

Knowstone Parish Council update – 15th April 2020

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 23rd March the Parish Council was unable to hold its planned meeting the following day. The two items on the agenda, as below, were agreed by councillors via email.

1. Knowstone Parish Council will delegate the following powers to the clerk, whilst current situation regarding coronavirus prevails and the council is unable to hold meetings:

- to make payments on behalf of the Council;
- to deal with legally required actions and responses;
- to respond to planning applications after consultation with all councillors.

2. Knowstone Parish Council will implement the Emergency Plan.

Since then local government rules about holding remote meetings has changed and Councils are now allowed to hold remote meetings. It is recommended that a remote meeting is held for essential decisions only. As there are no essential decisions pending at the moment Knowstone Parish Council does not plan to hold a remote meeting but will if / when this changes. It will hold a remote meeting if any planning applications within the Parish are received during the lock-down.

Coronavirus assistance Volunteers

The Clerk has received a good response to the Council's appeal for volunteers and has a list of 8 people who would be happy to undertake shopping/collect prescriptions and several more who are isolating but would be happy to be a friendly voice at the end of a phone. To date only one request for assistance has been received and one volunteer kindly undertook shopping for that particular couple who are now able to do their shopping online. The Council is aware of quite a few residents around the parish helping their neighbours and have tried to make them aware that if they were to become unwell themselves or had to self-isolate then the council's volunteers could step in to cover the people they are looking after.

Internal Audit

This was due to take place on 22nd April and it still will but remotely rather than Alison Marshall, the Internal Auditor, visiting the clerk. The Clerk will supply her with electronic copies of the various documents she would like to see and she will also be looking at what is posted on the Council's website. If any further information is needed or she has any questions she will ring or email the Clerk.

Payments

The following payments have been made since the last Council meeting in February as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| W Sweet | £187.75 |
| Website Development Ltd | £234.00 |
| Wendy Vigus | £51.00 |

Website Compliance

There are new regulations which the Council needs to comply with by September this year.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/accessibility-requirements-for-public-sector-websites-and-apps>

The clerk has been in correspondence with Website Development Ltd, the Council's website provider, about this and hopes to be able to progress this matter over the coming weeks.

Clerks' online meeting

The Clerk 'attended' a remote meeting organised by DALC and SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) on Thursday 9th April which raised some interesting points about how to conduct a remote meeting.

East Hill

The Clerk will be in contact with the Council's solicitor during the lock-down for an update on the timescale for implementing the S106 at East Hill now that all four trustees have submitted their ID paperwork to Crosse Wyatt.

Compliance with Government guidance

The Chairman is pleased to note that there generally seems to be good compliance around the Parish to the Government's key message that:

You should only leave the house for very limited purposes:

- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible
- one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household
- any medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person
- travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home

If you have any concerns about compliance, please contact the Council's Police Liaison representative, Cllr Tony Moore (tonymoore@knowstone.org.uk) and where appropriate he will report any instances via the 101 police online system.