

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

December 2017

Village Voice would like to wish all readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

The Editor would also like to thank all contributors, advertisers, sponsors and distributors, without whom the Village Voice could not happen.

A Special Christmas Message.

Start your Christmas at St Mildred's

Friday 15th December

Community Carols in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

This will be followed by home made soup and rolls.

Everyone is welcome to join in this popular village event

Sunday 24th December

Christmas Eve Carol Service at 3.00pm

Start your festive celebrations by coming to our traditional service at St Mildred's

All are welcome

THANK YOU

Just a few words of thanks at this festive season to all those who work selflessly in the background for the good of the Village and in the upkeep of its Hall.

I would particularly like to thank and pay tribute to the Village Hall Management Committee and their spouses, who have continued to serve the community to the best of their considerable abilities. Iris Osborne, for running the Support Fund, for her efforts in identifying and accessing grant funding for us, and for her hard work as Secretary, Mary, our Treasurer, for managing our funds so efficiently and Sheila for managing the Hall bookings.

We must also thank Norman and Dave, who rally around whenever urgent maintenance is required - and who decorate our Hall and tree so beautifully every year, and the many others who contribute their time and energy for the benefit of others.

Jon

REINDEER DRIVE

This year's Reindeer Drive will take place on Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm: This highly popular event will once again be run for us by Bill Yeoman, and provides a chance for everybody in the village, of all ages, to join in with some festive fun and games. No special skills are required, merely the ability to roll a die and add up the scores. Prizes will be given for the under 16's and adult winner.

There will be an American Supper (bring your own drink) and entry will be £3-00 for adults and £2-00 for children

ACOL SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Senior Citizens Christmas Party will take place on Saturday 9th December (7.00pm for 7.30pm) in the Village Hall. Any Acol resident or 'friend of Acol' aged over 60 is cordially invited to attend as guests of the Village. There will be a traditional Christmas dinner cooked by Charlie & Vera, with wine or soft drinks. This will be followed by entertainment provided by the **Greyhound buskers**, and the draw for the Christmas Hamper

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of The Parish Council and Acol Horticultural Society, for their donations which are crucial to allowing the AVHMC committee to put on this event.

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

The Support Fund for the Village Hall was established by Sam and Mary Hodgson, and has now been running for more than 26 years. During that time it has raised over £15,000 towards the maintenance and refurbishment of the Hall.

The fund is made up of 200 numbers, and Membership of the fund is open to all.

Members of the 200 Club are each allocated a number (or numbers) that is entered into a monthly draw on payment of £1 each month, or £12 a year. Each number purchased will be entered into the monthly draw. Should a member not contribute in a particular month, then their number will not be entered in that month's draw, and prize fund will be reduced accordingly. The money collected is then shared 50:50 between the Hall Support Fund and a prize fund.

The prize fund is then divided between the three winning numbers, drawn on the first Wednesday of every month, with 50% of the fund as the first prize, 30% as the second prize and 20% as the third prize.

If you would like to be a member please call 840901 and I can arrange collection of your money We will be so pleased to have your support. Thank you.

Winners for the Month of December will be published in the next edition of Village Voice. The next draw will be on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Iris Osborne, Fund Organiser.

Acol Village Hall Management Committee

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

9 th Dec 7.00pm	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
15 th Dec 7.00pm	Community Carol Service
16 th Dec 7.30pm	REINDEER DRIVE
24 th Dec 3.00pm	Carol Service at St Mildred's

Minster Surgery

A BIG THANK YOU

We would like to thank all our Patients and Friends for their generosity and kindness in donating so many prizes for our raffle and tombola that was held at our Christmas Bazaar, and also, to all those who have supported us by purchasing raffle tickets and making such a wonderful selection of cakes.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Please note the surgery's revised open/closed arrangements over the Christmas period:

Normal opening times up until and including - Friday 22nd December

Christmas Day 25th December - Closed all day

Boxing Day 26th December - Closed all day

27th - 29th December - Normal opening hours

Monday 1st January - Closed all day

Tuesday 2nd January onwards - Normal opening hours

Should you need to see a Doctor during times when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service via the normal surgery number, or you can call 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.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you throughout the holiday period. You may submit your request up to two weeks in advance, preferably by 13th December at the latest.

"WALK FOR LIFE" ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

The activity programme will be paused during December and January and, subject to weather conditions, resumed early next year.

SURGERY TRAINING DAYS

Please note that the surgery will be closed from midday onwards on:

Thursday 25th January 2018

Wednesday 21st February 2018

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our next meeting in January, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Mary Hodgson -- 842764

AND FINALLY - We would like to wish all our Patients and Friends A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and A VERY HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF ACOL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ACOL VILLAGE HALL AT 2pm ON MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2017.

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

Also present: Councillors: Ms. Dawson (KCC) & Crow-Brown(TDC)
Tony Gander and 17 residents of the Village.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Council received a presentation from Ms. Michelle Matthews (a KCC Highways engineer) on a potential bid for an application to fund a traffic calming scheme in Acol. Ms Matthews indicated that she was fairly confident that the funding application would be approved when it was considered in February 2018. The Council and residents were invited to view the proposals for the traffic calming scheme. (Ms Matthews's report will appear in January's Village Voice and will be approved on 16th January.)

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Adrian Butterworth.

40. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

42. REPORT OF THE POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDENS/PCSOs

Tony Gander reported that there had been fewer reports of fly tipping but that the problem had moved to St. Nicholas at Wade. The position was being monitored by County Eye.

Speeding vehicles in the rural areas was an ongoing problem and information was needed from Speedwatch to help tackle this problem. It was hoped that if funding was available in next year's budgets that more equipment including hand held speed monitors would be made available.

43. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported upon the following:

Kent Highways

The all-day-burning street light has been repaired and Highways are attending to the Interactive Speed Sign. A new part is required for the adjacent street lamp, which provides the power. The part will be fitted when available.

Crown and Sceptre

The application to demolish the building was not called in to Planning Committee as Officers decided to refuse permission because it was a: "non-designated heritage asset within the village of Acol, for which there is no justified need. The heritage asset is considered to have historic significance within the village, both through the age and historic use of the building, but also through its local interest as a historic landmark. The loss of this significant heritage asset is considered to be an unsustainable form of development that would cause harm to the historic environment...." It was also noted that the proposal was out of context with "surrounding development, resulting in harm to the local rural character, appearance and history of the village..."

Manston Airport

Over 800 documents appear on TDC's online planning application, mostly objections.

44. CRISPE ROAD – SOUTHERN WATER AUTHORITY

The Chairman reported that S. Water has installed a reset button within the station that automatically resumes operation following a power cut, although that will only work if the power is immediately restored. However the Chairman was still awaiting

information on the sewerage measures that would be put in place to deal with the disposal of sewage from the 100 units currently being built at Manston Ind Estate.

45. FACEBOOK & PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Council received the report and were further advised by Councillor Steel on the initiative to create a Parish Council Website and Community Facebook page to allow more detailed information to be made available to the residents of Acol. The next stage would be to create a government address.

Members were further advised that more information would be added to the sites following a Village survey that would be undertaken in the New Year.

Funds were available for the further development of the sites and application would be made in February 2018 for funding.

46. DRAFT BUDGET/PRECEPT 2018/19

Council considered the draft budget and noted that increase was due, mainly, to the expiry of the one-year's free maintenance for the CCTV system.

It was agreed to consider the draft budget at the January 2018 meeting and to determine the method of funding the Parish Council's requirements.

47. RECREATION GROUND

Cllr. Hayfield reported that he was continuing to research measures to fill the play area with a rubber compound and that he was discussing possible ways forward. Members would be advised of these further enquiries at the January 2018 meeting.

48. ACOL FLOODING?

The Chairman reported that an insurance company was claiming Acol was "A very high risk area of flooding" and increased its house insurance premium. Only one property was subjected and a different company has been used, but further enquiries are being made to establish how this false information was published and to ensure it is removed. Members will be kept informed.

49. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had no further matters to report.

50. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank balance: The balance at 1 November 2017 was £11,399.77 and, within this budget, was £425.60 which was the balance from the Acol Play Equipment Group account.

51. REPORT OF COUNCILLORS MS DAWSON (KCC), & CROW-BROWN(TDC)

Cllr. Ms Dawson apologised for not having attended more meetings but said that her work load had increased following the sad death of Cllr. Gregory.

Ms. Dawson said she was still in discussions with Cllr Mrs Osborne, but it appeared that funding for Village Hall kitchen proposals would be held over to 2018/19.

Finally Members were advised that Riveroak and Stone Hill Park had given presentations to KCC and this could be viewed on the County web site.

Cllr. Crow-Brown advised that TDC was facing the prospect of making budget cuts of £3m. Homelessness was a huge problem and the Housing Department was being praised for its efforts in dealing with this matter.

TDC will be transferring the management of the 2 car parks within Minster to the parish council.

It was proposed to outsource the fire services at Manston.

52. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne – (i) Asked that more residents let her have e mail addresses for the Speedwatch initiative, (ii) Raised concerns that the Parish Council had not been advised of the proposals to erect 2 houses in Plumstone Road.

53. KALC CONFERENCE

No Members were available to represent the Parish Council at the KALC conference.

54. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting will be Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 14.00 hours

Time Concluded 16.30

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

Please ring Iris Osborne on 840901 to be kept informed on suspicious behaviour.

CCTV CAMERAS

Please don't forget to report any incident in The Street to 844706.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

The Parish Council website can be found at: www.hugofox.com/community/acol-parish-council-13724/contact/

You can ring the Parish Council on Mondays (9am-5pm) on 844706, or the day after a Bank Holiday, 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 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE AT 2PM ON TUESDAY 16th JANUARY 2018.

Sheila Bransfield

BREAKING NEWS.....

The plans for a kitchen extension to the Village Hall have been submitted to TDC Planning for approval.

The Village Hall Management Committee is applying for grant funding, and hope to be able to make an announcement soon. The intention is for the work to be carried out in August 2018

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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 villagevoice@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 January 2018.