

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 29th September 2008
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

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

1. PUBLIC FORUM

There were eight members of the public present, together with Brian Iles (County Councillor), who gave a summary of the Boundary Committee's report. PCSO Jon Morgan-Jones gave a list of reported crimes for the last month and answered questions from councillors and the public.

2. APOLOGIES Mr B Brooks and Mr B Coveley.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Diane Fisher declared a personal interest in the donation to EACH as her daughter-in-law is employed by that charity.

4. MINUTES The minutes of the meetings held on 28th July and 2nd September 2008 were signed as correct by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Norfolk County Council have stated that the problem with the new footway by the Travelodge extension was pointed out to the planners earlier, but was overruled. A footway assessment would have to be completed now to ascertain the need.

5.2 NCC have said that there really is no alternative to moving the Norwich bound bus stop to New Road; any use of Barclays frontage would be extremely expensive and NCC would not want to commit funds to this whilst there is a viable alternative nearby. The councillors did not accept this and asked the clerk to contact Barclays to ask if some land could be given or rented long-term to enable the bus stop to remain at that place.

5.3 The clerk's other parishes have all agreed to pay for the training course run by the University of Gloucester.

5.4 Anglian Water has confirmed that they have jetted the sewer at the Damgate Lane industrial units and carried out remedial action on the inlet into the works.

5.5 The clerk has written to St Edmunds Church to ask that the low branches overhanging the footway from the churchyard be cut back.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 There was a request for funding from Macmillan Cancer Support and East Anglian Children's Hospice Week. (Diane Fisher declared a personal interest in the donation to EACH as her daughter-in-law is employed by that charity.) It was agreed to donate £75 to each (s.137 payment.)
- 6.2 The Broads Authority landscape character assessment has been received and was noted.
- 6.3 A report in the EDP was discussed which suggested that dispensaries at doctors' surgeries might close as part of plans to give pharmacies a greater role in healthcare. The councillors support both the surgery dispensary and the village pharmacy.
- 6.5 It was agreed to sign a petition to accelerate completion of the dualling of the A11.
- 6.6 BDC contacted the clerk to find out if the parish council still wanted to pursue the idea of additional land for an extension to the cemetery and to the playing field. The clerk confirmed that the councillors were very keen on this course of action.
- 6.7 Acle Primary School has sent a donation of £250 towards the running costs of the Out of School Club.
- 6.8 An Upton resident asked for a dropped kerb onto the pavement alongside the A47 from The Windle. The Highways Agency has said that this site has a low ranking and would appreciate any support the Council can give to the proposal. Councillors agreed to support this request as it would make it easier for people to access the village facilities and services.
- 6.9 The Broads Authority has asked if the parish would like to appoint a tree warden. It was agreed to ask the parish tree warden if he would like to take on the Broads areas as well.
- 6.10 The Norfolk Police Authority has sent details of changes in the Police service.
- 6.11 NCC has sent notice confirming the continued closure of footpaths 6 and 9 while the flood defence works are completed.
- 6.12 A resident complained to BESL about a party held at the works site off A1064.
- 6.13 NCC has advised that, following a safety inspection at Acle High School, double yellow lines will be painted around the corners of Englands Road into South Walsham Road to reduce the congestion from parents parking on the verge and to discourage children from crossing the road at this point. The vehicle activated sign will be relocated closer to the village boundary to remind drivers to slow down earlier.
- 6.14 BDC has advised that the Council employs a Communications Team to deal with enquiries from the Media about Standards Board cases; parish councils should not comment on any incidences.

6.15 The Department for Communities and Local Government has sent a consultation document on the making and enforcement of byelaws. This was noted.

6.16 The Acle Archive Group has requested a grant of £550 to pay for the rent of the room for the storage of the archives and computer equipment. It was agreed to donate this amount.

6.17 The Allotment Association has asked if a tenant could erect a poly tunnel on his plot; 20' x 12'. It was agreed that polytunnels would be allowed so long as they were kept in good condition. The committee also sent word that there is currently a waiting list of 16, with 9 from Acle residents and they are no longer accepting people onto the waiting list from outside the village.

6.18 Acle Primary School has asked for a grant towards the cost of taking year 5 and 6 children to a residential centre. It was agreed that this would be dealt with by the Acle in Need Charity.

6.19 The new headteacher at Acle High School, Tim Phillips, has sent a letter of introduction and thanking the parish council for its support in the past.

6.20 It was agreed that the certificate for the Quality Parish Council award should be put on the wall in the Methodist Hall.

6.21 It was reported that the Acle Lands Trust had been given an award for the management of the woodlands. The councillors sent their appreciation to the trustees and volunteers.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 There were no plans to consider.

7.2 Planning results from the **Broads Authority**:

i) **Right bank of the river Bure** - proposed works for flood alleviation - full approval

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

8.1 There was a complaint that the grass had grown a little long between cuts so that the cuttings made the verges look untidy. It was confirmed that the contractor was only paid to pick up the cuttings on the central green in the village.

8.2 Councillors expressed concern at the advertising boards placed on the footway outside the coffee shop in the village centre.

8.3 Two drain covers were reported to be needing attention.

8.4 The clerk was asked to contact NCC about the road surface in Old Road.

8.5 It was reported that there is a large hole on The Green. The clerk will report this to NCC.

9. STREET LIGHTING

9.1 It was reported that some lights in South Walsham Road were a little pale and might need replacing.

9.2 The clerk was asked to check that the Christmas lights would be tested ready for December.

9.3 The clerk will contact the owners of The Limes to ask them to consider installing an outside light to help illuminate the footway in that area.

10. PARISH PLAN

It was agreed to begin working with the replies shortly.

11. RECYCLING BINS

Broadland District Council has suggested placing some recycling bins in Acle village centre to see if they help to reduce the mixed rubbish collected. The councillors were supportive of the initiative so long as the bins were neat.

12. FINANCE

£

Cheques for payment:

Anglian Water DD	19.39
EON - street lighting DD three months	1,596.18
Veolia - skip hire DD 2 months	209.14
Siemens - DD - copier hire	99.40
Norfolk Deaf Ass'n S.137	50.00
R James - parish plan	22.50
Acle Blind Club s.137	50.00
Guide Dogs s.137	436.00
Travis Smith - hanging baskets	36.00
Inland Revenue - PAYE & NIC	404.27
M Ward - cleaning	575.75
P James - clerk's fee and exps	827.28
Norfolk Pension	129.94
Copy IT - copying	19.62
Hugh Crane Cleaning Eq't	5.56
T T Jones - street lighting	359.21
PHS - waste disposal	58.69
Acle Pre-school - repairs at Fletcher Room	38.87
Garden Guardian - grass cutting	746.42
Wilkerson - supplies	40.93
Genery - repair to cemetery water supply	135.13
B Tibbenham - chairman's allowance	45.00
B Tibbenham - travel expenses	11.60

Acle Archive Group	550.00
Macmillan Cancer Support (s.137)	75.00
EACH (s.137)	75.00

The above cheques were approved for payment.

The Annual Return for the year to 31st March 2008 has been received back from the external auditors. The auditors have commented that the Treasury Stock should henceforth be shown as a long-term asset and that the Council should continue to keep its reserves under review when setting future years' precepts. This was noted.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 27th October 2008.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated: 27th October 2008