

# **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

(Chairman: Councillor Miss Sheila Bransfield)

## **PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING OF ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that the Parish Assembly Meeting of the Acol Parish Council will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 6.00 p.m. in the Acol Village Hall, The Street, Acol.

### **AGENDA**

- 1. MINUTES**  
To approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (Appendix A).
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
To receive apologies for absence, if any.
- 3. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**  
The Chairman to report on the year 2021/22. (Appendix C)
- 4. PUBLIC QUESTION FORUM**  
The Chairman to invite questions from the members of the public upon any matters appertaining to the Village of Acol.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

To be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, immediately following the closure of the Parish Assembly Meeting

- 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**  
To elect a Chairman of the Council for the year 2022/23.  
*(The Chairman to take the declaration of acceptance office)*
- 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**  
To appoint a Vice Chairman of the Council for the year 2022/23.
- 3. MINUTES**  
To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (Appendix B).
- 4. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**  
To receive reports from Village organisations, as appropriate.
- 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS**  
The Chairman will report as appropriate.

**6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS/FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Clerk will circulate a schedule for payments at the meeting and details of any other financial matters that may have arisen since the last meeting.

The bank balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 was £10,297.31, which will be reported to the meeting.

**7.**

**REPORT OF MEMBERS**

To receive reports from Members on any matters dealt with since the last meeting.

**8. REPORTS OF KCC/TDC COUNCILLORS**

To receive reports as appropriate.

Signed Roy Wade

Clerk to the Council

Phone: (01843) 832 243

E mail: [clerk@acolparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@acolparishcouncil.org.uk)

30<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

### PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING OF ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Assembly Meeting of the Acol Parish Council was held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. in the Acol Village Hall.

**Present:** Councillors Miss Bransfield, Hayfield, Inchley and Mrs Osborne.

**Also present:** County Councillor Crow-Brown, Roy Wade (Clerk/RFO) and 3 residents.

#### 1. MINUTES

Council noted that as a Parish Assembly Meeting was not held in 2020 in view of the restrictions introduced by the Covid regulations there were no minutes for approval.

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest were made.

#### 4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported briefly on the years 2019/2020 and 2020/21.

Several villagers have been lost over the last few years, all of whom will be sadly missed.

Many younger villagers have volunteered to collect shopping, run errands, etc, for those who were house bound. Villagers are extremely grateful for their efforts and the Acol Facebook page has been considerably helpful for contact.

Volunteers also repaired the Acol Village sign and repositioned it, most securely.

#### 5. PUBLIC QUESTION FORUM

The Chairman invited questions from the members of the public upon any matters appertaining to the Village of Acol.

No matters were raised by those residents in attendance.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Miss Bransfield be elected Chairman of the Council for the year 2021/22.

Councillor Miss Bransfield took the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

#### 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Inchley was appointed Vice Chairman of the Council for the year 2021/22.

#### 3. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Council formally considered advertising the vacancy.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk advertise the vacancy and report to Council on any applications received.

#### 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported upon the following items:

- A letter of condolence from Acol villagers was sent to Her Majesty The Queen after the loss of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh.
- A serious accident occurred in Minster Road, when the school bus stopped opposite the houses. A car overtook (which should be illegal here as it is in America) and there is no pavement or verge and it should have been obvious that a child would cross the road. The driver must have been going too fast because some bad injuries were inflicted. The Parish Council intends to invite local TV News companies to see volume and speed of traffic through Acol. Cllr Derek Crow-Brown suggested a contact to help us with that.
- Villagers were advised of a petition calling for mandatory printing of car registration numbers on all take-away food. So far it has 58,518 signatures and 100,000 are required to ensure a discussion in parliament. Closing date 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
- Notices have been prepared for the Recreation Field, giving telephone numbers to contact for enquiries and giving full postal address in case emergency services are called.
- We are trying to establish contact for our new PCSO. The Chairman subsequently received contact with Eileen Shrubsole, who has offered to attend our next meeting.
- The Kent Association of Local Councils has announced their Community Payback scheme. Instead of volunteers having to attend to all requirements within the village, offenders can be used. We have used them in the past at the Recreation Field. They attend with an official Supervisor and it was they who installed the original stile.
- There is a requirement for a footpath from Acol to Quex, which is outside the Acol boundary and needs to be discussed with Quex and Birchington Parish Council.
- Neville Hudson, Chairman of the Thanet Area Committee, has written to our Prime Minister, Mr Boris Johnson, about Planning Laws ruining Thanet. The Chairman is preparing a similar response from Acol villagers.
- The Thanet Area Committee meeting was held via Zoom on 20<sup>th</sup> April, attended by Sir Roger Gale. Sir Roger was explicit about the damage being caused to our farmland and environment by so much building.
- Acol's Fixed Asset Register has been updated to remove damaged bench by Chapel of Rest. Jonathan Cole has very kindly offered to replace the seat. He has already moved the grit bin to his property where the new seat will be placed.
- Parish Council is experiencing great difficulty in receiving a satisfactory response to the loss of the dog waste bin at the Rec. No replacement has yet been received.
- Cllr Derek Crow-Brown advised that retired police officer Kim Burgess had recently died. Councillors were shocked and paid tribute to his attention, attendance in the village and efforts to help residents.

Cllr. Hayfield reported that Neil Cooper had quoted £600 for the removal of old equipment from the play area.

**RESOLVED: that (A) the report of the Chairman be received; and (B) the quotation from Neil Cooper be accepted and the works undertaken.**

## 5. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS/FINANCIAL MATTERS

### (A) Payments Made

Council noted that the following payments had been made:

Cheque No.	Payee & Details	VAT	Amount
700	KALC Annual Sub	30.29	181.75
701	D. Hayfield CCTV costs	0.00	53.00
702	Serco grass cut April	11.26	67.56

### (B) Payments for Authorisation

**RESOLVED: That the following payments be made**

Cheque No.	Payee & Details	VAT	Amount
703	R. Wade ¼ Salary Plus computer paper	2.00	569.99
704	L. Robbins – Audit	0.00	90.00
705	Serco grass cut May	11.26	67.56
706	Zurich Insurance	0.00	355.54

The bank balance at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 was £12,312.72.

## 6. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21

Council noted that the internal audit had been carried out on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 by Mr. Lionel Robbins and noted his favourable report which had been circulated to Members

## 7. APPROVAL OF AGAR BY AN EXEMPT COUNCIL

Council considered the following matters and

**RESOLVED:**

### (A) Effectiveness of Systems

That having reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal control. Council has reviewed and approved the Statement and authorised the Chairman and Clerk to sign the relevant document.

(B) The Clerk be authorised to confirm that the Council can certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review and the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign and date the certificate of exemption for 2020/21 with the contact details and the website address.

(C) approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21, Section 1 of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2021 and the Chairman and Clerk to sign and date.

(D) The Accounting Statement for 2020/21, Section 2 of the AGAR for the year ending 2020/21 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2021 be approved plus details of any significant variations from the previous year.

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

## **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of Acol Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Acol, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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 – The 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
(ii)	<u>Payments to be made</u>			
734	HMRC	Annual PAYE	0.00	540.00

(ii) The Payments schedule had been passed to Cllr. Mrs. Osborne for verification.

(iii) The bank balance at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was £7,752.09

(iv) 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

## ACOL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH FORUM AND AGM 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- There will be a commemoration for Her Majesty The Queen's 70 years' service to this country and commonwealth by way of a Jubilee Fete on 4<sup>th</sup> June in the garden of Thane House, weather permitting. The village hall is reserved in case of bad weather. Her Majesty will be 96 on 21<sup>st</sup> April.
- The dog-waste bin was removed in 2016. We have recently been advised there will be no replacement because TDC cannot access a bin for emptying. Our thanks go to our dog walkers for taking the bags home for disposal.
- July 2021 Serco cut out grounds maintenance in south east, with no notification. We have now cancelled the contract we had with them and engaged a local gardener/maintenance man.
- In September 2021 Wendy Winpenny became a new Parish Councillor.
- A defibrillator was fitted outside the village hall in November 2021.
- A new fence was fitted south of the recreation field in January 2022 by our friends from Minster, which took them one day with checks on the following day.
- APC received a kind donation from AVHMC that was used to buy a roundabout for the children's play area in February 2022. It is currently stored within the village for fitting when the ground dries.
- Traffic through Acol remains a problem – everyone uses Acol as a rat run. Kent Highways conducted another monitoring in March 2022, which was not very helpful. Cllr Derek Crow-Brown advises that a Columbus Avenue extension is scheduled for 2025, but we've heard that from Highways before. We've only been waiting for 26 years!
- We have lost many valuable people from the village over the last 2 years, especially 2021. Very sad.
- Many thanks for the resumption of meetings, events and various classes within the village that have brought the village back to life.
- Also very many thanks to all the volunteers, Councillors and our Clerk, Roy Wade, for the many chores undertaken on behalf of the village and villagers.

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Time concluded: 12 noon