

Acle Parish Council

Meeting Date: Monday, 28th November 2011
Venue: Methodist Church, Bridewell Lane, Acle
Time: 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr B Brooks, Mr D Burnett, Mrs E Elliott, Mrs D Fisher, Mr B Grint, Mr J Harriss, Mr N Law, Mr R Perry, Mrs M Steed.
Brian Iles (County Councillor)

1. PUBLIC FORUM

There were twenty nine members of the public present. Matters raised included objections to the proposal for the wind turbine at Upton Poultry Farm, concerns about proposals for new housing off Norwich Road and concerns about facilities for young people at the top of Mill Lane.

Brian Iles gave a report: the plans for the incinerator at Kings Lynn have been subject to a judicial review. The County Council is working on its budget, with more cut backs proposed. Brian also said that he is opposed to the wind turbine and he offered to speak at the BDC committee, if required. He had also looked into proposals for an increased recreational facility for young people at Mill Lane but had concerns about the likely costs to add lighting etc. Brian was asked about NCC's plans to carry out no cutting of the vegetation on public rights of way, whilst retaining its legal duty to allow public access to rights of way.

Lana Hemsall sent her District Council report; BDC has approved the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme whereby money will be used to indemnify between 30 and 40 first-time buyers living in the BDC area, to reduce the deposit they need to accumulate. Lana has been asked to be a substitute for the BDC planning committee. She is investigating options for a community gym in the village.

2. **APOLOGIES** Mr B Coveley, Mr A Hemmingway and Mrs L Hemsall (also district councillor),

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

John Harriss declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the proposed land for development off Norwich Road as his house is adjacent to this land.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st October 2011 were agreed to be correct, after an amendment to add that the amount of Community Infrastructure proposed to be handed to parish councils was expected to be 5%. The minutes were then signed by Diane Fisher, as Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 The Folly Tree has been pruned. The Christmas lights will be put back in shortly.

5.2 The delivery of the Christmas tree has been arranged.

5.3 TT Jones have been asked to carry out the testing and re-lamping of the Christmas lights along the street.

5.4 £130 has been paid to the new youth club to pay for CRB checks and set up costs.

5.5 One extra bin has been ordered for the cemetery, at a cost of £31.50 for the bin and £0.84 per collection, which is a special charities rate.

- 5.7 Two signs were purchased for the cemetery car park reminding people that the parking is for those who are visiting the cemetery, rather than to watch sports matches on the recreation ground.
- 5.8 There was a report on the Restorative Circle follow up meeting; the young people are planning some local fundraising to help with the play space project.
- 5.9 John Harriss reported that he laid the poppy wreath at the church service on behalf of the Parish Council.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 A request for a grant for Vitalise was turned down, since it was not felt likely to benefit local people.
- 6.2 It was agreed to give £500 towards the event planned for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, on Sunday, 3rd June. (Brian Grint declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of the committee and left the room during the discussions.) A street party is planned around the library area from 1.00 to 4.00 p.m.
- 6.3 It was agreed to give a donation of £100 to the Norfolk Lowland Search & Rescue. (LGA 1972 s.137 donation.)
- 6.4 The Broads Authority has sent a copy of its Broads Plan 2011.
- 6.5 Two letters have been received from people who are interested in being nominated as Trustees for the Recreation Centre. People interested in being nominated by the Parish Council will be considered at the February meeting.
- 6.6 The Police have sent notice that the new phone number to contact them in a non-emergency is 101.
- 6.7 PC Paul Fox has sent details of the five reported crimes during November and five crimes in October.
- 6.8 The Police have also sent notification that the County of Norfolk has decriminalised parking enforcement from 7th November. This means that the Police will no longer be able to issue parking tickets and traffic wardens will cease to exist, within the Constabulary. The responsibility will transfer over to Norfolk Parking Partnership (NPP), the newly created local government body for parking enforcement, run by the County Council.
- 6.9 The Localism Bill has become the Localism Act. The Act introduces the General Power of Competence which gives local councils the chance to deliver more for their communities based on residents' needs. The Standards Board is abolished, but local councils will still be required to draw up a code of conduct. Local councils now have the right to express an interest in taking over the running of a local authority service. Principal authorities now also have the responsibility of compiling a list of assets of community value. There is also some information on neighbourhood planning and prospective developers will be required to consult communities before submitting applications.
- 6.10 The clerk attended a meeting on rural fuel poverty. One initiative is membership of a syndicate for purchasing oil. It was agreed to investigate this further.
- 6.11 BDC has sent information about proposed refurbishment of some Wherry properties off Beighton Road. This was supported by the councillors.
- 6.12 Malika Steed presented details of the Village Games scheme, supported by BDC.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 Plans discussed at the meeting:

i) BDC's consultation on sites shortlisted for potential development:

- 150 units off Norwich Road (John Harriss left the room during discussions). After some discussion it was agreed to support this allocation. The councillors felt that if housing is needed in the village, as suggested by the housing needs survey, then this is the best location, subject to full consultation at all stages and overcoming sewerage capacity problems.
- Light industrial and 20 units behind Hillside Farm. This was supported.
- Small-scale general industrial off Station Road. This was supported.

ii) **Amber Real Estate, Upton Poultry Farm, The Windle** – installation of wind turbine (50m hub height with 54m blade diameter). (20111445). The councillors objected strongly to the plans. They felt that the proposal was out of character with the landscape in this area and unneighbourly. They were disappointed that the neighbouring properties were not consulted by BDC to begin with.

iii) **Mr Hodgson, Bedlam Cottage, Reedham Road** – first floor rear extension (20111504). The councillors objected to the plans; unneighbourly, over-development and cramped.

iv) **Mr Wiseman, The Old Chapel, Middlesex Lane** – demolition of former chapel and construction of replacement 3 bedroomed house with integral garage. There were no objections to the plans.

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

- i) Barn adj. to **Acle Rectory** – replacement for PP 20081475, change of use and conversion of barn to dwelling – approved.
- ii) Land to the rear of **The Cottage, New Road** – vehicular access – approved.
- iii) **Jadan, Reedham Road** – single storey rear extension – approved.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

8.1 A complaint by NCC about blocked ditches on Acle Lands Trust land has been dealt with by the trustees.

8.2 It was agreed to contact MP Keith Simpson to press for improvements to A47 following the recent accident.

8.3 Norfolk County Council has sent notice that there will be no cuts of vegetation on public rights of way from 2012. The councillors expressed their concerns about the likely restrictions to public access. The clerk was asked to contact the Broads Authority to find out if they will be continuing with maintenance of paths within their jurisdiction.

8.4 There was a complaint about parking on the corner of Old Road.

9. STREET LIGHTING

9.1 A few lights were reported for repair.

10. QUALITY PARISH STATUS

The work has been split between the clerk and parish councillors Lana Hemsall and Nigel Law. Some sections have been completed and the group will meet shortly to consider what work is outstanding.

11. **OLYMPIC TORCH VISIT**

It was confirmed that the Olympic Torch is to be carried through Acle on July 5th 2012. There was an event held at Acle Primary School to celebrate the announcement of the date in the general media. A community celebration event is planned in the village, to include children from the schools in the surrounding villages. Angela Bishop was nominated as the contact for the Acle celebrations, to liaise with Kirstin Hughes at Broadland District Council. A committee was proposed of Brian Grint, John Harriss and Diane Fisher, to co-ordinate with Angela Bishop and to report back to the Parish Council.

12. **FLETCHER ROOM**

A list of repairs needed was considered and approved, including replacement upvc doors and a new cooker.

13. **LAND BEHIND SPRINGFIELD**

BDC has confirmed that the land behind Springfield is “allocated” in the current local plan, which means that it is expected to be developed within the timescale of the local plan (i.e. before April 2011) and that the allocation policy in the plan sets out the requirements for how this will be done. By removing the allocation but keeping the site within the Settlement Limit there will be a bit more flexibility. It means that it is accepted, in principle, that development can take place.

The fact that the land is within the settlement limit means that it cannot be treated as an exception site, where local needs housing might be achieved. Given that the Parish Council owns the land this may mean that this latter point is not really an issue, as it might be that another means of controlling the land, as landowner, for “local needs” housing.

The clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Jenny Manser of the Sustainable Communities Partnership to discuss ways to get the best community benefit from the site.

14. **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

The working party is collecting the results of the survey at the schools.

The clerk was asked to write to the owners of the land off Norwich Road/ Old Station Road to find out if they would be interested in selling the land for recreational facilities.

The Council has received letter of objections to the proposal to extend the facility at the top of Mill Lane.

15. **FINANCE**

£

Receipts:

Reimbursement expenses	56.12
Burial and Memorial fees	2,390.00
Former Youth Club account balance	2,577.20
Norse – refund grass cutting	76.22

Cheques for payment:

T T Jones – lighting repairs	530.38
Mick Ward – cleaning	621.70
Hugh Crane Cleaning Eq't – supplies	17.44
P James – clerk's fee and expenses	865.83

P James – reimb. payment to youth club	130.00
D Starkings – hedge cutting	60.00
Inland Revenue – PAYE & NIC	472.65
Garden Guardian – grasscutting	1,073.86
Wilkersons – supplies	46.93
Jemco – signs for cemetery	51.58
Brooms – Fletcher Room supplies	81.76
SLCC – subscription	223.00
Tony Hemmingway – repairs	80.50
Information Commissioner – DPA	35.00
J Nudd – maintenance	357.50
D Wales – maintenance	299.00
SLCC – council books	173.75

The above cheques were authorised for payment.

16. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Budget – the finance committee will meet on 12th December
- Quarterly newsletter
- Facebook page

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 19th December 2011.