

# **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Acol Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Acol,  
on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors Miss Bransfield (Chairman), D Hayfield, J. Inchley and Mrs. Osborne.

Also in attendance: Roy Wade (Clerk/RFO) and 3 residents.

## **8. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

## **10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interest were made.

## **11. CO-OPTION TO PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk reported a notice of the vacancy on the Parish Council had been displayed on the Village Notice board and the website inviting residents to apply for co-option to the Council. One application had been received.

**RESOLVED:** That a report be submitted to the September meeting for Members to consider and approve the filling of the vacancy on the Parish Council.

## **12. REPORTS OF THE POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDENS/PCSO'S**

No officers were in attendance to report.

## **13. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported upon the following matters which had arisen since the last meeting:-

- The Community Playback Scheme - asked for villagers to suggest ways in which they could be of use in Acol.
- Parish Council is considering ways in which a new fence could be financed and fitted to the south of the Recreation field. Questions were asked concerning the responsibility of the fence and I will check our Lease with Quex Estates.
- TV News companies had been emailed with information about our traffic problems and BBC News have acknowledged receipt. This will be followed up.
- Parish Council has completed an on-line form to request replacement dog-waste bin, with no response to date.
- Explained the fact that Serco disbanded all ground maintenance in Thanet without notifying us, hence the overgrown grass. Arrangements are being made to clear it and engage an alternative permanent contractor.

- I recently met Sarah Osborne, Community Development Officer, who works with young people and veterans in order to bring them together. It was agreed that we will invite her to our September meeting to discuss her work.
- Volunteers have offered to repaint the direction sign on Nursery Fields. Several years ago, we asked Highways to repair and repaint it and we were informed that they could only replace it with a modern street sign. Obviously we refused as we wish to retain the village's heritage so it now belongs to us. The late Bob Lawrence was intending to repaint it but, since his sad loss, it was forgotten.
- The whole village is extremely grateful to our valuable volunteers who jump up to attend to so many problems within the village.
- We are grateful to Quex Estates for their direction signs for last weekend's event, directing traffic away from Acol.
- Thanet District Council has recently asked about Acol's Emergency Plan. This has been discussed many times over several years and I'll check the details to report later.

#### **14. VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - DONATION**

The Clerk was pleased to report that the Acol Village Hall Management Committee has generously donated £3,500 to the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED:** (A) That the donation be gratefully accepted and the Village Hall Management Committee be thanked; and (B) the donation be used to part fund the improvement of the play area (recreation Ground) and the purchase of play equipment.

#### **15. RECREATION GROUND – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

Councillor David Hayfield reported on proposals for the improvement to the Recreation Ground and suggested that the generous donation from the Acol Village Hall Management Committee could be used to purchase a roundabout and meet the cost of installation.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposal of Cllr. Hayfield be approved in principle and that he report to the September meeting on the detailed costings of the purchase of equipment and installation.

#### **16. GRASS CUTTING – THE RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk reported that Serco has withdrawn from the operation of grass cutting maintenance from the Thanet area. Arrangements have been made for the grass to be cut and the children's play area to be strimmed. There was a discussion on a claim that the Recreation Ground had not been cut in June or July and Karen Ault had photographic evidence to support this which she would send to the Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council's concerns be forwarded to Serco and they be requested to refund those payments made in respect of grass cuts not carried out.

#### **17. CLERK'S REPORT**

**Annual Audit.** The Clerk reported that the Council's audit papers had been put on the website and notice boards, advising residents that they were available for inspection. No residents had asked to view the papers and the Auditor had been advised accordingly.

**18. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(i) **Payments Made** – The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

<b>CHEQUE NO.</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Amount</b>
707	Serco	Grass Cut June	11.26	67.56
708	N Cooper	Works to playground	0.00	645.00
709	D Hayfield	Memory sticks	0.00	14.38
710	D Hayfield	Energy costs CCTV	0.00	53.00

(ii) **Bank Balance** The bank balance at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 was £10,742.19.

**19. REPORTS OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

No reports were received.

**20. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS**

Cllr Inchley:

- (a) **Broadband:** The auditor had called on him and verified the village wi fi speeds were correct. The ducts were in need of remedial works and this had been done.
- (b) **Village Hall:** The Management Committee had agreed to provide a wi fi facility in the Village Hall to make it even more attractive to hirers of the Hall.
- © **Jon** paid tribute to Karen and her team of volunteers for their commitment to the Village and the wide range of activities they undertake to make Acol an even more attractive Village.

**21. SPEEDWATCH**

The Chairman invited Richard Steel to update Council on the Speedwatch initiative. Richard advised Members that Rob Searle was giving up the role of organising Speedwatch. Richard had been invited to lead the initiative and had asked for various assurances prior to accepting the position. Speedwatch comes under the control of the Thanet Rural Regeneration Group and meetings are soon to resume.

**22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 11am and that applications for co-option to the Council would be considered prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Signed Roy Wade  
Clerk to the Council  
Phone: (01843) 832243