

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

July 2023

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

At the 22nd June Parish Council meeting we were pleased to welcome Sarah Corby as a Councillor, completing our complement of five Councillors. We agreed an updated Job Description and remuneration scale, based on which to advertise the post of Clerk to the Parish Council, filling the vacancy arising as Roy Wade is retiring after many years of service to the Council. We thank Roy for agreeing to help us through the transition and wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

A theme of the meeting was improving the décor and attractiveness of our village through better addressing street cleanliness and litter removal, providing sustainable planting and flower arrangements, and repainting assets such as the Telephone Kiosk next to the Village Hall. We also announced that we are considering the cessation of the public telephone service, which has not been used in over two years, and buying the Kiosk (at a nominal £1 cost) to decorate and reuse for our own purposes. We acknowledged objections based on the public telephone being possibly required as an emergency telephone of last resort (in a prolonged power cut, for example) and were advised of other potential problems. The Council's view is that such problems are not insuperable, but we undertook to survey wider community views before making a final decision.

As expected, the standing "Highways" agenda item covered a lot of ground. Richard provided an update on Speedwatch and announced that all five Councillors had agreed to participate in regular (monthly) sessions, hopefully demonstrating our commitment to the scheme and its importance in helping to create a safer village environment. But we still need more volunteers to maintain a regular, effective speeding deterrent. We would love to hear from you!

We also made a plea for villagers to help us to help the community. Other than our own reports, only one report of a vehicle exceeding the 7.5 tonne weight limit was made following the procedure outline in my last update from the PC. The Police are not yet taking the matter seriously and we need help to impress upon them the extent of danger represented by these frequent transgressions. It is also to be hoped that our new Beat Officer (whose contact details are on the PC website) will be able to assist in this regard.

Chenice spoke about planned discussions to create a safe footpath to Quex, which we noted should extend from the south of the village enabling safe access for all. In answer to a question, we confirmed our continuing commitment to the "Twenty

is Plenty" campaign and, following an item on the BBC 4 programme "Any Answers", your Council had written-in to support the panel's unanimous view that 20 mph should be the default speed limit in residential areas. The North Thanet Link Road consultation has now closed, and we look forward to the outcome. The Parish Council had submitted its response and we trust that individuals from our community also responded to emphasise the weight of its views.

Wendy spoke about our wish to honour the long service of the previous Parish Councillors and discussed possible actions including virtual (web-based) testimonials, a plaque honouring previous Chairpersons in the Village Hall, or on a public bench, but other ideas from the community will be welcome.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th August at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Richard Steel (Chair)

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of June 2023 were:

Member no. 59, who won 1st prize of £20.00.

Member no. 186, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 192, who won 3rd prize of £5.00.

Winners for the Month of July 2023 were:

Member no. 87, who won 1st prize of £20.00.

Member no. 48, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 103, who won 3rd prize of £5.00.

£60.00 has been donated to the Village Hall funds.

The next draw will take place on the 2nd August 2023. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829)

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

28th July 7.30pm Acol Book Club

1st Aug 7.30pm AHS - 'Hedgehogs in the Garden' - Roy Finch

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Acol Parish Council held on Friday 12th May, 2023 at 5.00 p.m. in the Acol Village Hall, The Street, Acol.

NOTE: Prior to the commencement of the meeting Mssrs. R. Steel. G. Winstanley and Mrs. W. Winpenny signed the declaration of acceptance of office form and took their place at the table.

Present: R. Steel, G. Winpenny and Mrs. W. Winpenny.

Also present: Councillors Ms. Bambridge and Barlow (TDC) and Crow- Brown and Ms Wright (KCC) & Roy Wade.

1. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

The Clerk reported that at the election of councillors for Acol Parish Council on 4 May 2023 had been uncontested and the following members had been elected unopposed: Richard Steel, Gavin Winpenny and Wendy Winpenny.

Note: the former Chairman of the Council read a statement stating that she had not stood for election to the Council because she had been unwell.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Steel be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2023/24.

The Chairman took the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chairman thanked Council for appointing him Chairman and thanked former councillors Miss Bransfield, D. Haywood, J. Inchley and Mrs. I. Osborn for their service on the Council and their commitment to the Village over many years.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 30th January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that he had worked for a period of time to rebuild the Speedwatch team and that application would not be made for grants to purchase the available monitoring equipment until the team was in place

4. CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that an application had been received from Ms. Chenice Butterworth to be co-opted the Council. A further vacancy existed for the one vacancy and he would discuss with the Clerk the way forward.

RESOLVED: That the application for Ms. Butterworth be approved and she be appointed to the Parish Council.

NOTE: Ms. Butterworth took the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported

- (i) notice of meetings, which will be held in the evenings, will be published in the Village Voice and placed on the Council's website,
- (ii) an item dealing with highway issues will be placed on every agenda,
- (iii) further consideration will be given to:
 - a. creating a footpath from the Village to Birchington,
 - b. the CCTV system
 - c. the preparation of a neighbourhood plan.

8. ANNUAL AUDIT/FINANCIAL MATTERS

The annual audit will be held on 19th May 2023 and Members noted the following documents (i). Income & Expenditure for 2022/23 and (ii) Expenditure for 2022/23.

A report would be submitted to Council as soon as the auditor's report was received. The Chairman and Clerk will be changing the banking arrangements to reflect the new structure of the Council.

The bank balance at 1st May 2023 was £17,609.37

9. REPORT OF MEMBERS

Members noted that the reports referred to in item 8 above would be considered at future meetings.

10. REPORTS OF KCC/TDC COUNCILLORS

Ms. Barlow expressed thanks for the support she had received.

Ms. Bambridge would attend and report to Parish meetings as often as she could.

D. Crow-Brown thanked the former chairman, Miss Bransfield, for her hard work within the Parish Council and Village over many years. The meeting was advised that much of the work of KCC related to the appalling number of potholes. He also advised that the allowances for Members to help projects within the villages had been severely reduced.

(A resident raised concerns at the lack of a bus stop in Minster Road and Cllr. Crow-Brown took note of the matter.)

Finally Derek gave notice of an event to be held on 16 August 2023 to pay tribute to a Belgian pilot who was awarded the D.F.C during World War 2. Further details would be put on the website.

Ms. Linda Wright reported that she was mainly concerned with the negotiations to draw up contracts for care in the community.

At this point the Chairman allowed Jim Barber to address Council to outline measuring being discussed by the Church Authorities which may result in the closure of St. Mildred's Church. The Parish Council would be involved in the consultations.

E mail: clerk@acolparishcouncil.org.uk May 2023

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Acol Parish Council held in Acol Village Hall on Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Richard Steel (Chair), Wendy Winpenny, Gavin Winpenny, Chenice Butterworth and Sarah Corby

Also Present: K. Ault, L. Godfrey, M. Sherred, Cllr Abi Smith, D. Hayfield, S. Bransfield, D. Coulson & P. Fraser Webb

1. Cllr Steel lead the Councillors in introducing themselves to the members of public present.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which took place on 12/05/23 were approved by all Councillors.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence. Cllr Steel informed those present that he did contact all TDC councillors as well as our new Beat Officer but had received no response.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5. CO-OPTION

Cllr Steel confirmed that an application has been received from Sarah Corby to join the Council. All Councillors are happy to co-opt Sarah and passed on their congratulations.

6. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

Cllr Steel confirmed that Roy Wade is committed to assisting until a replacement is found. Cllr Steel informed those present that a job description for the role has been reviewed and approved, including appropriate remuneration. The role will be advertised following the meeting, and will be available on the APC website, Facebook Page, in the Village Voice and on the KALC website. Cllr Steel confirmed that the closing date for applications for the role will be the end of July.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Steel confirmed that the items on the agenda were his main priority, and that he proposed that the BT telephone box in the village be decommissioned and repurposed as a Free Library Book Exchange or something similar. He explained that while he had shared this within comments of another Facebook post, the Council would be gathering opinions of villagers in the form of a survey prior to making a final decision. A member of the public, Mr P. Fraser Webb, stated that the phone box was a "lifeline" for many villagers, and Cllr G Winpenny informed the public that the telephone box has not been used in two years apart from one call to a Freephone number in 2020. Cllr G Winpenny also wanted to note that BT have been incredibly responsive and for that, we are grateful. Mr Hayfield and Ms Bransfield informed the room that during Lockdown the telephone box was used as a lavatory and expressed their concerns that this will be repeated should the decision to decommission the telephone box be made. Cllr Steel asked that any further comments be made at the end of the meeting or in the survey when released, but gave assurance that the decision will be led by the public.

8. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

In the Clerk's absence, Cllr Steel explained that the accounts have been approved by the audit commission, and that he had signed the accounts before they were submitted. Cllr Steel explained they will be available on the website as public information, and asked if there were any objections from his fellow councillors. No objections were noted.

9. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Steel explained that this will always be on the agenda to cover a wide variety of issues and projects. Cllr Steel explained that in regards to SpeedWatch, L. Godfrey was now an active volunteer and that all councillors will be participating in sessions at least once a month. Cllr Steel explained that more volunteers were needed, and that he would issue a further plea in the next issue of the newsletter, as this will help secure the support of the police in order to proceed with Auto Speed Watch equipment. A member of the public, D. Coulson, issued a plea for the Speed Watch team to broaden their area and it was explained where Speed Watch sessions are carried out and his area was covered. However, with limited numbers of volunteers it was difficult to cover all areas. Cllr W. Winpenny stated that we have data on the 20mph campaign which Cllr Steel explained involves following a formal process which can become costly. Cllr W. Winpenny elaborated on the scheme and stated that the overall plan was for the entirety of Kent and all residential areas to have the 20mph speed limit, and explained the process of the HIP (Highway Improvement Plan) which is a live document. Cllr. G Winpenny assures those present that the village needs to be safe and recognises the hard work and dedication of D. Hayfield and S. Bransfield in past efforts to ensure this happened.

Cllr Steel discussed the 7.5 tonne weight limit which had been implemented, as per the erection of the sign, at the beginning of this year in a bid to deter larger vehicles from using the village as a short cut. D. Hayfield has kindly agreed to monitor the CCTV as long as the time, vehicle description and registration plate are noted. He would then check the CCTV to allow the Parish Council to report the violation of this new limit. Cllr Steel explained he has contacted the village's new Beat Officer, Beth Nimim, as we would like to ensure collaboration, but has yet to receive a response. Thus far, any report of a violation to the police has resulted in the police stating they don't have the time or resources to explore the issue.

Cllr Steel advised that Cllr Butterworth would be leading on the Footpath to Quex. He explained that we were in the process of arranging meetings with Quex and KCC, and that we were aware the footpath needs to extend to the South of the village. P. Fraser Webb informed

the Council that Quex may not be the landowner as previously believed, and Cllr Steel thanked him for this information.

Cllr Steel informed those present that he has contacted TDC for information on Street Cleaning, specifically when the last street cleaning took place and where, and asked if there was scope for us to secure our own contractors but has yet to receive a response. He asked Cllr Abi Smith if she could provide an update. Cllr Smith stated that she has no feedback now, but would chase this. The Parish Council thank K. Ault for litter picking, and welcome more volunteers to help make the village look more presentable.

Cllr Steel informed those present that the North Thanet Link consultation has now closed, and that the PC has submitted its own response which will be available to view on the website shortly.

Cllr Steel attended a Walking and Cycling pre-consultation meeting in Minster today, but explained the group managing the consultation were mainly gathering opinions and are working in conjunction with a cycling charity and TDC.

D. Coulson informed the PC that the "Give Way, This Way" sign on Acol Hill has been moved, and Cllr G. Winpenny assured him that he would look into correcting this.

D. Hayfield stated that he felt the speedbumps on The Street had been a positive addition.

10 VILLAGE DECORATION

Cllr Butterworth shares that the PC is looking to brighten up the village in the form of planters filled with wildlife friendly, and easy-to-manage, flowers. She explains she is looking to collaborate with the owner of The Darling Buds of Wade who has offered their support free of charge on this. Cllr Steel informs those present that we will be looking into funding for these improvements.

11 SERVICE OF FORMER COUNCILLORS

Cllr W. Winpenny stated that the PC would like to honour and recognise the service of former councillors, and made a few suggestions, including a virtual list of previous councillors on the website. Cllr W. Winpenny asked for the feedback from two former PC members, D.Hayfield and S.Bransfield, and they said they would think about it and report back. S.Bransfield stated that she believed she had a list of all previous councillors, and Cllr G.Winpenny thanked her for being willing to share this information.

12 CLERK'S REPORT

In the absence of Roy Wade, Cllr Steel stated that we currently have £17,424 in the bank but explains that the new PC will be looking to use some of that money for training as they are new to the roles although this would not have been accounted for when the original budget was made. Cllr Steel informed those present that a review of the budget would be made going forward. D.Hayfield advised that the figure of £17,424 was accurate, but payments to Zurich insurance and for grass cutting leaving the balance of £16,876.62. Cllr Steel asked D.Hayfield to chose a date which is convenient for the handover of the financial responsibility and admin.

13 REPORTS OF KCC/TDC COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Abi Smith of the Green Party outlined current projects including training and many of the changes within TDC. She explained there is a new senior leadership team, and was encouraged that the Adopted Local Plan could be a way to slow down future developments within a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr W.Winpenny suggested she would like to speak with the Chair of Birchington PC to initiate a collaborative approach to the Neighbourhood Plan & Local Plan going forward.

Cllr Steel expressed disappointment that no other TDC councillors had attended the meeting.

The date of the next meeting would be on Thursday 24th August at 7.30pm.

Cllr Steel closed of the meeting at 8.30pm.

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Acol Horticultural Society's next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st August, at Acol Village Hall when Roy Finch will be talking about "Hedgehogs in the Garden". This will be an interesting talk about a fascinating and valuable little gardener's friend.

Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.
You can join the Society:- £4 single and £7 for a couple.

Before that on Saturday 29th July, Carol and Brian Hall will be holding a Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraiser in their garden next to the Village Hall.

This event will have tea/coffee and food including many delicious cakes. There will be an excellent raffle and a tombola for you to take your chances with. It will kick off at 2pm until either all the food is gone, or all your money has gone towards this worthwhile cause. There will be no entrance fee but donations for any food and drink you consume will be gratefully received. So be as greedy as your pockets/bank account will allow.

Just an early reminder that on **Saturday 2nd September** is the date for **Acol's Summer/Autumn Show** to be held in the Marquee behind the Village Hall. All are welcome, so start thinking about and preparing your exhibits. Schedules are available from Steve and Theresa, Tel 846963.

Bill Yeoman.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

If you wish to book a meeting or event, please ring 841691 to check availability.

BOOK/FILM CABINET

Please don't forget there is a cabinet outside the Village Hall where you can borrow or donate books and DVDs.

DEFIBRILLATOR

It is worth reminding villagers that there is a defibrillator beside the door to the Village Hall. Instructions on how to access it are clearly displayed on the outside of the cabinet, and full instructions on how to use it are inside the cabinet.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black) , Garden Waste (green)
& waste food

17th July

31st July

Recycling (blue), red bag
& waste food

10th July

24th July

7th August

Ring TDC on 577115, if you have problems, or 577727 with queries.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Iris Osborne continues to advise everyone of local issues. Please ring her on 07951 072914 if you have questions or information.

KENT POLICE

Contact 07980 978202 for the East Kent Division Rural Police Team

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Access APC website at acolparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minster Surgery

MINSTER SURGERY MEMORIAL GARDEN

Due to the very generous donation kindly bequeathed to Minster Surgery, we are very pleased to announce that layouts and designs for the new Memorial Garden have been completed and will shortly be available to view on our Notice Board in the Waiting Room.

The Garden will be open to all patients who can use it as a quiet and therapeutic area and also as a meeting place where hopefully eventually we will be able provide teas and coffees etc.

Basic groundwork has already commenced, and it is anticipated that the work could take 6-8 months to complete - subject to weather conditions!

Therefore, if anyone has an hour or two to spare we would be extremely grateful for your support, especially if you have access to any mechanical tools or possibly a small digger, it would be extremely helpful and enable us to progress the works more quickly, in fact if any one has any unwanted or unused garden tools, please let us know - we would be very grateful for anything!

Please note the Surgery will be closed on Wednesday 19th July from 1pm onwards for staff training.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS; During /School holiday periods

With the School summer holiday period approaching fast, please remember to order your prescriptions in good time and also consider that your pharmacists and Doctors take holidays during this time as well.

Please Allow at least 72 hours to allow your pharmacies sufficient time to prepare the prescriptions and to reorder certain medications where necessary.

Please also do not forget that the Pharmacist can give you help and advice on minor ailments as well as your medication.

Thank you for your help and understanding at this difficult time.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Call 111 for non-urgent and confidential advice for you and your family.

Call 119 for covid help and advice.

Call 999 - for urgent and life-threatening cases.



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Editor's Note:

PLEASE PASS ON THIS EDITION OF VILLAGE VOICE

Non-residents of Acol can become subscribers to the Village Voice at the cost of £10.00 for 12 editions, the charge covers the cost of printing and posting to a nominated address.

Advertising

For a box advertisement of about 8cm x 10cm the cost is £10 for inclusion in 3 editions, £15 for 6 editions and £25 for 12 editions.

Please e-mail contributions to Village Voice to inchley@btinternet.com

This edition of Village Voice has not been sponsored.

Should you (or your organisation) wish to sponsor an edition, either in memory of a loved one, to commemorate an event or even from a feeling of civic duty(!), please contact me.

Contributions for the next edition must be received by 5th August 2023.