

News from the Parish Council

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Acol's new (following May 4th's election) Parish Council took place on Friday 12th May, when Chenice Butterworth was co-opted to join Wendy and Gavin Winpenny, and Richard Steel as Councillors. Sarah Corby also volunteered to join, forming a full complement of five Councillors, and was to be co-opted at a further meeting on Monday 5th June. Richard was voted as the Council Chair and expressed thanks on behalf of the Council and village for the long years of service of the outgoing Chair, Sheila Bransfield, and former Councillors Inchley, Osborne and Hayfield. It is planned to provide a lasting tribute to their work for, and commitment to, our community. Richard has gone from being the youngest, when previously a Councillor, to by far the oldest, which he thinks a good thing – not that he is so old, but that our new Council is now better able to represent Acol families and young people!

It was agreed that future Parish Council meetings will usually be held at approximately bi-monthly intervals on Thursday evenings at 7.30 in the Village Hall, and the hope is that as many villagers as possible will be able to attend. The next will be on Thursday 22nd June. The dates of meetings for the remainder of this year are on the Acol Parish Council website... www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk/ along with the AGM minutes and a host of other information. The website is being reviewed and updated and will work alongside the Acol Facebook page... www.facebook.com/Acol.Village (The Acol Kent Facebook Group remains an independent discussion group for all our community members.) We are keen that the website and Facebook page are useful and effective village resources and are keen to hear from people on what they like/ dislike and any other views about content.

A standing item on future Parish Council agendas will be "Highways", affording the opportunity to discuss any related matters such as speeding and speed limits, littering, traffic calming measures, vehicle weight restrictions and The North Thanet Link, concerning which the AGM was followed by a presentation from James Wraight, the Kent County Council Project Manager. This is a key development for Acol and, in part, addresses the requirement for a village bypass that has long been campaigned for. If you haven't already, please respond to the consultation at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/north-thanet-link>. (The Parish Council will also submit a response.)

There is now a 7.5 tonne vehicle weight limit through Acol (with exceptions for vehicles that are engaged in delivering services within the village) but it is apparent that many truck operators are disregarding the restriction. We have CCTV on The Street at The Village Hall, so are likely to have video evidence of vehicles that are in contravention of the weight limit, and can report such incidents to the Police or vehicle operators at <https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/contact-us-to-discuss-something-else/> stating the vehicle's registration number, the time it was observed, the Village Hall postcode (CT7 0JA) and the fact that we have video proof. Dave Hayfield has kindly agreed to check the CCTV to confirm that we have evidence, but please provide accurate times against which he can check. Contact Dave by email at sheila.bransfield@btinternet.com

Regrettably, there have been several incidents involving dogs that were off their leashes on Acol's Recreation Ground – some entailing injury to other dogs or their owners. All users of this open space are reminded that dogs must be kept on their leads and on no account are permitted in the Children's Play Area. Any further incidents of dogs out of their owners' control will be reported to the Thanet Dog Warden and, if injury is involved, to the Police. Please help to keep our Rec as a safe space for the enjoyment of all our community.

Cllr. Richard Steel (Chair)