

Community

The Acle Parish Council quarterly
newsletter. January 2013
Editor, Nigel Law

Bad Weather and Grit Bins

The recent snowy weather highlighted again some of the problems people have simply getting about in and around the village. Where snow gets compacted and then turns to ice, walking and driving can become dangerous if not impossible. Norfolk County Council Highways department provides some grit bins and the Parish Council has, after requests from residents, also provided additional bins where NCC would not. Grit for bins is either provided by Norfolk County Council or by the Parish Council.

At January's Parish Council meeting several more requests for new grit bins were discussed under the agenda item 'Highway matters'. A number of points were raised including the desirability of too many yellow bins about the village and indeed what would constitute 'too many'. A grit bin is about £120 and even at discounted prices for salt/grit it costs about £60 to fill a bin. The bin outside the Post Office was almost empty after just 3 days so the cost of provision and on-going filling is an obvious factor. The management and monitoring of grit levels in each bin was also raised. It was decided to postpone further discussion for a future date and to ask anyone who has comments to make on the matter to email or phone Pauline the Parish Clerk whose details appear below.

Fuel Oil Bulk Buying Group.

Your Parish Council would like to know what demand there might be to set up a scheme for the bulk purchase of heating oil in the village.

The essentials of the scheme, run by Norfolk Rural Community Council, are:

- Each group is set up on a community basis; in our case this would be the parish of Acle.
- There is no minimum number of members needed.
- An Acle co-ordinator is needed just to publicise the scheme and make registration forms available.
- Individual members order by ringing NRCC whenever it suits them and pay by direct debit or by credit card.
- Orders by the first working day of the month get the bulk order price across the county and as there are already over 1200 members countywide there is substantial bulk buying power. If people urgently need oil and can't wait they can ask for an urgent delivery but then won't get the bulk discount.

There is a very small cost associated with running this scheme but if enough people were interested the Parish Council would consider meeting those costs. If you would be interested in this scheme please contact the Parish Clerk.

Acle Academy Open Day

Acle Academy will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 16th March from 10:00 until 3:00. Your Parish Council will have a stand there and councillors will be available throughout the day to discuss any parish matters. We hope to have more information about the Springfield site development available on the day.

Dog Poo Again

It seems that there are still a small number of people who do not go out either prepared or willing to clear up after their dog. The problem I am hearing most complaints about seems to be with a dog owner who walks their dog in Mill Lane. This particular person appears to allow their dog to poo on the pavement as many times as it wants to!

Parts of Mill Lane and the roads off it house a large number of older people for whom getting about can be difficult at the best of times. This is clearly unacceptable behaviour besides also being illegal. If you don't clean up after your dog you can be fined as much as £80 and if you refuse to pay an appearance in court will cost you up to £1000. Broadland District Council WILL PROSECUTE people who do not clear up after their dogs!

You can buy dog poo bags in the village or just use old plastic carrier bags. There are dog poo bins provided in the village so you don't even have to dispose of your dog's mess at home!

Parking on Grass Verges

Several complaints have been received by the Parish Council about cars parking on grass verges in the village. The main area of concern is New Road where several vehicles are often parked on the grass. This is resulting in the grass being churned up and muddy areas developing which are unsightly and also cause difficulties for the grass cutting contractors.

We are aware that the bulk of the drivers concerned are people parking their cars in Acle and then getting on the bus to Yarmouth or Norwich. However, if you are an Acle resident and one of those using verges to park on please consider parking your vehicle somewhere else. The Parish Council spends considerable amounts of money trying to promote and maintain a pleasant looking environment throughout the village and I am sure everybody would appreciate as little unnecessary damage as possible being done to the grass verges.

Parish Council Contact Details.

**For all enquiries please contact
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The Acle Parish Council website is at:
<http://aclepc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>