

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING OF ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Assembly Meeting of the Acol Parish Council was held on Tuesday 8th 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 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 30th 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 20th 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.

RESLVED: 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 1st June 2021 was £12,312.72.

6. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21

Council noted that the internal audit had been carried out on 17th 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 are 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

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