

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

April 2022

**SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY -
REARRANGED FOR 6th MAY - See insert.**

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 CLUB

The next draw will be on Wednesday 6th April 2022. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829).

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Mon 4 th April	6.00pm	Acol Parish Council AGM and Parish Assembly
Tues 5 th April.	7.30pm	AHS Monthly meeting - David BARRY on 'ACTORS BEHAVING BADLY'
Mon 11 th April	6.00pm	Acol Village Hall Management Committee AGM
Mon 25 th April	Hall Closed for one Week for Floor Refurbishment	
Tues 3 rd May	7.30pm	AHS Monthly meeting
Fri. 6 th May	7.00pm	Rearranged Senior Citizens CHRISTMAS PARTY

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Acol Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Acol, on
Monday 7th March 2022 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors Miss Bransfield (Chairman), Hayfield, Inchley, Mrs. Osborne & Mrs. Winpenny.

Also present: KCC Councillor Crow-Brown & Roy Wade (Clerk/RFO)

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Linda Wright and PCSO Ms. Shrubsole, who sent a report, shown below.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. REPORTS OF THE POLICE/COMMUNITY/WARDENS/PCSOs

PCSO Ms. Shrubsole reported upon various scams and bogus builders (mainly roofers) seeking works following the recent storms.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

1. Jubilee mugs had arrived on Thursday. Council agreed they will be handed out at the Jubilee Fete.

2. Traffic monitoring – strips have now been fitted, with assurances from Highways that they would remain until after half term and the current road works at Nursery Fields.

3. Dog-waste bins. There will no longer be one provided by TDC as they will not be able to empty it.

4. Cllr Wendy Winpenny had raised:

(a) Footpath to Birchington has been previously discussed over many years. The road is Kent Highways responsibility and adjacent land is private, in Birchington territory. It was agreed to discuss with Quex Park Estates the possibility of creating a footpath from Acol to Quex, to approach Birchington Parish Council as a matter of courtesy and seek guidance from Cllr Crow-Brown for possible funding.

(b) The Council considered and agreed the subscription of £25 per annum to Action with Communities in Rural Kent. Cllr Osborne said that the Village Hall Committee also subscribe - this is a useful organisation which allows access to funding.

(c) Villagers are responsible for their waste bins and it would not be appropriate for Parish Council to pay for stickers. It was agreed to place an item in the Village Voice to advise residents of the stickers available for them to affix to their bins.

6. BUDGET & PRECEPT 2022/23

The Clerk reported that the budget approved at the last meeting and the request for precept has been approved by TDC.

7. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had no further matters to report upon.

8. RECREATION GROUND

Councillor David Hayfield reported that the fencing had been installed and that the kiddies' roundabout would be put in place in the next few weeks once the Recreation Ground had dried out.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Payments Schedule – A following payments schedule was tabled at the meeting:

Payments made since the last meeting:

728	N. Cooper (McVeigh)	Wood for Rec. fence	155.41	932.44
729	N. Cooper	Erect fencing	0.00	1157.00
730	Cancelled			
731	R. Wade	Salary	0.00	480.00
732	Serco	Grass cut (2)	22.52	135.12
733	Community C	Jubilee mugs	44.34	266.02

Payments to be made

734	HMRC	Annual PAYE	0.00	540.00
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Payment schedule was passed to Cllr. Mrs. Osborne for verification

The bank balance as at 1st March 2022 was £7,752.09

VAT – The Clerk reported that he had applied for the repayment of VAT in the sum of £1,220.34p.

10. REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Crow-Brown reported upon:

1. Southern Water – briefing from Dr Toby Willison, their Director of Environment & Corporate Affairs. He promised changes to protect Kent from sewage spillage after heavy rainfall. They will increase sewer capacity and monitoring, including setting up rain gardens and ponds. S. Water was recently fined £90m for the pollution, which included discharges into the sea, causing damage to shellfish and preventing swimming and inshore fishing. They promised to invest cash, including £22m for protection schemes, also £6m to refurbish Margate pumping station. They were taken to task for rarely objecting to large scale planning applications, knowing the sewage system is already overwhelmed.

2. Kent Fire & Rescue Authority – Cllr Crow-Brown attended a meeting in Maidstone. They mentioned electric scooters and lithium batteries and the number of fires taking place. They advised not to store scooters fully charged or with charger plugged in for prolonged periods.

3. A £1.2billion budget for 2022/23 was agreed by KCC on 10th February.

Reconciling an £84m rise in the cost of services, they need a £38m saving over 2022/23. A 2.99% increase in Council Tax was agreed, equal to an additional 82p for a typical Band D property per week.

11. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS

Cllr Osborne reported the setting up of a WhatsApp group amongst villages involved in the Speed Watch initiative. They are considering asking villagers to support a petition to attempt to obtain a 20mph speed limit through the village. An item would be inserted in the Village Voice.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Parish Assembly Meeting and the AGM be held at 18.00 hours on the 4th April 2022.

Time concluded: 12 noon

It is proposed to petition our local authorities to introduce a 20 mph speed limit through Acol.

Twenty is Plenty – Make the Acol Village Speed Limit 20 mph

The tiny Thanet village of Acol has narrow roads that are little more than the cart tracks built for its farming community before the advent of motorised transport – totally unsuited to our 21st Century traffic and the fact that the roads have become high-speed “rat-runs” across the Island. Acol villagers’ fear of this now dangerous environment has devastated its once thriving social hub. In the “good old days” pedestrians could safely share the roadway with the occasional horse-drawn vehicle, but now the lack of pedestrian and cyclist provision mean that most people are unprepared to venture out other than by car. The few prepared to don their hi-vis vests to walk to local amenities have learned to exercise an abundance of caution, but most can recount tales of their near-misses. It can only be a matter of time before serious deaths and injury occur.

As well as the volume of traffic, speed is a major factor. Traffic “calming” unfortunately has had little effect other than to add noise nuisance to the danger. Astonishingly, Acol Hill, a short, narrow, rural road with no pedestrian provision, a

bend in its middle and houses at the top and bottom is sign- posted at the national limit, because of which many southbound vehicles enter the village and its treacherous junctions at Nursery Fields far too fast. Village feeder roads from the west - single track lanes, also at the national limit - present similar problems and although Minster Road, from the south, has a 50-mph limit, that also is too fast. It seems likely that the speed limits in and around Acol were last properly assessed over 40 years ago when the volume of traffic (prior to the advent of satnavs) would have been minimal and when it would have been rare for two-way traffic to have to negotiate our narrow lanes. There were fewer properties in Acol, with hardly any on street parking. Even national government now encourages review and the setting of 20 mph speed limits and zones.

We therefore petition our local authorities, Kent County Council and Thanet District Council, to undertake an urgent review of all our local speed limits and, especially, to impose a maximum speed limit of 20-mph through our village. For safety's sake, in Acol, "Twenty is Plenty".

Extracted from Government guidance:

12) Traffic authorities are asked to:

- keep their speed limits under review with changing circumstances
- consider the introduction of more 20 mph limits and zones, over time, in urban areas and built-up village streets that are primarily residential, to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists, using the criteria in Section 6

Any views welcome: richardjohnsteel@outlook.com

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Acol Horticultural Society's next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd May at 7.30pm when **Tom Hart-Dyke** will be the speaker on '**The Lullingstone Gardener**'

Whilst plant hunting in South America a few years ago Tom was kidnapped and held for several months before being released because, in his own words, he wore them down with his incessant talking about plants 24 hours a day. A very entertaining evening is guaranteed. Tea and biscuits after the talk although from experience of Tom's talks you may wish to bring sandwiches!

It is free to members and £3 to non-members. OR you can join the Society: - £4 single and £7 for a couple.

Bill Yeoman.

ACOL ART GROUP

If you would like to try your hand at drawing or painting **Acol Art Group** meets every Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm. Whether you are an established artist or a beginner, you are all welcome to join the group. We would be pleased to see you.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

CORRECTION: THE HALL WILL BE CLOSED FOR A WEEK, FROM 25TH APRIL UNTIL 1ST MAY, FOR A COMPLETE REFURBISHMENT TO THE FLOOR.

SPECIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Saturday 14th May, evening, AHS QUIZ NIGHT.

Saturday 4th June, daytime, Hall in reserve for Jubilee Fete arranged for Recreation Ground, weather permitting.

Tues. 30th August to Fri. 2nd September the Hall has been booked by FabTex Quilters and will not be available until Sat. 3rd September

Please ring 841691 for further information or bookings.

PCSO

Contact Eileen Shrubsole, PCSO, at eileen.shrubsole@kent.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

If you need information or wish to receive regular updates, ring Iris Osborne on 838829.

REFUSE COLLECTION - MONDAYS

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

11th April

25th April

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

18th April

2nd May

Ring TDC, **577115**, to arrange collection if you are unable to put your bins out.

KENT POLICE

Police East Kent Division Rural Team is available on **07980 978202** for enquiries or information.

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Access our website at acolparishcouncil.org.uk. or ring 844706 for any information you need.

Sheila Bransfield

MINSTER SURGERY

Covid-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME - UPDATE:

The Vaccine Centre can now be found adjacent to "Wickes Building Supplies" and "Curry's Electrical Store" and has been called "Thanet (Broadstairs) Vaccination Service (LVS)

The new centre will be open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 8am to 5pm

SPRING BOOSTER CAMPAIGN

With effect from **21st March** all those aged 75 and over will be eligible for an additional vaccination, but there must be a minimum of 6 months since your last vaccine, and eligible patients will be notified by the surgery in due course.

Also with effect from **4th April** all children aged between 5 - 11 years old will be eligible for a vaccine.

With Covid-19 cases now steadily rising throughout the country and an increase of patients in hospital, please **DO NOT GET COMPLACENT!** Cases in Thanet are still worryingly high, especially throughout schools, and there is no shortage of vaccines, so if you are not fully jabbed or even double jabbed, **PLEASE DON'T DELAY GET YOURS TODAY!** Vulnerable and Immune suppressant patients are also now eligible for a 4th vaccine, so if you have not received your invitation please contact the surgery.

"FACE-TO-FACE" appointments

Patients will continue to receive a telephone consultation from a doctor before being offered an appointment with the relevant healthcare professional. Currently **79%** of patients are receiving a Face-to-Face appointment where necessary.

PLEASE NOTE it will still be mandatory to wear Face Masks in all NHS Settings.

Surgery Closure Days

Easter Holidays: Good Friday 15th April, Easter Monday 18th April

Please ensure you have sufficient medication to last throughout the holiday period. Submit your repeat prescription request at least 3 working days beforehand to allow processing time at surgery and your chemist.

If you need to see a doctor during these times

Please Call 111 for NON-URGENT confidential help and advice for you and your family. For URGENT/LIFE threatening cases Call 999 as normal.

ACOL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11 APRIL 2022 AT 6.00PM

In the Village Hall

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th July 2021 to be approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3. ANNUAL REPORT - will be tabled at the meeting

4. TREASURER'S REPORT - will be tabled at the meeting



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STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN YEAR 13 IN BIRCHINGTON OR ACOL.**

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FINANCES OF YOUR GROUP WITH SMALL CASH GRANTS.**

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HIGHER EDUCATION OR APPRENTICESHIPS WITH SMALL CASH
GRANTS.**

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY 15TH
OCTOBER.**

**FOR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE WRITE OR TELEPHONE:
ANN STORY, 8 NURSERY FIELDS, ACOL, BIRCHINGTON, CT7 0JF
01843 846651**

Or email annstory56@btopenworld.com

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Editor's 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.

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 send 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 May 2022.