

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 28th July 2008
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr B Brooks, Mr R Clarke, Mr D Dickeson Mrs E Elliott,
Mrs D Fisher, Mr B Grint, Mr N Law, Mr R Perry,
Mr B Tibbenham (Chairman).

1. PUBLIC FORUM

There were nine members of the public present, together with Brian Iles, (County Councillor,) who gave a report on County Council matters and on the local meetings to discuss the Boundary Committee's report on a unitary council for Norfolk. PCSO Jon Morgan-Jones gave a report on recent crimes in the village and a resident reported to him that people are riding scooters along Pyebush Lane without due care.

2. APOLOGIES Mr B Coveley, Mr J Harriss and Mrs L Hemsall.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

4. MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2008 were signed as correct by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

No further information has been obtained yet about the sewage leak at the Damgate Industrial units.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Basil and the clerk met with officers from NCC to discuss the re-siting of the bus stop from Barclays Bank. The stop needs to be moved to meet Disability Discrimination Act rules, where a raised step needs to be constructed, and there is insufficient pavement width at the current site. The proposed location is in New Road. The councillors were unhappy at the proposed change in location for the bus stop and asked that Norfolk County Council approach Barclays Bank to ask if they would be willing to give some land to enable the extension of the current bus stop site.

6.2 The clerk has been contacted by a firm of builders about the land at Springfield. Councillors confirmed that they were not interested in discussing this at present.

6.3 The RoSPA inspection has been carried out at the two play areas; only low risk items have been reported. These will be repaired shortly.

6.4 The East of England Regional Assembly has sent details of the draft project plan and statement of public participation. This was noted.

6.5 NCC has issued an employer's permit for the employment of Travis Smith for watering the hanging baskets.

6.6 Norfolk Pension Scheme has sent a consultation on the Review of Abatement Policy. Councillors had no comments on this.

6.7 The Broads Authority has asked councillors for evidence as to whether the bank adjacent to Mill House Farm off Old Road has been used for moorings; the councillors confirmed that it had been used for moorings for at least 25 years.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 Plans discussed at the meeting:

i) **Mr Bunn, 12 Englands Road** - single storey side extension. The councillors had no objections to the plans. (Diane Fisher declared a personal interest in the plans.)

ii) **Edward Jones Ltd., The Chocolate Box** - erection of non-illuminated sign and plaque. The councillors had no objections to the plans.

iii) **Mr Bradley, 17 Springfield** - two storey side extension. The councillors had no objections to the plans.

iv) **The White House, South Walsham Road** - erection of bungalow and garage (outline). The councillors had no objections to the plans.

7.2 Planning results from **Broadland District Council**:

i) **Barclays Bank** - installation of 5 external air condenser units and 2 guard rails on the first floor flat roof - full approval.

ii) **The Chocolate Box** - change of use - full approval.

iii) **Dr & Mrs Chapman, Oak Lodge, Damgate Lane** - two storey side extension - full approval.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

8.1 The clerk has prepared a risk assessment for the watering of the hanging baskets. This was approved.

8.2 It was reported that the surface of Old Road is in a poor condition.

8.3 The councillors agreed that the hanging baskets look excellent this year and sent their thanks and congratulations to Moulton Nurseries and to Lana and Travis for carrying out the watering. The councillors agreed that a battery charger should be purchased for the watering pump.

8.4 The clerk was asked to contact Highways to ask that the nettles be cut back along Norwich Road, and to point out that the new road markings on Old Road left no space to wait while turning into Boat Dyke Lane. An overhanging hedge in The Drive and trees overhanging the churchyard wall will also be reported.

9. STREET LIGHTING

A couple of lights were reported for repair.

10. PARISH PLAN

Another thirty forms have been processed.

11. BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are for a unitary authority covering the whole county of Norfolk, with Lowestoft added. The other suggestions are for a "wedge" of Norwich, Yarmouth and Lowestoft, or a "doughnut" of Norwich + suburbs, with the rest of Norfolk being the land around this. After some discussion, the councillors agreed that they still favoured the existing system of district councils but, given the choice currently being considered, they preferred the whole county option.

12. CLERK'S TRAINING

The clerk has proposed that she study towards the Level One Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy at the University of Gloucester, by correspondence, plus two residential weekend courses per year. The course is studied over two years and is recommended for parish clerks and councillors. The current fees for a September start are £2,550 for the two years, to be paid monthly. If all the five parishes agree then the half costs to Acle, (costs shared 6:2:2:1:1 in accordance with relative size of parishes and budgets) would be £52 per month, plus a share of travel and accommodation costs for the residentials, and plus a share of the clerk's study time. After some discussion it was agreed to pay one half of the costs.

13. FINANCE

£

Cheques for payment:

M Ward - cleaning (July)	587.88
M Ward - cleaning (August)	618.09
P James -clerk's fee and exps (July)	731.81
P James -clerk's fee and exps (August)	659.17
Inland Revenue - July	469.21
Inland Revenue - August	481.45
J Gallop - audit fee	275.00
Hugh Crane Cleaning Eq't	67.02
Norfolk Pension (July)	129.94
Norfolk Pension (August)	129.94
Garden Guardian (June)	746.42
Garden Guardian (July)	746.42
Copy IT	39.36
SWPC - share of stationery	36.44

Acle Methodist - hire of room	56.00
Wilkersons - consumables	24.98
Playsafety Ltd - play area inspection	141.00
John Harriss - travel exps	12.00
Beth James	25.00

The councillors thanked Nigel Law who has arranged and paid for the Council's website fee for another year.

John Gallop has carried out the internal audit and has signed the Annual Return without amendment. John was thanked for doing this for the Council. The Annual Return has been sent off to the external auditors.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 29th September 2008.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated: 29th September 2008