional footway sweeping, amongst other things. The Council also comments on planning applications. The Council supports a range of local clubs and organisations. Donations this year were made to the Church for grass cutting, Acle Regatta, Wherry Lines Partnership, Citizens Advice Bureau, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, Macmillan Cancer Support, East Anglia's Children's Hospices, the local Royal British Legion and Acle Community Archive Group. Applications for grants should be made to the clerk.

The processing of the village appraisal has taken longer than anticipated, but the Council has already acted on some of the responses and will continue to investigate suggestions put forward by residents. New housing in the village will be an issue over the next few years; Broadland District Council has proposed that 100 - 200 new houses should be planned for the village, whereas the Parish Council has argued that no more than 100 should be allowed. Local residents have indicated a requirement for affordable housing for local families and the Parish Council supports this very strongly.

Regular reports from our local Safer Neighbourhood Team have provided helpful information on local crimes and crime prevention and we thank the local officers for their attendance at meetings and for their assistance with local matters. The Acle SNT officers can be contacted on 0845 456 4567 or by email: sntacle@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.

The Council supports the Community Speedwatch Scheme whereby groups of local volunteers monitor vehicle speeds on roads through Acle. People driving at speeds above the local speed limit are reported to the Police who send advisory letters to the drivers. This has proved successful as a deterrent to people driving too fast through our village, and has empowered local people to do something about one of our residents' main concerns. New volunteers are needed and you can find out more from Lana Hemsall on 751562.

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009 will be available from the clerk, Pauline James, once they are signed at the Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday, 18th May. The clerk can be contacted at the address overleaf, for correspondence, information, details on planning applications and street light outages.

I should like to thank the many people who help the Council, including the eleven other councillors, (Vice-chairman John Harriss, Barry Brooks, Roger Clarke, Barry Coveley, David Dickeson, Evelyn Elliott, Diane Fisher, Brian Grint, Lana Hemsall, Nigel Law and Rodney Perry,) also Mick Ward, Lynn Kerslake for the website, County Councillor Brian Iles, Acle Society and the Acle Lands Trust.

Parish Council meetings are held on the last Monday of every month, except when there is a bank holiday, when the date is moved forward by one week. There is no meeting planned for August. Meetings are held in the Methodist Church hall at 7.30 p.m., and all residents are very welcome. Details of the items to be discussed are published on the noticeboard in The Street. The next Council Open Morning is Thursday, 4th June from 10 - 12 noon at the Church Parish Rooms.

Basil Tibbenham
Parish Council Chairman

April 2009