**VIRTUAL MEETING OF BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY 20TH JULY 2020, 7.30PM**

**PRESENT** Cllr A English, Cllr I Robertson, Cllr K Fisk, Cllr R Dinsey, Cllr D Boreham

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr R Jones

**2. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None received.

**3. REPORT FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY EVANS**

**Civil Parking Enforcement** came into effect in April. The enforcement officers are now patrolling regularly in Clare and Haverhill. In Clare, most of the tickets issued have been for overstaying on the time limited parking on the Market Hill.

Parking patrols and tickets issued in June were

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **No of visits** | **PCNs issued** |
| Haverhill | 448 | 175 |
| Clare | 141 | 30 |

Efforts are being renewed in Clare to identify a site for a public car park as it is felt the shortage of parking deters people from visiting and shopping in the town. The monthly market returned to Clare on Saturday and was very successful with several new traders and some of whom sold out.

Abbeycroft leisure centrein Haverhill will be opening on Monday 27 July.  Their opening hours will be reduced.  Look at their website for details and the plans they have put in for safe use of the venues for staff and clients. The council has provided funding of £150,000 to help the Abbbeycroft venues due to the importance of physical and mental health

The grand programme of celebrations for the Abbey of St Edmund’s 1000th year have been postponed until 2021.

Portable cabins are to be used in Bury St Edmunds as temporary homes for the homeless as WSC deals with unprecedented demands for emergency accommodation. 15 units are being set up on West Suffolk Council-owned land as hotels and B&Bs become unavailable and the moratorium on evictions ends in August, while furlough pay reduces from this month before ending in October. West Suffolk has a shortage of affordable housing for single people. There are 149 households in temporary or emergency accommodation compared to 83 in June last year. This includes 30 families, 105 single people or couples and 14 rough sleeper beds. The new units will be used for up to 6 months. Staff and security would be in place 24 hours a day. There will be help provided for food and other essentials. The cost is about £125 a week to house a person in the portable cabins, compared to about £400 a week in a hotel. High streets are reopening – with Government guidance allowing more people to return to work and shops to open, it is important that we manage our car parks to free up long stay spaces for workers a stay for visitors. Parking charges have been reinstated across West Suffolk but proposed tariff increases remain on hold.

We’ve already prioritised and paid out around £34m in Government business grants to business including retail, around another £34m in rate relief and having lobbied Government on their behalf, we are now paying out grants to other small businesses including our market traders. Alongside all of this are the car parking tariffs, which are a way of managing spaces. Income from parking helps pay for town centre security, cleaning and maintenance of car parks and enforcement – all of which supports our town centres as places of economic, social and cultural activity.

West Suffolk Council has recorded its best return yet on its £14.5million solar farm in Lakenheath. The Toggam Farm facility produced 2,007MWh in May. It is one of the largest council owned solar farms in the country. For West Suffolk Council, the farm is an investment in both green energy and a sustainable boost for their finances. A record £411,000 of income was taken in May. World Environment Day was 5 June this year. Friends of the Earth, named West Suffolk as one of the top areas for tackling climate change and supporting the environment. But, of course, there is more to be done.

**Suffolk County Council**

An additional £500m funding package and further support for Councils was announced recently. The new support will help local authorities to cover income lost during the pandemic, relieve spending pressures and plug any financial holes that have emerged over recent weeks. The ‘un-ringfenced’ funding, brings the total fiscal support for local councils to £4.3bn. At the County Council we don’t know yet how much we will get. We estimate the response work has cost SCC about £75m. To date we have a shortfall at SCC of about £20m between spending and Government funding.

In Suffolk we have launched our own Coronavirus dashboard ––

[**www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch**](http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch)

to ensure that residents get the full facts and not media hype. Last week there was huge upset aroused in our officials and genuine fears provoked in residents by media reports that Suffolk was on the list of authorities following Leicester into lockdown as over a two-week period there had been a 50% increase in new cases. Technically correct the number of new cases had risen from 2 to 3. To give you the context, in Leicester in the last two weeks there have been 141 people per 100,000 who have tested positive while in Suffolk it is 0.9 per 100,000.

At SCC we have approved a raft of measures to enable the authority to be carbon neutral by 2030 including steps such as moving to the purchase of 100% renewable electricity. We also agreed to support more planting of trees across the county and the establishment of a Healing Wood in memory of all those in Suffolk who have died from Coronavirus. We are also setting up a fund to finance projects across the county to enhance the environment with the offer to fund EV charging points at village halls; develop green lanes and develop more roadside nature reserves. We are also working with the police to fund ANPR  camera units to combat speeding.

 For the second year Suffolk County Council has successfully secured approx. £963,000 of funding from the Department of Education (DfE) to deliver a summer holiday activity and food programme for children in Suffolk.  The six week programme which is named ‘Summer in a Box’ will support the most disadvantaged families, children in care and young carers. It will include the distribution of 1600 activity packs to children and young people. The packs which have been developed in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust and a range of local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise groups provide lots of practical activities with which children and young people can interact ranging from music, museums, physical activity, art, reading, mental health & wellbeing, and cooking as well as the opportunity to engage with video tutorials and specialist tutors.

SCC has been working with the Suffolk Community Foundation to ensure that families most in need have access to food and information on cooking and nutrition. 6000 food packs which equates to 12,000 meals will be sent to these families, this is in addition to free school meal vouchers. The deadline on the extension of funding by the Government for free school meals across the summer holidays was July 10. However, I am very pleased to say at SCC we have announced that any child who becomes eligible after that date will be funded by us so that no child – and no family, misses out.

 A plan which sets out how Suffolk would prevent and respond to a localised outbreak of COVID-19  has been published and we are now working through how we would operate the new powers given to upper tier authorities to enforce closures and cancel events in the event of an outbreak.

Suffolk’s Local Outbreak Control Plan will be triggered where there are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in any setting or community within the county.

The plan, a requirement by Government of all local authorities, outlines measures to prevent, manage, and contain outbreaks of Coronavirus and protect the public’s health. It builds on existing relationships and processes in place with partner agencies across Suffolk.

The plan outlines how complex cases will be managed in more than 30 high-risk places, locations, and communities, particularly care homes and schools. It also outlines local testing capacity, use of data to identify and proactively manage outbreaks, and contact tracing in complex settings. An outbreak is defined when there are two or more cases in high-risk settings, or a greater than expected occurrence of COVID-19 compared with the usual level for a particular place and time.

Among the key information shared at the meeting:

* Suffolk, and West Suffolk in particular, has experienced much lower rates of Covid19 than both the rest of East of England and England generally
* Suffolk has though seen higher rates of cases and deaths in our care homes compared with neighbouring authorities. This is thought to be because of our larger number of care homes, especially in our coastal towns and that many of our homes have nursing facilities so residents have end of life care in the residential home rather than being transferred to the hospital or hospice.
* We have had higher levels of testing because of the Copdock testing station which opened at Easter
* We have had very low number of cases in our schools, nurseries and places of work. The cases that have occurred are classed by Public Health NOT as outbreaks because they have been isolated and not spread. The application of health and safety measures and isolation has ensured the lack of spread.
* We heard at HWB about the work to identify and understand the reasons for higher incidence of Covid 19 in Ipswich and in the BAME community.
* We agreed a joint project to combat Food Poverty – SCC at our meeting last week passed a motion to support action on food poverty

We also heard at the meeting about the increase in cases of self harm and attempted suicide and the deterioration in mental health. I am joining a Suffolk wide working party on mental health. Our next meeting will focus on domestic abuse.

There was also interesting feedback from the head of the Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG re the digital revolution that has swept through in the NHS as staff adapted to respond to Covid19. He cited the fast switch by GPs to digital consultations – and quoted a survey of a patients of a Stowmarket practice that found only 14%  of patients wish to return to face to face consultations with their GP.

**4.** **PUBLIC FORUM** – Members of the public may raise issues they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council

No members of the public were present.

**5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2020**

Proposed by Cllr Dinsy, seconded by Cllr Robertson that the minutes be approved and signed at a later date by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting – unanimous.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

Agenda item 9:An updated asset register to be circulated. Cllr English to action. Agenda item 13: Further work to the grass area to the village hall to be on the next agenda.

**7. FINANCE**

(i) Proposed by Cllr Robertson, seconded by Cllr Dinsey that the cheques raised since the last meeting be approved – unanimous.

Oliver Cornish grass cutting 225.00

Gadd Brothers – bough removal 180.00

St Andrews Church – donation for telephone box 250.00

Bank statement as at 13 July 2020 46,684.34

Less outstanding cheques 610.00

**Balance 46,074.35**

(ii) The Accountancy Statement for the financial year 2019/20 was unanimously approved and will be posted on the website once signed.

ii) The Accountancy Governance Statement for the financial year 2019/20 was unanimously approved and will be posted on the Brockley Parish Council website once signed.

**8. TELEPHONE BOX**

An up to date electrical certificate is required for the telephone box. Proposed by Cllr Boreham, seconded by Cllr Robertson that Farrants be contacted to carry out the work. Maximum of £250 authorised. The Locality Budget Grant form received from Cllr Mary Evans to be completed and returned to WSC. Grant requested £250.

**9. REVIEW OF INSURANCE COVER**

The settlement figure of £3000 has been paid into the Parish Council bank account. Concerns were raised that the bus company involved in the incident were not to be pursued for the outstanding cost of replacing the bus shelter. SALC to be contacted for advice. The decision to review the Parish Council’s level of insurance cover was deferred until the September meeting.

**10. MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATH FROM MILL ROAD TOWARDS THE CHURCH**

Although the responsibility of SCC, historically the Parish Council has helped to keep the footpath clear. Huddy to be contacted, via Cllr Jones, to strim, cut back hedges and take away cuttings from the left and right hand side of the footpath, starting at the five bar gate down to the sleeper footbridge just before Town Field. Maximum cost for work involved £150.00.

**11. UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL RESTORATATION**

Tenders are in and the builder G J Breams selected. Dependant on getting materials, it is envisaged work will commence 1st September. Money wise, a good excess/contingency fund is available. Quote includes a new ventilation system and a quote for a new sound system and hearing loop is pending. A subcommittee has been set up to pick colour schemes, blinds, tables, and chairs. An additional sum of £10,000 has been received from the Government Covid-19 scheme. With the village hall not having received any income since lockdown, this may have to be used for running costs. Due to current restrictions, a low-key opening event is likely. Proposed by Cllr Fisk, seconded by Cllr Dinsey that the sum of £20,000, earmarked by the Parish Council for the restoration, be released forthwith to the Brockley Village Hall Restoration Fund - unanimous.

**12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

A resident has raised the following maintenance issues:

a) Re-instatement of the ditches around the pond/clean-up of pond On the provision Covid-19 restrictions are lifted by February 2021, a working party for a general clean up around the pond will be organised. Cllr English to consult with residents via the village newsletter. In the meantime, a risk assessment to ascertain what is needed will be carried out.

b) Footpath along The Green council houses As a Suffolk County Council matter, Cllr Mary Evans to be contacted.

c) Additional 30mph signs and traffic calming measures Cllr Mary Evans to be consulted regarding the possibility of more traffic calming measures within the 30mph area. The possibility of a Vehicle Activated Sign/ Installation of chicanes was further discussed.

d) Clearing the ditch leading to the Church The ditch has previously been filled in resulting in the footpath becoming very muddy in the winter. An update on the situation to be sought from SCC Highways/Rights of Way. Cllr English to contact Gadd Brothers to see if they have access to and/ or could supply a quantity of wood chippings or bark to help alleviate the problem.

**13. BUS SHELTER**

No decision on the way forward for the rebuild of the bus shelter until advice has been received from SALC. A full breakdown of the Parish Council’s current financial position to be prepared and circulated.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

Emails sent when received.

**15.** **PARISH MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

As Vertas are not presently in a position to carry out the tree survey, an alternative contractor will need to be sought. Cllr English to speak to Gadd Brothers for recommendations.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 21st September 2020 at 7.30pm.