

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 27th November 2006
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr B Brooks, Mr B Coveley, Mrs D Fisher, Mr B Grint,
Mr J Harriss, Mr A Hemmingway, Mr N Law, Mr R Perry,
Mr B Tibbenham (Chairman).

The meeting began with a talk from Peter Burnham, Head of Community Safety at Norfolk County Council, on Safer Neighbourhood Teams; 210 new Police Community Support Officers are planned for the county, who will be trained to address low level crime and antisocial behaviour. It is not expected that rural areas will benefit from this scheme until April 2007. Mr Burnham also discussed various local issues. Mr Burnham was thanked for attending the meeting.

1. PUBLIC FORUM

There were twelve members of the public present, together with Brian Iles (County Councillor). No issues were raised.

2. APOLOGIES Mr R Clarke, Mr C Dove, Mrs E Elliott

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Basil Tibbenham and Brian Grint declared an interest in Item 6, as members of Acle Archive Group.

4. MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 2006 were signed as correct by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 The new bus shelter has been put up at the entrance to Hermitage Close. Some paving is needed to link it to the roadside.

5.2 The new lights in the folly tree are awaiting some tree surgery work.

5.3 NCC plans to improve the bus stop in front of the public toilets, with kerbing and raising the highway near the shelter to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and which will make it easier for passengers to get on and off the buses. This should be carried out in 2007/08.

5.4 The footway assessment of Reedham Road was carried out and scored 50 points (last time 38). This means that the road will be put forward for a feasibility study in 2007/08, including a technical evaluation of suitable footway options and their costs, which will enable a "value for money" engineering decision to be made on whether or not to progress the scheme to the detailed design and construction. The decision will depend on the cost, the available budget, resolution of land issues and the environmental impact of the proposed works.

5.5 The clerk has requested an estimate of costs for a flashing sign for the A1064 in order to consider this with the budget.

5.6 Councillors reported on the meeting with BDC to discuss the production of a publicity leaflet for the village, funded by advertisements taken out by local businesses.

5.7 There was a report from councillors who attended the planning training session at BDC; a fact sheet on planning is being drafted by BDC.

5.8 Details of one make of underground recycling bins have been received. It was agreed to leave this for now to see if costs decreased as more councils adopted this system.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 It was agreed to make a donation of £25 to the Royal British Legion. (S.137 payment.)

6.2 BDC has sent details of the proposal by Norwich City Council to become a unitary council, which may include parishes such as Acle. A meeting will be held shortly by Norwich City Council to explain the advantages. BDC opposes the proposal.

6.3 Acle Community Archive Group has requested a donation of £500 to pay for the rent of the room at Herondale used by the Group to store equipment. This was agreed.

6.4 Residents have suggested a new walk from the footpath at the top of Mill Lane across to the road to Fishley Church. The clerk was asked to approach the landowner.

6.5 The new Statement of Community Involvement has been received from BDC.

6.6 Councillors are invited to attend a workshop at Strumpshaw on the management of mink.

6.7 A letter was received about the new location for the dog litter bin in South Walsham Road, adjacent to the footway through to Nursery Close; the clerk explained that the old bin was damaged and a replacement was erected in the new location at the request of neighbouring residents who feared that the bin might be used as a means of scaling the wall at the rear of their property.

6.8 The Police notified the clerk that they were aware of and monitoring some people camping in the field at the top of Mill Lane.

6.9 The Acle Sailing Club has thanked the Parish Council for giving a donation of the cost of the insurance for the regatta in May; the event raised over £1000 despite bad weather. The club was hoping that the Council would be able to consider funding the event in the same way in 2007. Councillors were happy to support the club in this way again.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 During the month the Planning Sub-Committee considered the following applications:

i) **Lloyds Bank** - replacement illuminated fascia and projecting sign. The councillors had no objections to the plans.

7.2 Plans considered at the meeting:

i) **Mr & Mrs Day, The Limes, The Street** - demolition of building, part demolition of outbuilding and conversion of the Limes to provide 3 residential units and ancillary visitor accommodation, staff accommodation and communal facilities for assisted living centre. The councillors supported the plans as more parking is provided this time, but requested an age restriction of 55+ for residents living in the flats.

ii) **Mr Littlewood and Mr Cushing, Pippins, Pyebush Lane** - erection of two houses and three bungalows with garaging and new vehicular access. The councillors objected to these plans; they believe it is an over-development of the site and unneighbourly. They also believe there is inadequate parking for the dwellings, given that there is little parking available on Englands Road and none on Pyebush Lane.

iii) **Mr & Mrs Gilham, 47 Damage Lane** - single storey rear extension. The councillors had no objections to the plans.

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

i) **Acle Service Station** - 1 x single side free standing display unit - broads advertisement refusal.

ii) **Mr & Mrs Bradbury, 29 St Edmunds Road** - front porch - full approval.

iii) **Mr Carter, land adj. 1 Hermitage Close** - bungalow (outline) - outline refusal.

iv) **Mr & Mrs Thackray, 21 Priory Close** - replacement garage and flat to pitched roof on existing rear extension - full approval.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

8.1 Grass cutting tender:	Verges	Open Spaces	Total
Garden Guardian	£2,995	£2,850	£5,845
NCS	£2,060	£5,300	£7,906

It was agreed to approach both contractors to ascertain if they would be prepared to do one part of the contract without the other so that the lowest cost to the Council could be achieved.

8.2 It was agreed to write to NCC to ask about adding “Gateway to the Broads” at the entrances to the village.

8.3 It was reported that the visibility is difficult at the junction of the A47 sliproad with the flyover because of plant growth.

8.4 A resident reported that her child tripped on the footway on Bridewell Lane because of the poor surface. This has been reported to NCC for remedial work.

9. STREET LIGHTING

9.1 It was agreed to investigate whether an additional street light would be beneficial in Aldis Road.

9.2 A couple of lights were reported for repair.

10. PARISH PLAN

The committee has met to consider the best method to process the replies. Barry Coveley is working on a spreadsheet to collate the answers.

11. BROADS AUTHORITY CORE STRATEGY

It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Broads Authority to report that the document was too long and detailed for the Council to comment.

12. PUBLIC TOILETS

After some discussion it was agreed that the public conveniences were important to the village and should be kept open at all hours.

13. PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

It was agreed to defer this meeting until the Spring.

It was reported that the youth worker is ill and there is no available replacement.

14. ACLE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Booking forms are being sent out to all people enquiring about the fair and fees are being collected in advance. The street closure is being processed and the committee has applied for a temporary events notice. Health and Safety notices have been sent out to all those booking a stall and copies of their insurance requested.

The Council thanked Nigel Law and the other members of the committee for their hard work in arranging this event.

15. DISPENSATIONS

The current trustees for the Acle Recreation Centre appointed by the Parish Council are Barry Brooks, Barry Coveley, Chris Dove, Evelyn Elliott, Tony Hemmingway, Brian Grint, Rodney Perry, Mr N Pryor and Basil Tibbenham. This means that eight of the twelve parish councillors are also trustees. BDC has advised that for financial decisions, these councillors should declare a prejudicial interest and take no part in the discussion or voting on the issue. This would leave four councillors to decide on such matters, which is a quorum, but only just.

A dispensation from the Standards Committee can be requested where greater than 50%, (i.e. 7 councillors) are appointed by the Parish Council as trustees of the Recreation Centre Management Committee. Councillors have to argue that the business of the parish council would otherwise “be impeded”.

It was agreed to apply for a dispensation to enable the full council to make decisions in such a situation.

16. FINANCE	£
Cheques for payment:	
Society of Local Council Clerks - subs	120.00
Garden Guardian - grass cutting	634.50
B Tibbenham - travel costs	13.17
Copy IT - copying	7.16
P James - clerk's fee and exps	599.72
Inland Revenue - PAYE & NIC	447.23
M Ward - cleaning	496.48
R Wilkerson - consumables	46.55
Queensbury Shelters - bus shelter	5,681.13
Hugh Crane - Supplies	29.59
Norfolk Pension	135.52
Acle Recreation Centre - room hire	32.45
T T Jones - lighting repairs	278.04
Garden Guardian - grass cutting behind Springfield	162.15
Garden Guardian - work at cemetery	881.25
Royal British Legion (S.137)	25.00

The clerk presented a request for the purchase of a new filing cabinet and storage cupboard, totalling £419.50 + VAT. This was agreed.

17. DAMGATE LANE PLAY AREA

It was confirmed that the clerk should pursue the options of applying for an alcohol free zone for the play area. The council also decided to discuss the idea of declaring the whole village as an alcohol free zone at the Annual Parish Meeting.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 18th December 2006.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated: 18th December 2006