

# **ACOL VILLAGE VOICE**

**August 2020**

## **VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall will remain mostly closed until September to allow the Management Committee to absorb the current regulations and implement the changes necessary to conform and make use of the Hall Covid compliant. This will entail restricting bookings to no more than one per day to allow thorough cleaning between each use, the implementation of separate entry and exit points, and a one-way system to protect our users. The floor will also be marked out with tape to facilitate social distancing. The kitchen will remain closed except for hand washing, and the toilets will be subject to a 'one in one out' regime. We will also be asking hirers to record contact details of all users, and to check the temperature of all visitors with the forehead scanning thermometer provided. All hirers will be provided with a detailed document laying out all the Covid requirements which they must adhere to.

## **ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club**

The monthly draw has been reintroduced after a short suspension. The next draw will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> August, and the results published in the September edition of the Voice.

The Support Fund has been running for 30 years, and over that time has raised around £20,000 towards the upkeep and modernisation of the Hall. Members of the 200 Club are each allocated a number that is entered into a monthly draw on payment of £1 each month. The money collected is then shared 50:50 between the Hall Support Fund and a prize fund. Should a member not contribute in a particular month, then their number will not be entered in the draw, and prize fund will be reduced accordingly. The prize fund is then divided between the three winning numbers, drawn every four weeks, with 50% of the fund as the first prize, 30% as the second prize and 20% as the third prize.

Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

## **ACOL COMMUNITY BROADBAND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

For the time being the project remains on-track, but a number of the promised pledges have not yet, for one reason or another, been confirmed, and a small number of villagers have withdrawn from the Partnership. Therefore the funding is tight and we still welcome new pledges at <https://www.openreach.com/RGC>

Preparatory activity by Openreach and its contractor continues around the village. Some households, including some who have not joined the scheme, have received correspondence seeking permission to undertake work at their properties, which may include digging along the route of the current telephone line. Given permission to undertake any such work, Openreach will use its best endeavours to fully restore gardens and paving following its completion.

Although not everybody wants to take immediate advantage of the new FTTP network installation, Openreach aspires to install the necessary infrastructure to every home so it can be activated without recourse to further property disturbance as and when householders decide to move to Ultrafast broadband services. (Broadband is now the "fourth utility" and the availability of high-speed services has been shown to boost property values.) However, existing network provision will not be disturbed and there will be no requirement to use the new network if householders are satisfied with existing provision.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) are available online at the village Facebook page and on the Acol Parish Council website. If you do not have access, contact Richard or Karen, who will be pleased to provide a printed copy.

Richard 07770 281113 richardjohnsteel@outlook.com

Karen 07955 096467 kault61@gmail.com

## **MINSTER MOT & REPAIR CENTRE LTD**

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## **VILLAGE INFORMATION**

### **RECREATION GROUND**

The Recreation Ground is open for use as normal, but it is important that all users observe social distancing, so please, wherever possible, keep 2m separation from other users. Also, it is essential that dog owners use the appropriate bin to dispose of their animal's bagged-up waste and that you take any rubbish home with you.

### **VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall is closed until September. All except regular bookings have been cancelled for the time being, and the hirers advised.

### **REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

Refuse (black), Garden (green)      Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food  
& waste food

3<sup>rd</sup> August

10<sup>th</sup> August

17<sup>th</sup> August

24<sup>th</sup> August

31<sup>st</sup> August

7<sup>th</sup> September

If you have any problems with your bins, ring TDC, **577115**, or queries to **577727**.

### **PCSO**

PCSO Debbie Forsyth will obviously not be holding village surgeries just now, but you can email her at [60457@kent.police.uk](mailto:60457@kent.police.uk) for urgent matters.

### **CCTV CAMERAS**

Please ring 844706 if you wish to report any incident in The Street.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Please be sure that Iris Osborne (840901) has your contact details to report regular updates.

### **KENT POLICE**

Dedicated number for the East Kent Division Rural Team is **07980 978202**.

### **VILLAGE FACEBOOK WEBSITE**

Village events and notices are on [facebook.com.acol.village](https://facebook.com/acol.village).

### **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

You can keep informed of meetings and events through our website - [acolparishcouncil.org.uk](http://acolparishcouncil.org.uk)

You can ring Parish Council, 844706, Mondays 9am-5pm, or the Clerk any day (9am-5pm) on 832243. Please ring these numbers if you have problems and do not know who to contact.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 11am on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Sheila Bransfield

## **THANK YOU TO ALL FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NORMAN**

Nancy Chidwick has asked me to pass on her grateful thanks to all those who sent messages of love and sympathy to her on the occasion of Norman's sad passing.

She is also most appreciative of the many donations made to the Pilgrim's Hospice in memory of her beloved husband.

Please keep Nancy and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time.

## **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Acol, at 11.00am on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

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

Also present: Roy Wade (Clerk) & 3 residents.

Parish Councillors expressed their deep sorrow at the passing of Norman Chidwick, who had been a pillar of the community, always there and always smiling. Our sympathies and condolences go out to his family and friends.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Reece Pugh and Trevor Roper, PCSO Ms. Debbie Forsyth and Ray Owen.

#### **2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

#### **4. REPORT OF POLICE/PCSO.**

No officers were in attendance to report.

#### **5. INTERNAL AUDIT**

Consideration of this matter was deferred until the report of the Internal Auditor has been received.

#### **6. COUNCIL REPORTS/POLICIES**

**RESOLVED:** That the following policies be approved and posted on the Council's website:

- a. Code of Conduct
- b. Statement of Intent on Internal Control
- c. Complaints Procedure
- d. Media & Communications Policy
- e. Training Strategy
- f. Health & Safety
- g. Parish Council Grant Scheme Policy & Guidance
- h. Staff Disciplinary Procedure, and
- i. Staff Grievance Procedure.

#### **7. COUNCIL LAPTOP**

**RESOLVED:** That the action of the Clerk in purchasing a laptop be ratified and it be added to the asset register

8. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) **Payments Schedule – RESOLVED: That the following report be approved and the payments made as appropriate and details noted:**

| <u>Chq No</u> | <u>Payee</u> | <u>Details</u>   | <u>VAT</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| 676           | D.Hayfield   | Laptop/ext drive | 59.15      | 354.93*       |
| 677           | Quex Estates | Lease            | 50.00      | 300.00**      |
| 678           | R Owen       | Set up laptop    | 0.00       | 60.00         |
| 679           | KALC         | Annual Sub       | 29.90      | 179.38        |

\*Paid 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

\*\* Paid 4 June U/Presented

**Balance at 01.07.20**

**£10,097.28**

(b) The Clerk had no further matters to report upon.

9. **PLUMSTONE ROAD**

Councillor Mrs. Osborne reported on correspondence from Brian Whitford expressing his concerns at the traffic conditions in Plumstone Road. Cllr. Mrs. Osborne has explained the actions that the Council has tried to put in place and its frustration that Kent Highways didn't have sufficient funding to make the improvements necessary to improve the situation. Members were also advised that the Parish Council did not have the powers to undertake highway works.

**RESOLVED: That (i) the letter from Mr Whitford be noted and the Clerk advises him that the Council shares his concerns but has no powers to undertake highway improvement works; and (ii) Kent Highways be advised that 2 signs in the road have been knocked over.**

10. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported briefly upon the following matters:

- (a) Speedwatch. £360.00 p.a. has been requested by Speedwatch, via TRRG. When the invoice is received, we will seek clarification that the charge is pro rata for each village.
- (b) There is now a digital asset register displayed on the Parish Council website.
- (c) We have paid £250.00, plus £50.00 VAT to Quex Estates for the new 7-year lease.
- (d) Acol Parish Council is negotiating with RoSPA for annual inspections of the playground. Their service was cancelled in 2014 when Norman Chidwick volunteered. His efforts are very much appreciated over the years.
- (e) The money accumulated by Helen Mitchell for the APEG group has now been used to pay for playground works and the APEG account is extinguished. Our thanks are extended to Helen Mitchell for her efforts over the years.
- (f) It is nice to confirm that there have been no recent incidents in The Street since the installation of the CCTV cameras.
- (g) Repairs to the village sign are in hand. A new villager has volunteered to undertake the work, with charges only for materials.
- (h) The Parish Council is sorry to lose the KCC Community Warden, Tony Gander, and appreciate his service for many years. We have not yet been advised of a new Warden.
- (i) Our belated thanks go out to our volunteers who cleared the Christmas tree, continue to keep the Recreation Field tidy and do litter picking.
- (j) There are now signs on the playground fence to remind people of social distancing.

11. **RECREATION GROUND – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

Cllr. Hayfield reported that new signs were required for the gate to the Recreation Ground, "No Parking" and "No Camping". **He would seek quotations for their replacement once the "lockdown" situation eased.**

12. **PARISH WEBSITE/BROADBAND**

No report was made.

13. **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk had no further matters to report upon

14. **REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

No Members were in attendance, because of the Covid lockdown, to report.



**15. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS**

Members had no matters to report upon.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold an Extra-ordinary meeting at 11.00 am on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

**Time concluded: 12.05pm.**

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| <p><b>CLAIRE NASH</b></p> <p><b>PODIATRIST</b></p> <p><b>CONTACT NO: 07745 932377</b></p> <p>TOE NAIL CUTTING, CORNS, CALLUS, VERRUCAS</p> <p>EXPERIENCED IN TREATING THE DIABETIC FOOT / DIABETIC FOOT</p> <p>ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE</p> <p>FOOT HEALTH ADVICE AND EDUCATION</p> <p><b>BSc (Hons) PODIATRIC MEDICINE</b></p> <p>HEALTH &amp; CARE PROFESSIONS COUNCIL REGISTERED</p> <p>SOCIETY OF CHIROPODISTS AND PODIATRIST REG. No: CH33495</p>  |  <p><b>BS7671 Qualified Electrical Engineer</b></p> <p><b>ELECSA</b><br/><small>Part of the ICA Group</small></p> <p><b>Part 'P' Registration No EPP2390</b></p> <p><b>All Electrical Work Undertaken</b></p> <p>Free Quotations ~ Competitive Prices<br/>Quality Workmanship ~ Fully Guaranteed</p> <p>Call Nic Moring on 07714580978</p> <p><a href="http://www.npelectricals.co.uk">www.npelectricals.co.uk</a></p> |
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# MINSTER SURGERY

## THANK YOU AND PLEASE BEAR WITH US

With the current restrictions likely to with us for at least the next few months, we would like to thank you all for your continued help and support through these difficult times.

However, as you can appreciate, many of our GP's, Healthcare Professionals and Reception Team have been working continuously throughout this Pandemic and, like many of us, will be looking to take time off during the school holiday period.

So please try to avoid contacting the surgery during peak periods unless of course your call is urgent. Thank you for your understanding.

## MEDICATION REVIEWS

Medication Reviews are now carried out by our Prescribing Pharmacists at the surgery and appointments, normally a telephone consultation, can be made the usual way.

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you during the holiday period, and of course, please don't forget to include all the family who may require repeat prescriptions and check when their medication review appointment is due.

Please note that prescriptions are now only being delivered to the over 70's and can no longer be ordered over the phone.

## BANK HOLIDAY SURGERY CLOSURE

Please note that the surgery will be closed all day on: - MONDAY 31st August

Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service direct on 111 to receive non-urgent confidential health advice and information for you and your family. For Urgent/Life threatening cases please dial 999 as normal.

## SEASONAL WINTER 'FLU VACCINATIONS

Patients over 65 including eligible and "at risk" patients, will receive a letter via post, inviting them to contact the surgery and make an appointment. Each letter will contain a personal code which you will need to make and attend your appointment.

Vaccination sessions will take place from late September and during October, dates of which are yet to be confirmed, and will be by appointment only.

## ANNUAL Christmas BAZAAR 2020

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this year's Christmas Bazaar.

## PATIENT GROUP MEETINGS

If you have any issues you would like to raise or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Mary Hodgson on 842764.



#### **Editors Note:**

PLEASE PASS ON THIS EDITION OF VILLAGE VOICE to any friends from outside the village who might be interested in knowing what is going on in Acol.

Non-residents of Acol can become subscribers to the Village Voice at the cost of £7.50 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 9cm 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](mailto:inchley@btinternet.com)

**This edition of Village Voice has been sponsored by Nancy Chidwick, in loving memory of her husband Norman, who passed away in June of this year.**

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.