

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 23rd May 2011
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr B Brooks, Mr D Burnett, Mr B Coveley, Mrs E Elliott,
Mr B Grint, Mr J Harriss, Mr A Hemmingway, Mrs L Hemsall
(also District Councillor), Mr R Perry, Mrs M Steed
and Mr B Tibbenham as current Chairman only

Brian Iles (County Councillor)

All councillors present signed a declaration of acceptance of office and agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct.

1. PUBLIC FORUM

There were eighteen members of the public present. Matters raised included a proposal for housing on land in Damgate Lane.

Lana Hemsall (BDC) thanked those who elected her. She reported that Broadland is one of the most successful areas for recycling, with over 50% of waste being recycled or composted. The Localism Bill proposes the delegation of some powers to parish councils, so that is something to look out for. Lana is on the Appeals Committee and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. A resident asked her to find out why the can recycling bank had been removed from the Recreation Centre car park.

Brian Iles (NCC) talked about changes in funding and the impact on local services. He reported that additional Government monies had been made available for road resurfacing.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEES

Chairman: Diane Fisher was proposed by John Harriss and seconded by David Burnett. No other candidates were proposed so Diane was elected unanimously.

Basil Tibbenham was thanked for the many years he has been on the Parish Council and he stepped down from the table at this point.

Vice-Chairman: John Harriss was proposed by Brian Grint and seconded by Lana Hemsall. Nigel Law was proposed by Barry Brooks and seconded by Barry Coveley. After a vote by a show of hands, John Harriss was elected as Vice-Chairman by the majority of those voting.

In the absence of Diane Fisher, John Harriss was appointed as Chairman of the meeting.

Committees:

Lighting	Rodney Perry and Tony Hemmingway
Planning	John Harriss, Diane Fisher, Rodney Perry, Nigel Law and Lana Hemsall
Acle Poor Charity	Rodney Perry

Youth	Diane Fisher and Malika Steed
Finance	Diane Fisher, John Harriss and Nigel Law
Fletcher Room	Lana Hemsall and Malika Steed
Parish Plan	Brian Grint, Diane Fisher, Nigel Law, Barry Coveley and Lana Hemsall
Acle Recreation Centre	Barry Brooks, Barry Coveley, Chris Dove, Brian Grint, Rodney Perry and Norman Pryor (all as nominated in February 2011)
Acle Lands Trust	Barry Brooks, Barry Coveley, Adam Fisher, Brian Grint and Rodney Perry.
Cemetery	Lana Hemsall, Nigel Law, Diane Fisher and Tony Hemmingway
Tree Wardens	Ian Nicholls and Nigel Law

3. APOLOGIES Mrs D Fisher and Mr N Law

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
None.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2011 were agreed to be correct and were signed by John Harriss as Chairman of the meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 A letter of objection has been received concerning the planning application to the rear of The Cottage, The Green. This was noted.

6.2 It was confirmed that the re-seeding of The Green would not take place until suitable weather. It was also agreed to ask the grasscutting contractor not to cut the grass on The Green until it recovers from the drought, and to review the grasscutting around the village, depending on the rainfall.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Rev Heather Sorrell from the Methodist Church has sent a letter about the access road to the library, Recreation Centre, Medical Centre and Herondale. She is trying to get the road adopted by NCC, but the County Council has previously said that they would not consider adopting the road because of the cost of bringing it up to public road standards.

7.2 Correspondence has been received from Chris Dove, Chairman of the Acle Recreation Centre. The trustees have applied to the Charity Commission to reduce the number of trustees appointed by the Parish Council from nine to six. The parish councillors agreed to wait to see what the response is from the Charity Commission. Norman Pryor, who was nominated by the Parish Council, was also elected by the Annual General Meeting.

The letter states that the Parish Council can only appoint parish councillors as trustees. This does not appear to be correct; it would seem that the Parish Council can appoint whomever it chooses as no restriction is mentioned in the trust deed.

The letter also states that vacancies should be filled at the discretion of the trustees, not by the Parish Council. Section 5 of the trust deed states that casual vacancies “shall be filled by the organisation by which such member shall have been appointed”, i.e. the Parish Council. There was some discussion about whether the vacancies were “casual vacancies”. It was agreed that, since the Parish Council had deferred choosing all its nominated trustees until after the election, then further trustees should be nominated at this point. Tony Hemmingway, Malika Steed and David Burnett offered to be trustees and were duly appointed. It was suggested that Isobel John, chair of Acle Pre-school, be approached to see if she would be interested in being a trustee.

- 7.3 The Police Safety Camera Partnership has sent details of the Speed Awareness Messaging system. The clerk has requested it to be used in Acle.
- 7.4 Details have been received of the Norfolk Association of Local Councils/ Society of Local Council Clerks summer conference. John Harriss offered to attend, with the clerk. Details of training courses for new councillors have been circulated.
- 7.5 The summary of the Council’s insurance policy has been copied to the finance committee members.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

- 8.1 Planning result from **Broadland District Council:**
Mr Hodgson, Bedlam Cottage, Reedham Road – two bungalows (outline) – refusal.

9. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- 9.1 NCC is aware of the leaking of water around the underpass in Reedham Road.
- 9.2 There has been an acknowledgement of various minor highways issues.
- 9.3 Brian Grint reported that a resident has asked to plant an ash tree on the verge of New Close. NCC has been consulted and confirmed that any tree must be planted at least 3.6m from the highway. The councillors supported this scheme.
- 9.4 The councillors complained about the amount of advertising for events at Amber Lodge and asked the clerk to contact the owners to request that it cease.
- 9.5 The clerk was also asked to contact Slimming World about their signs attached to highways road signs in Bridewell Lane.

- 9.6 There was a report that residents are finding it hard to cross the road at the junction of Bridewell Lane and Old Road because of the road layout. The clerk will contact Highways to ask if any improvements are possible.
- 9.7 There was a complaint about a hedge in Reedham Road.
- 9.8 The clerk was asked to contact NCC again about the safety of the parking places on the corner of Old Road.
- 9.9 Councillors also asked for a review of the parking on the corner outside the church.
- 9.10 A new business has asked to sponsor some hanging baskets. It was agreed that a 2" x 4" advertising sign could be inserted into the baskets on a spike in return for a donation.

10. STREET LIGHTING

- 10.1 It was agreed to authorise repairs and replacements to the street lighting stock arising from the annual inspection, costing £722.

The contractors have also said that there is a need to have an electrical testing programme in place – testing, inspecting and certificating each light every 5 years. They suggested a rolling programme of testing 20% of stock annually, at £8.90. The clerk was asked to get an alternative quote.

11. INDOOR STREET PARTY AND ACLE REGATTA

- 11.1 The Indoor Street Party was very successful, with 85 residents attending the first event and then over 100 members of the general public attending the open afternoon. The councillors thanked the organisers, the caterers and all those assisting with the event. It is hoped to run a similar event next year for the Queen's diamond jubilee.
- 11.2 The recent strong winds meant that the Regatta had to be abandoned, but the event was successful as a social event.

12. ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN

The clerk presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011. There were no questions on the accounts. John Harriss was authorised to sign the Accounts on behalf of the Parish Council.

Section 1 of the Annual Return, which is a summary of the Accounts, was also approved. Section 2 of the Return was considered and agreed. John Harriss was authorised to sign both sections on behalf of the Council.

13. FINANCE

£

Receipts:

Precept – first half	25,000.00
BDC – monitoring of street cleaning -1 st payment	464.40
Burials and memorial fees	695.00
Reimbursement of exps	58.02

Cheques for payment:

Norfolk Pension Fund – clerk’s pension	149.15
HMRC – PAYE & NIC	494.31
M Ward – cleaning	673.10
Norse – grasscutting at Fletcher Room	84.38
Pauline James – clerk’s fee and exps	1,027.00
South Walsham PC – filing cabinet	56.00
Blockbuster – works to drains	114.00
Norfolk ALC – summer conference	40.00
Zurich Management – advisory service	114.00
Genery – repairs to water tap at cemetery	409.32
T T Jones – lighting repairs and annual inspection	1,789.89
R Wilkerson – consumables	28.71
Garden Guardian – grasscutting	1,073.86
Copy IT – copying	36.20
A Hemmingway – work at Damgate Lane play area	39.40

It was agreed that Diane Fisher should be a cheque signatory, together with existing signatories John Harriss and Rodney Perry.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 27th June 2011.