

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

April 2019

WELL DESERVED THANKS

There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes in the Village, and the Parish Council would like to thank the volunteers who take on these tasks.

Throughout history there have been a few villagers who did most of the odd jobs, maintenance and general looking after things in Acol, but naturally age catches up with each generation and these good people have to take a step back and a new generation takes over. We now have 'new kids on the block' and they are willing to take on the task of keeping our village in good order. The work they do includes litter picking, keeping the recreation ground greenery looking good and repairing any damage done through wear and tear to the recreation ground furniture and play equipment. We must therefore thank: Karen Ault, Jude and Paul Manser, Richard and Chris Steel, "Cos" Costello, Bill and Josie Yeoman and Iris Osborne and anyone else who has contributed to keeping the village tidy by clearing up litter from in front of their houses. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you all.

David Hayfield

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of March 2019 were:

Member no. 136 who won 1st prize of £19.00
Member no. 42, who won 2nd prize of £11.50 and
Member no. 115, who won 3rd prize of £7.50

Winners for the Month of April 2019 were:

Member no. 87 who won 1st prize of £19.25
Member no. 40, who won 2nd prize of £11.55 and
Member no. 75, who won 3rd prize of £7.70

£76.50 was donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will be held on Wednesday 1st May 2019. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901)

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Mon. 8 th Apr.	6.00pm	Village Hall Management Committee AGM
Thurs. 2 nd May	All Day	Council Elections
Tues. 7 th May	6.00pm	PARISH ASSEMBLY and Acol Parish Council AGM

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

Please ring 841691 about hall availability.

REGULAR BOOKINGS

Monday afternoons (term time) - Pam's People

First Tuesday evening, Acol Horticultural Society meeting.

All other Tuesday evenings, Dance Fitness Class

Wednesdays, 9.30am-4.30pm (term time) - Village Textiles

First Wednesday, 4.45-5.45pm PCSO Debbie Forsyth (work permitting)

Alternate Wednesday evenings, Life Drawing Art Group

Every Thursday evening - Art Group. **Art Group Website:** www.acolartgroup.org/

Fridays, 9.30am-4.30pm (term time) - Village Textiles

Saturdays (monthly), 10am-4pm - Phoenix Quilters

(Check hall calendar or email Sheila.Bransfield@btinternet.com for information)

EVENTS COMING UP

Please note that the AHS Late Spring Show scheduled for 20th April is cancelled

Sat 18th May AHS Social Evening

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black) Garden (Green) &
waste food

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

15th April

29th April

8th April

22nd April

6th May

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

CCTV CAMERAS

If you experience any traffic incident in The Street, please report to 844706.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please ring Iris Osborne on 840901 to register for updates on local incidents.

KENT POLICE

The dedicated phone number for the East Division Rural Team: **07980 978202**.

VILLAGE FACEBOOK WEBSITE

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

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Acol PC website: www.hugofox.com/community/acol-parish-council-13724/contact/

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

ANNUAL MEETINGS (Parish Assembly and PC AGM) 6pm Tues 7th MAY

Sheila Bransfield

PAINTING & DECORATING

By
NIGEL MATHER
Your Local Professional Decorator

Bringing high quality decorating
to your home (or business)

Interior & Exterior
Clean Reliable Service
No Job too Small
Free Advice & Problem Solving
Free estimates without obligation

Tel: 01843 822946
Mobile: 07811 780492
24 High Street, Minster CT12 4BU



BS7671 Qualified Electrical Engineer

ELECSA
Part of the ECA Group

Part 'P' Registration No EPP2390

All Electrical Work Undertaken

Free Quotations ~ Competitive Prices
Quality Workmanship ~ Fully Guaranteed

Call Nic Morling 825 094
36 Tothill Street, Minster.
www.npelectricals.co.uk

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Acol
on 26th March 2019 at 2.00p.m.

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

Also present: Roy Wade (Clerk) and Ms. Debbie Forsyth (Arrived 2.45pm)

77 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Johnson (APC), Hurst (KCC) & Crow-Brown (TDC).

78 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

79 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

80. REPORT OF A POLICE OFFICER/COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Ms. Forsyth was not present and the Chairman read her report which (i) urged residents not to open the door to strangers, (ii) to have regard to elderly and vulnerable neighbours, (iii) the theft of agricultural machinery, and (iv) the ability to log into police.co.uk to report crimes.

81. ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL KENT

RESOLVED: That the invitation to become a member of ACRK be not accepted as the Village Hall Committee is already a member of this excellent organisation.

82. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported upon the following:

- Further enquiries will be made concerning the next available date to acquire a salt bin for Nursery Fields.
- Volunteers had rescued the damaged Plumstone Road sign post and the Parish Council has received assurances from Kent Highways that appropriate repairs and replacement will be undertaken in character. APC emphasised that modern signs would not be appropriate.
- The Crown & Sceptre roof was currently being reinstated.
- Contact has not yet been established with the new Kent Highways Projects Manager. A meeting with them in the village will be arranged in due course.

RESOLVED: That (i) the report be received; and (ii) a donation of £50 be made to the Thanet Hospice in memory of Bob Lawrence.

83. RECREATION GROUND/GRANTS AND RELATED MATTERS

Cllr. Hayfield reported on the work of volunteers in the Recreation Ground and the need to replace the seats of the swings. Members were also advised by Karen Ault that the bench was in need of repair and Paul Manser had offered to attend to the repairs. 8 bags of litter had been collected by the volunteers around the village.

Cllr. Hayfield reminded Council that the Recreation Ground is leased from Quex Estates had they had not wanted it be used for dog walking. They had relented on the understanding that it would be kept free from dog mess. There has been an improvement recently, but he would draft an item for the Village Voice to remind dog walkers of the need to clean up dog mess or Acol villagers may lose the use of the field.

84. INTERNAL AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

Council was advised that David Buckett had been appointed as the Council's internal auditor.

85. GRASS CUTTING

RESOLVED: That the grass cutting contract with Serco be renewed for a further period of 2 years and the increased cost of 2% to the service be approved.

86. CLERK'S REPORT

Parish Council Elections – Members were advised of the elections to be held on 2 May 2019 and the need to receive from TDC the necessary election papers.

87. PAYMENTS SCHEDULE/FINANCIAL REPORT

i) **Bank Balances** – Council were advised that the Parish Council's bank balance at the 1st March 2019 was £10,844.82p.

ii) **Payments Schedule** –

RESOLVED: That the following payments be made:

Cheque No	Payee	VAT	Amount
628	Serco grass cut	11.37	68.23
629	Quex Estates	0.00	60.00
630	CCTV Energy costs	0.00	45.00
631	Thanet Hospice	0.00	50.00

iii) **Repayment of VAT** – Members were advised that a claim for the repayment of VAT in the sum of £372.39 had been made.

88. REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

No Members were in attendance to report.

89. MATTERS OF REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne advised that the next meetings of TRRG and TAC would be held after the May elections.

90. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the PAM and AGM at 6.00pm. on 7th May 2019.

Time concluded: 15.00

Acol Community Broadband

A ballpark request for a Community Fibre Partnership through Openreach resulted in an indicative cost of £750 per home based on 87 premises connected. This would provide "fibre to the premises" enabling download speeds of up to 330 Mbps. This, clearly, will be too costly for most villagers. However, as a result of our initiative we have been contacted by Kent County Council's Broadband Project Manager with whom we are exploring other possibilities. We hope to provide a fuller report in the next edition of Village Voice.

Richard Steel

A Day in the life of a Village PCSO - Deborah Forsyth

As you can imagine, no two days are ever the same! A day is also time dependent. An early shift can differ from a late shift for example, as days and nights can bring their own challenges. The same can be said for weekends.

Any day will start with a timely, smart arrival at Margate Police Station and the first thing I do is open my locker to retrieve my radio, turn it on and log on. Not only does this show that I have turned up for duty but it enables me to listen to all activities and be available for a call at a moment's notice.

There are of course occasions when I arrive at the station and am immediately sent out to preserve a scene or help with an RTC or with any issue which may have occurred and my assistance is needed but generally lots of admin aided by a strong cup of tea is the first order of the day.

We have several systems in The Police which we need to check every day and some of them we need to check constantly throughout the day. These systems inform us of any issues which need to be attended to on our Wards.



MKT Gas Services
www.mkjgasservices.com

Boiler servicing & installation
Landlord certificates
Gas ovens and fires
Free estimates

Mel Johnson: 07858 508 292
mkjgasservices@btinternet.com

safe
GAS REGISTER

YOUR M.P. At Your Service

SIR ROGER GALE

holds regular advice surgeries for Margate, Herne Bay & The Villages -

for appointments and for advice on urgent problems:

Ring: **01843 848588 (a.m. from 10.00)**

Web: www.rogergale.co.uk

Email: galerj@parliament.uk

Write: HOUSE OF COMMONS –
London, SW1A 0AA

Thanet villages is my Ward, this covers Manston, Acol, Monkton, St Nicholas and Sarre. My Ward or Beat Code is ZB21, so I log onto a system to see if there is anything displayed on my ward. If there is, I have a good read of the job and ensure that it is dealt with asap. If there isn't, I have a look at my colleagues Wards to see if there is something I can attend to, particularly if they are on a rest day or annual leave.

I look at Briefing to see which criminals are of interest in the area, I look to see which crimes have been committed and at CCTV images to see if I can identify any of the offenders. I look at another system which informs me of any suspicious criminal activity which has been submitted via an intelligence report or any crime reports which I have submitted which may need my attention, this same system holds all of the information on persons, vehicles, addresses, offenders of any description, who is in custody at that moment in time, it informs us of many things. It's not only informative but it is also a safety tool as it shows if there are any warning markers connected to a person or address. This may indicate that the issue may not be suitable for a PCSO as we don't have any protective equipment other than our stab vests.

I may also need to address issues which have been sent to me privately via an email or our Sergeant may task us with a job or two.

All being well, I have a list of jobs which need tackling so off we go.

If I'm lucky, I manage to get to my ward to deal with my jobs and also patrol. I have the benefit of a vehicle as I have a large area to cover but it is always nice to patrol on foot particularly on a nice day!! I try and attend resident's meetings when operational duties and working days allow. I pay particular attention to places of interest which have been pointed out to me by Parish Councillors or residents which may appear to have suspicious activities occurring and I may have received intelligence from one of our systems regarding a certain place on my ward which I would pay particular attention to. Patrolling and attending meetings also gives me the opportunity to meet the people on my ward and allows them to speak with me about any issues they may have. (It's also the best way of establishing tea stops! A lot of you have offered me the chance of a cuppa and I am extremely grateful for that and if I haven't already, I shall definitely take you up on the offer!) I do call in to some of your houses for a chat and a catch up.

There is of course always the very real possibility of receiving a call on the radio to attend a job immediately. This is why I always say that whether it's a Police Surgery, a meeting or even a chat that I will attend if "operational duties allow".

I may have a school safety talk to attend as myself and a colleague visit most of the Primary schools in Thanet to speak to the younger years about keeping themselves safe and to show them that the police are approachable and to not be frightened of us or test the speed at which vehicles are travelling on a road which a resident is concerned about. I may be looking for a missing person or attending a call for a concern for welfare. I may be dealing with nuisance youths or with a person who is having a mental health episode or searching an area because of a suspicious event, I may be called to a burglary in progress, a neighbour dispute, a fraud victim, a death, paying a reassurance visit to somebody who has been the victim of crime, the list is not only endless but continual.

Whole team meetings are also an essential part of the routine, this enables all of us to discuss any concerns or issues amongst ourselves and with our Sergeant and Inspector, and importantly it is also a time for praise and recognition.

We are very lucky to be given talks by some very interesting people and these talks are always relevant and interesting. We also get the opportunity to visit some interesting places,

I think my favourite so far is the Lifeboat Station at Ramsgate, I didn't think that I would ever board a lifeboat!

We are an essential part of the Police Organisation, our presence enables Police Officers to attend to all of the extremely demanding issues which they have to deal with on a daily basis. I like to think that we are an effective support not only to the Police but to the public.

Throughout the day I may return to the station for refreshments or to book in evidence or to compile a crime report or an intelligence report, I may also have more jobs which have come onto my list which need resolving.

As a lot of you will already know, I formed Village Voices, a community choir which is open to absolutely everybody, so this is also a commitment which I need to uphold every Wednesday evening.

I have four Parish Councils on my ward who all have meetings and it is extremely difficult for me to attend these meetings as they always fall on a rest day but I try and submit a report to them

I hold Police surgeries on the first Wednesday of every month too.

At the end of what is usually a varied shift, I go back to the station to tackle more admin which almost certainly accumulates throughout the shift and update on all of the jobs I have managed to complete.

The job is demanding, exhausting, exciting, rewarding, sad at times and a real eye opener, it's challenging but I love it. It is our duty to keep you all from harm and enable our communities to flourish.

I feel extremely proud to be a part of this mission and Kent Police.

If you need to contact me my email address is: Deborah.forsyth@kent.pnn.police.uk

MINSTER SURGERY

NEW INITIATIVE FOR MINSTER SURGERY

In conjunction with Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups, we are working to improve "Foot Care" for those patients with diabetes. As a result, we will be holding health information sessions at the surgery for those patients considered to be at high risk of such problems. Further information will be available shortly.

10th ANNUAL SPRING FAYRE

Our Spring Fayre will take place on Saturday 11th May at Old Schools Hall, Minster as usual, and entry is FREE. We will be launching our raffle in April with many excellent prizes so please check our notice board for more information.

DONATIONS

We would like to thank all the family and friends of the Late Thomas Goldie for their kind and generous donations to the surgery in his memory.

Also Mr. & Mrs. Pepperell for their kind donation whilst at the surgery recently

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

28 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT

49 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR NURSE'S APPOINTMENT

DON'T NEED IT? CANCEL IT! By Phone, By Text, On Line.

"FRIENDS AND FAMILY" SURVEY

A total of 108 patients responded last month with the following results:

Extremely likely/Likely - 95%; Extremely unlikely/Unlikely - 1%; Unsure/Don't know - 4%

SURGERY CLOSURE DAYS:

Please note that the surgery will close at 12.00 Mid-day on the following days for the purpose of staff training: Wed. 24th April; Wed. 15th May; Thurs. 27th June.

BANK HOLIDAYS: The surgery will be closed all day on:

Good Friday 19th April; Easter Monday 22nd April; Mon. 6th May and Mon. 27th May

Please ensure you and all the family have sufficient medication to last you during these periods. Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the "NHS 111 Service" to receive non-urgent confidential health advice and information for all the family, available 24/7. For Urgent/Life threatening issues, dial 999 as normal.

WE NEED YOU

Following the introduction of new roles and responsibilities, the PLG are looking to recruit new members on to our committee and also to help at our fund raising events, so why don't you come and join us?

PATIENT LIAISON GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our Annual General Meeting in April, 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 place contributions to Village Voice in the post box on the wall of the Village Hall (by the main door) or e-mail 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 2019.