

Walberton Parish Council Meeting – 26th May 2020 Coronavirus Update Report

What did we say in March?

In anticipation of a potential lockdown the Parish Council convened an Extraordinary Meeting on 17th March at which these **priorities** were agreed

1. To support the government's and ADC's advice on managing the coronavirus situation
2. To ensure that the Parish Council fulfils its legal obligations
3. To support the parish using identified local resources
4. To put those people in need of assistance with those who can help
5. To keep the community updated

Risks identified were Council meetings not being quorate through councillor sickness, Lack of Clerking service through sickness and potential safeguarding issues with putting people in touch with strangers

Resolutions - Cancel all future Parish Council meetings until further notice; The Clerk to have delegated powers to accept any quote and make any necessary payment he sees fit, to be reported regularly to the Chairman and at the next Full Council meeting.

What have we done and how did we do?

Priority 1

Our Facebook page has regularly shared updates from both ADC and WSCC as well as government advice.

Priority 2

The Council finalised its end of year accounts and submitted them for audit. The report is signed. All suppliers have been paid in a timely manner.

All required works have had quotes reviewed and instructions given.

Following the change in regulations our meetings have recommenced in an on line format. A big learning curve.

Priorities 3 and 4

Local organisations were contacted, and all agreed to be points of contact for help. Mothers Union, Wednesday Afternoon Club, Village Friends, St Marys Church Office and the Parish Office.

A flyer was designed to facilitate help for neighbours and 1,042 were distributed within 5 days before the 23rd March lockdown.

We thank all the group volunteers and to all deliverers.

Only a few requested help and others were referred to us by Arun DC and non-local relatives. However we believe that many residents took it upon themselves to help neighbours and this collective goodwill in our villages was appreciated by many.

We joined the 6 villages COVID-19 Facebook group which was set up as a part of the West Sussex County Council Coronavirus hub thereby ensuring that all assistance and offers of help were clearly coordinated.

Priority 5

Email newsletter – usually sent monthly has been increased to weekly with as much useful information as possible with many recipients thanking the Council for keeping them well informed. This newsletter is also shared through Facebook and reaches around 800 each week. 25 new subscribers since the 17th March. Our web site has been updated regularly.

Posters of “events” were put up around our villages.

Competition - a weekly display competition was started to help keep spirits up. Some excellent displays are being submitted from both young and old.

VE Day – a display was put up inside the Pavilion windows with many useful and local historical information posters. Residents participated in recognising this important day with various socially distanced home events.

Open Gardens – during June residents are to be encouraged to take photographs of their gardens and share them.

Risks

Fortunately, at this time all have remained well. WSCC COVID-19 hub assisted on safeguarding.

Bookings and Children

All events in the Pavilion and on the playing field were cancelled, as were those in the Village Hall. The Pavilion is undergoing some planned improvement works whilst it is unoccupied. We understand that the Village Hall has received some financial assistance.

The Parish Council has offered both Community Play Centre (CPC@W) and Pre-school the option of temporarily fencing off an area adjacent to their venues to give additional outdoor space.

CPC@W has now booked the Pavilion from the 1st June to 17th July and have been given a discounted rate.

Both Walberton & Binsted school and CPC@W have continued to operate for key workers children. Up to 12 at school.

The school and Pre-School have been participating in home learning and are currently consulting with parents about reopening on the 1st June.

Conclusion

Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell have successfully worked together to help everyone in our villages during these challenging times.

Suzanne Clark
Chairman

26th May 2020