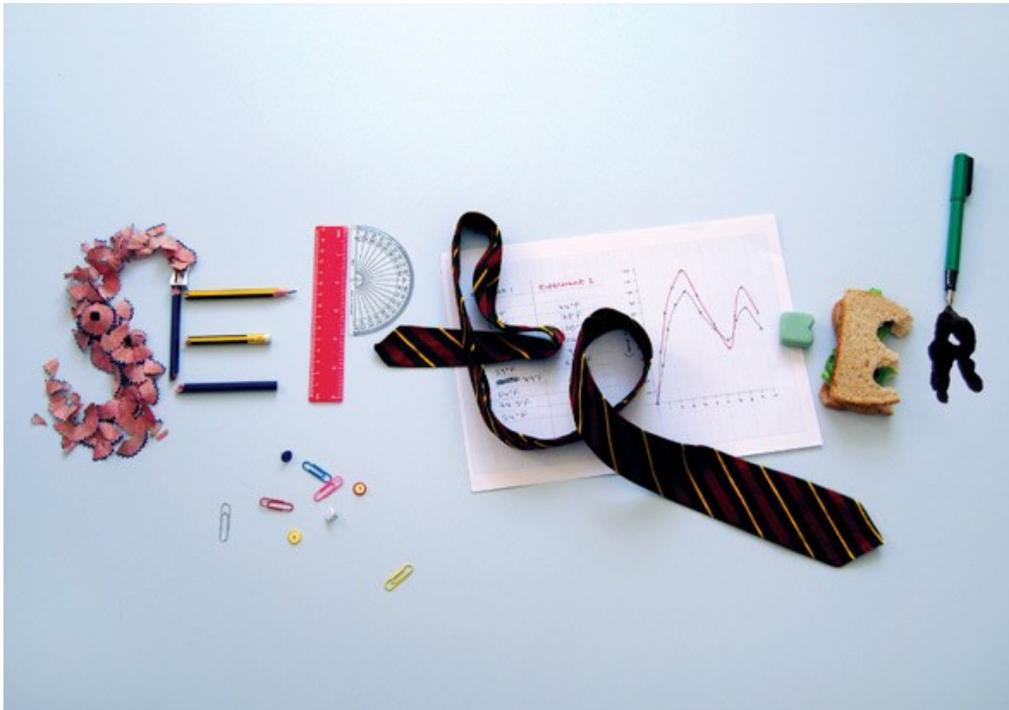


COLLIER STREET NEWS

September 2020



THIS ISSUE:

Words from Father Paul

Woodpeckers

The Woolpack Inn

Collier Street in World War II

Ramblings

Sofia's Lockdown story

Jacqui Bakes

Speed watch

Fibre Broadband in Collier Street

Parish Council Notes

Councillor retires

**Community Infrastructure Levy
background**

COLLIER STREET

PAPER DELIVERY

There is a paper delivery service to the village at around 6am every morning. It is supplied by Jackie's News Limited based in Tenterden, they can be contacted on 01580 763183. Cost of delivery is £3.51 a week.

Rubbish, food waste and small electrical items

14th and 28th September

Recycling, food waste and textiles

7th and 21st September

Please check www.maidstone.gov.uk for more information.

KENT MESSENGER VILLAGE COLUMN

Are you organising a local charity event or do you have any community news?

If you would like it to appear in the Kent Messenger for free, please contact:

Jenny Scott 01892 459041

Email: jscott@callflow.uk

Deadline is 9.00 Monday morning

PCSO NICOLA MORRIS

If you are worried about crime and antisocial behaviour in your area, I am the local Police Community Support Officer for **Collier Street, Laddingford and Yalding.**

If you would like to talk to me, please ring - **Mobile: 07870163411 / Non-emergency: 101**

There is a very successful Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Collier Street involving over 100 residents.

However there are many more households within the Parish who are currently not involved in the scheme. If you would like to be part of the NHW scheme and receive notifications of any suspicious activity or crime then please send your email address to Barbara Grandi at:

barbaragrandi@aol.com

Welcome to the September edition!

We hope you have all stayed safe and well in these unusual times.

We have a bumper edition again this month with some interesting articles. It really is lovely to receive stories from younger members of our community, thank you Sofia for sharing your photos and story with us. You really did have an interesting lockdown.

Thank you Sheila for the interesting piece about Collier Street in World War II, we're sure it will resurrect memories for some of the older, long standing residents in the village. We found the article very interesting and look forward to reading more next month.

We look forward to receiving articles from anyone resident in the village, please send to: editorparishmag@mail.com.

The swans on the front cover were snapped by Barbara Grandi whilst walking with the Yalding Ladies' Walking Group.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

We would love to hear from you with information, ideas or anything you may feel relevant to the magazine and our village. Maybe a photo taken in the village, or something you would like to share, or write us a letter. Or please send us a picture of your pet for 'cute pet of the month'.

Without your contributions there would not be a magazine, so please send to
editorparishmag@mail.com

FLY TIPPING AND POTHOLES

Did you know that anyone can report pot holes or fly tipping in the village.

Please go to the Maidstone Borough Council website and click on the "Report It" tab.



CUTE PET OF THE MONTH -

SUPER SAM



WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE

FOR BORROWING ON SHORT-TERM BASIS

FOLDS FLAT

NOT SELF-PROPELLING

PHONE SUE 01892 730393

(picture not actual chair)



LOCAL BABYSITTERS

- Lucy Anderson 730244 - Weekdays and weekends
- Rosie Ridd 730816 - During term time Friday and Saturday evenings only
- Edward Simmonds 730306 - Any time in Holidays, own transport
- Victoria Simmonds 730306 - Anytime, own transport
- Nancy Murdoch 730433 - Anytime
- Jonny Bentley - 730252
- Georgie Barham - 730247





CHURCH INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 2020

CHURCH ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Tea & Coffee :

6th September—Mrs Guillum-Scott
 13th and 20th September—Mrs Ashworth
 27th September—Mrs Head

Brass Cleaning and Altar Flowers

Mrs Guillum-Scott

St. Peter & St. Paul, Yalding

with Junior Church on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays

Wednesday's	10.00am	Said Communion
1st, 2nd, 3rd Sunday	09.30am	Holy Communion
4th Sunday	09.30am	Breakfast
	10.00am	All Age Worship
5th Sunday	09.30am	Family Communion

St. Margaret's, Collier Street

Every Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
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St. Mary's, Laddingford

2nd Sunday	09.00am	Morning Worship
4th Sunday	09.00am	Morning Communion

CHURCH CONTACTS

Churchwardens	Rachel West	01622 872278	rachel.west@ymail.com
	Joanna Doctor	01892 730489	josoar@aol.com
Parish Secretary	Sue Crompton	01622 814182	office@yaldingchurches.co.uk
PCC Secretary	Vicky George		brivick@aol.com
Safe Guarding	Sue Crompton	01622 814182	office@yaldingchurches.co.uk

“I sink in the miry depths where there is no foothold.” (Psalm 69:2)

One of the things that I am looking forward to this month is the opportunity to get back to swimming at Mote Park. I’m a reasonable swimmer, not quite international standard, but I can plod up and down for a few lengths with sufficient confidence that I won’t sink before I get to the other end.

I enjoy the peace, the lack of emails, texts, and telephone calls, the balance and the grace, the satisfaction that comes from a decent tumble turn or the glow that comes from physical exertion. I enjoy the coolness of the water, the challenge of the clock, and the mystifying array of tattoos on display from fellow bathers.

I also enjoy the metaphor presented by a big hole in the ground full of water. A problem to be solved, a sea to be crossed, a literal watershed. Sometimes a puddle to be stepped over easily, sometimes a pool to be crossed with some small effort. Sometimes a lake to be swum with great personal exertion, and sometimes an ocean that cannot be overcome on one’s own. But never, I hope, a vast empty expanse that cannot be conquered.

Lockdown presented its particular issues. We remember those, but we have moved on now to new problems, troubles, and concerns. Now we need to put our lives back into some sort of order at home and in church, at school and at work, but with a new array of obstacles, quarantines, and masks, as well as a fearsome dose of uncertainty about what the future may hold.

This is no puddle, pool, or lake. This is an ocean of trials and complications which seems to throw into the swimmer’s stroke new worries for every solution. The difficulties that coronavirus presents to us are very real, and they cannot easily be swept aside for any single person. It is easy to feel that the tentacles of despair are ready to drag us down into the miry depths and that we lack the energy to continue to sustain our optimism, as a collection of exhausted individuals, running out of energy.

But this is not how a relay race works.

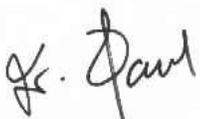
Instead, we must allow others to rest while we take up the task of keeping our communities fit for the rest of the race ahead, and then in turn take time to pause and rejuvenate while those refreshed can take the strain, each handing over to the other, sharing the burden, shouldering the work, making the tea, keeping the faith, helping to maintain the enthusiasm and the hope. Not one of us can do this on our own, but together, turn by turn, stroke by stroke we can battle the waves to reach the other shore. And we will.

Keep looking out for those who need help and do not know how to ask for it, and be ready to request and receive support when you cannot manage on your own.

We don’t thrive at the expense of others – we do this together or not at all.

And thank you, yes, I did have a good holiday, with a small pool. For training purposes, of course.

“And he shall spread forth his hands in their midst, as swimmers stretch out their hands to swim.” (Isaiah 25:11)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.



Woodpeckers- *Back at 'work'*

The Woodpeckers churchyard tidying group have continued their task as they help to maintain a neat and tidy churchyard and graveyard at St Margaret's Collier Street throughout the lockdown. Everyone who goes along is careful to maintain the necessary social distancing and they take their own tools, it does not stop them having a good chatter while they are working.

There is always plenty to do as the churchyard contains a lot of grass, some very large trees and a lovely old stone wall that is constantly being attacked by ivy.



On Saturday July 4th there was quite a broad age range of volunteers with Margaret Ashworth, now in her 80s and Annalise, a much younger recruit to the team, who came along to carry out one of the required community tasks for her Duke of Edinburgh Award. It was lovely to have extra help from Annalise and her Mum, Beverley. As you can see Margaret was still battling with the ivy and Annalise helped wherever she could.



Both of our new recruits really enjoyed Pam's delicious cakes when it came to the tea/coffee break, everyone brought their own drinks and enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with each other, all with social distancing in mind.



The Woodpeckers carried on the good work on Saturday August 1st, so please come along on the first Saturday of the month if you wish to join us between 10am -12noon.

The Woolpack Inn

As the Coronavirus continues to impact on our lives it is lovely that we are now able to return to our friendly local Pub, The Woolpack.

Dave and Renata are extremely grateful to everyone who supported them during the stringent lockdown. Many people

took advantage of the successful takeaway service they operated from the front window of the pub. They are also thankful for the support they received from the brewery, Shepherd Neame.

During August we were able to enjoy the sunshine and shade under the grape vine covered pergola to have meals in the very spacious garden and the Government's 'eat out to help out' discount was a nice bonus. Although that scheme ended on August 31st the garden is still open for anyone to enjoy a drink and/or pub meal. The staff go out to customers to provide service at their tables and there is a hand sanitising station available in the garden too.

Eating Inside:

Anyone who would like to eat inside will need to phone up to find out if tables are available for private booking, only pre-booked tables will be possible.

The hours of opening are:

Tues-Sat

12-3pm Bar 12-2pm food

6-10pm Bar 6-9pm food

Sundays

12-8pm Bar 12-5pm food

TAKEAWAYS

Takeaways are still available: Tues-Sat 12-2pm, 6-8pm; and Sundays:12-3pm. Please phone to place orders and then phone again when you are waiting outside in the car, the orders will be brought out to you.

Updated Menus are available on the website: woolpackyalding.co.uk where you will also find the menu for bagettes, sandwiches, ploughmans', jacket potatoes etc.

TEL: 01892 730356



COLLIER STREET WW2

It is the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2 this year and the church was going to put on an exhibition about the men of Collier Street who lost their lives during the conflict. However, as with so many events this year it has been cancelled.

Instead, the following is some of what was happening at St Margaret's school during the war. The school logbook listed day to day events, this usually consisted of the visits by education officers, attendance, the weather (floods, storms etc), epidemics of measles and other infectious diseases and school holidays. As early as September 1938 like the rest of the country the school was preparing for war. On 28th September Major Leney, the chief Air Raid warden visited to assess the school's precautions for air raids. He agreed with, the then headmaster Mr Bucknall, that children who lived up to the post office (on the corner of Haviker St going towards Yalding) and to the railway arch (bridge) should make their way home when the warning happened! The remaining children stay at school in the three lobbies!

ST MARGARET'S SCHOOL



War was declared on 1st September 1939. Immediately Mr Bucknell went into the RAF. His place was taken by Miss Alice Maude Thompson, an elementary school teacher who lived in Horsmonden. She opened the school on the 1st October after the annual holiday for hop picking and then dealt with the influx of evacuees and their teachers.

Unfortunately, there is no record of how many children came to Collier Street, but throughout the first year of the war, the evacuees and teachers are mentioned. Miss Thompson said that over the Christmas holiday of one week in 1939, she volunteered to entertain the evacuees.



LONDON CHILDREN EVACUATED. NOTE THEIR LABELS

Little happened in the first few months of the war, though Miss Thompson had a difficult time in January 1940 after falling on the ice and breaking her arm. She had to come by bus to school (she normally cycled the four-mile journey from Horsmonden). This meant that she arrived late at 9.21am!

In April 1940 a new schoolmaster arrived Mr Stuart Bennett, he was shocked at the untidiness of the rooms, cupboards and sport's stores! He then amalgamated the evacuees with the rest of the school. It may have been that the children were taught in a shift system, with the so called 'native' attending half a day and the evacuees for the other half.

Mr Bennett also changed the payment for milk from monthly to daily. Free school milk wasn't introduced until 1944.

School life continued much as before with the inspection visits, but Mr Bennett reports punishments. It seems that boys were trying to steal bird's eggs from nests. 30/4/40 two boys Terence and John each received '1stroke' (of the cane) for "interference with bird's nest".

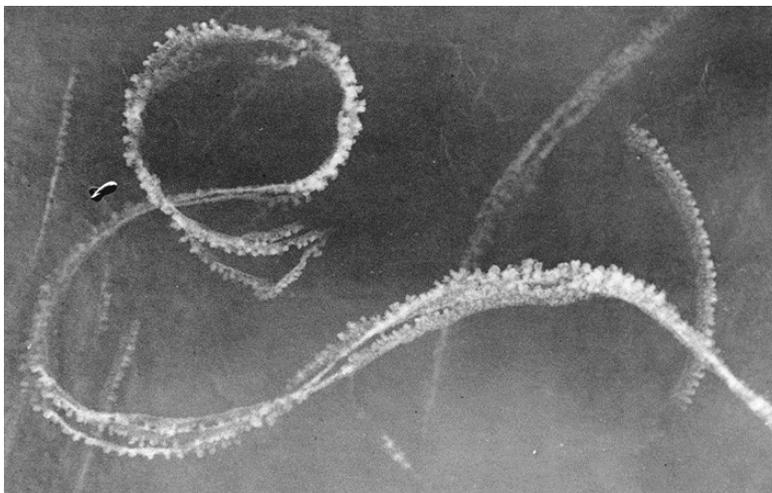
Little mention of the war until July when the air raid precautions were reviewed and 'strips' were placed over the windows. Mr Bennett also wrote to the KCC regarding sand bags. However, the ARP warden (air raid precautions) told him, that there weren't any, but he could get wire netting for the windows. This was completed before the end of the month.

Despite the Battle of Britain (the RAF were defending the UK from large scale attacks by the German Luftwaffe) starting on 10th July there is no mention until 16th August about it. On that day Mr Bennett reported the school "was much affected this week by air raid warnings".

On the 16th there was an air battle overhead and the warning lasted for 2 1/2 hours. In those days, children went home for lunch, although presumably they were sent home because of the air raid. Mr Bennett seemed to have been surprised that only a third of the children returned for the afternoon! He noted that he phoned the KCC to ask how to mark the absences.

The Battle of Britain carried on. On October 7th Mr Bennett reported that due to the frequency of the air raids the school attended in two halves, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, albeit with frequent interruptions by 'enemy aircraft overhead'. This continued throughout October with almost daily mentions of air raids, the children being sent home and poor attendance.

The battle officially finished on 31st October but there were air raids on the 1st November. After that the weather was so bad that school attendance was again low!



VAPOUR TRAILS OF THE 'DOG' FIGHTS OVER KENT

Although the official battle had ended, November continued to have frequent disruptions by air raids and on the 15th November a German plane, a Messerschmitt 110 was shot down just half a mile from the school.



This isn't the plane, but one that was 'forced' down in Winchet Hill Marden on 5th September.

School life carried on, the medical officer visited and raids became less frequent.

More local tales of life during WW2 next month. Sheila Guillum-Scott

Collier Street Ramblings: Traffic in Collier Street

I was driving home through Collier Street a couple of weeks ago and saw a team of residents using the Speedwatch equipment where the 30mph speed limit is in the centre of the parish. I was very pleased to see that they were attempting to restrict the speed of traffic through Collier Street by operating the scheme. When I was on the Parish Council we purchased Speedwatch equipment with the help of a grant from our MBC Councillor at the time. Roughly 10 residents came forward to help us 'man' the speedwatch stations, they underwent the training which and we started the sessions. Nevertheless we found it hard to keep the enthusiasm going and regular sessions are necessary to have the maximum impact. We found that most drivers slowed down when they saw people in high visibility jackets and the electronic board showing their speed. However motor bike riders were the worst culprits, their bikes are hard to identify unless you are a motorcycle enthusiast and the number plates almost impossible to read. Some people lose interest in helping the teams when they realise that speeding offenders are not all prosecuted immediately when reported, so what are the repercussions? The following information is from the official Speedwatch UK web site:

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices.

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated (even across county borders), enforcement and prosecution follow.

Volunteers receive appropriate training, and are supported by neighbourhood policing team (NPT) staff. The scheme aims to cater for the problem of real or perceived speed related offending, and through partnership with the community it is to be used in circumstances that are necessary, justifiable and proportionate in order to:

- *Reduce death and injury on the roads*
- *Improve the quality of life for local communities*
- *.Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit*

Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Speedwatch activity is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community.

We all have to put up with increased traffic on local roads, the numbers are bound to increase with the ongoing housing developments in Yalding and Marden. Let's hope more volunteers come forward and the Speedwatch initiative encourages drivers to observe speed limits for everyone's safety. It's almost unbelievable to think that Collier Street roads were almost exclusively used for horses and carts, cyclists and pedestrians. Here you will see some pictures of Collier Street roads in days gone by...they look so peaceful.



Above is the Post Office and General Stores at the end of Haviker Street which closed in the 1990s.

Left is Mrs Curd's General Stores which served the village South of the Church and closed in the 1980s.

If you would like to help with Speedwatch please contact the Parish Council, contact details are in this magazine.



OUR PRODUCTS, LOCALLY SOURCED, LOCALLY SOLD

September 2020

Whilst I have received many offers of help from our customers to resolve the issue of our possible closure next year, I am still none the wiser about how the Government and Post Office Ltd (POL) are going to resolve the matter. Time creeps ever onward toward nemesis day and still no news from either of them. I have asked POL several times about what they are going to do with no meaningful response. The Coronavirus crisis is being blamed for their inaction. Our little branch and some 500 others in the country are affected by this problem. If the Gov't and POL allow the current subsidy to cease our wages will plummet to further below the National Minimum Wage to such a degree we may well be paying to keep ourselves open. We are too small to rely on the retail side of the business to subsidise the Post Office side (as most other branches do). Closure will be the only option. I'm not sure how anyone can help us in such a situation. Only 6 months left to sort it out.

The Post Office Horizon Scandal. You may be aware that Post Office Ltd (POL) lost a court case last December where it was proved that, despite numerous denials, the Post Office's Horizon computer system was very much less robust than it should have been, leading to some 900 Sub Postmasters being prosecuted for theft and false accounting when many thousands of pounds vanished from their accounts. POL knew that Horizon was not safe, yet continued to prosecute Postmasters leading to imprisonment, suicide, financial ruin and reputational loss for many. Yalding Post Office has been similarly affected, thankfully only with minor shortages... To see what we are talking about go online and look up **Nick Wallis Post Office.**

The Coronavirus emergency. I fully intend to remain open as normal until such time as any of our household fall victim to the disease or the Gov't decrees otherwise. All normal services are available. We are operating a strict entry system into the shop. Only one customer (or more if members of the same household) allowed in the shop at any one time and face masks to be worn.. Please queue responsibly outside following Gov't guidelines. **PLEASE STAY SAFE.**

Bakery. Due to restrictions on movement we are increasing our daily bakery order from Coxheath bakery. Please place orders with us before 5.00pm the day before and we will do our utmost to fulfil them. The Coxheath Bakery is no longer making items for Mondays. We have added to our range from another source...Croissants and Danish Pastries available on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Vulnerable persons cash withdrawals. We are happy to allow 3rd parties to undertake financial transactions for vulnerable or isolating people. We require a confirmation letter from the customer and ID from the 3rd party.

New stamps sets this month are the **Palace of Westminster and Sherlock** collections. Other Philately products in stock or can be ordered on request.

All kinds of Post Office savings, insurance and investments, telephone and Broadband services available. Post Office Classic Travel Insurance arranged at the counter.

Foreign Currencies. We still have a stock of Euros and US Dollars...minimal demand at the moment of course. POL have informed us that credit on Travel Money Cards can be encashed at all branches in UK currency.

Your Post Office offers free cash withdrawals with most debit cards, pay bills, top up gas and electricity cards and keys, pay in cheques and cash to most banks using your debit card. We do Health Lottery, phone Top-Ups, Fishing licences and Moneygram. And, of course...we sell stamps and send parcels and letters all over the world.

Bakery items fresh every day, cold drinks, Helen's fantastic biscuits, Annette's gluten free selection (on hold due to self-isolation) unique greetings cards by local artists, Yalding honey, Joan's jams, Bit Spicy curry mixes, hand-made fabric items, stationery, Yalding mugs, fresh eggs from local chickens, Loddington Farm fruit juices, Oakapple Farm fresh produce.....All in stock now.

The Post Office Gift Card is an ideal gift for that person hard to buy for....These can be used at pretty much every major retailer in the UK. See us for details.

Our opening hours are 9.00am to 1.00pm. 2.00pm to 5.30pm. Closed on Sundays.

Early closing on Wednesdays and Saturdays (12.30pm Saturdays).

Many thanks for your wonderful support for Kent's Most Loved Post Office.... Telephone...01622 814327

Look us up on our Facebook page and website. www.yaldingpostoffice.weebly.co.uk

Collier Street Speed Watch

As lockdown started to ease, it felt as if Collier Street had become the new racetrack of Kent. Whilst I was standing in my drive shouting “Thirty!” at the wannabe Louis Hamiltons, Sean Randell and Gill Harker took the initiative and reignited the Collier Street Speed Watch, and recruited me and others into community action!

We have been conducting speed check sessions mostly during hours coinciding with school and work start and finish times between Monday to Friday. However, we would like to expand the activity to other times too. At present we have one approved site to operate from and are working with the Community Speed Watch organisation to get more sites in the village approved.

Below are the results for July:

Number or sessions of 1 hour`	24
Total number of cars > 34mph*	576
Number cars Speeding 34-39mph	374
Number of cars speeding 40-49mph	195
Number of cars speeding > 50mph	7
Top Speed (mph)	57

* We only record at 34mph and above: this represents the total number of vehicles recorded.

Vehicles recorded speeding by us are uploaded to Kent Police and appropriate action ranging from warning letters to home visits are taken by them.

So, if like us, you are fed up of speeding through our village and have a spare hour or so please contact Sean (email: sean@reddoortraining.co.uk). We are a fun loving group who like a laugh whilst getting the job done!



COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL HAVE A NEW WEBSITE:

<https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

Borough Councillor Retires

After 8 years in the role, our local Borough Councillor, Steve McLoughlin, was planning to stand down from the Council at the Borough elections that were due to take place in May. However, in view of the Covid 19 pandemic these elections have been delayed by 12 months to next May, when they will be held at the same time as elections for the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner.

“For personal reasons, I have decided I am unable to continue in the role for a further 12 months and have, with some sadness, retired from the Council at the end of July. I was first elected in 2012 at a time when the preparation of Maidstone’s Local Housing Development Plan was in its early stages. Without doubt, the production of Maidstone’s Local Plan covering the period 2011 – 2031 has been the single most challenging task - and probably the least popular with residents - undertaken by Maidstone Borough Council in recent times.

The Local Plan was formally adopted in 2017/8 and now gives the Council control over where future housing and employment development should take place. But before that, planning permission was granted for over 500 homes in both Staplehurst and Marden and an additional 100 homes in Yalding. A review of the Local Plan is currently underway to include a further 7500 homes in the Borough.

Planning is often a contentious issue and I have always been ready to help residents either to support or object to various applications at Planning Committee meetings in the Town Hall.

Flooding is another major topic that I was very involved with in establishing a link between the Borough Council, the Environment Agency and residents through the Joint Parishes Flood Group. The Council set aside £1 million to put towards flood mitigation measures and while the original expectation that the Environment Agency would construct two flood storage areas on the Beult and Teise, this proved to be impractical and individual property resilience measures have been installed instead.

The Council continues to be an active member of the Medway Flood Partnership.

I must thank all those who elected me for giving me the opportunity to work with, and better understand how the Borough Council functions. For some time, I was the Cabinet Member with executive responsibilities for Corporate Services until, in 2015, the Council changed its governance arrangements from having an executive Cabinet supported by Scrutiny Committees to operate under a Committee System. This introduced a more collaborative cross-party approach to decision making and since then I have worked on the important Policy & Resources, Licensing and Employment Committees. I have also been Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and Cobtree Manor Estate Trust for several years.

This has been a hugely interesting experience for which I am extremely grateful and I hope that during my time I have been able bring about a greater sense of purpose to the Council’s financial performance and varied activities.

Of course, Yalding will not be left without a Borough Councillor until the next election is possible as we still have my colleagues David Burton and Annabelle Blackmore who together continue to cover the Marden & Yalding Ward. Please do get in touch with either of them if you need to”.



VOLUNTEERS

Sean Randell has requested volunteers wishing to join the group initially follow the following the procedure please: -

1. Firstly type **<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org>** into a web browser.
2. Click on the **[Register]** tab.
3. Then to the left, click on **[Join Existing Group]**.
4. Choose **[Kent]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
5. Choose **[YA Maidstone]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
6. Now choose **[Collier Street Speedwatch Group]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
7. Finally complete their details in the registration form and follow the emailed instructions.

This Allows Kent Community Speedwatch to Coordinate.



COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF KIND RESIDENTS IN THE VILLAGE WHO HAVE OFFERED TO HELP ANYONE WHO IS SELF-ISOLATING OR NEEDS HELP DURING THIS CRISIS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEONE TO COLLECT SHOPPING, MEDICINE OR TO WALK YOUR DOG PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:

DAVID GOFF: 01892 730512

BARBARA GRANDI: 01892 730376

MARGARET ASHWORTH: 01892 730323

AND THEY WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP

PLEASE DO ASK FOR HELP!

TIME TO APPLY FOR THE YALDING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Yalding Educational Foundation has existed for many years and its purpose is to encourage the education of the children and young people of our local community. This objective is achieved by firstly sponsoring Spoken English Competitions in the primary schools of **YALDING, LADDINGFORD** and **COLLIER STREET**, each year (although, sadly this year Covid 19 has prevented this from happening). Secondly by providing funding, when funds allow, for each school to take the older pupils on a 'cultural or educational experience'.

Thirdly, **SCHOLARSHIPS** are provided to assist in the **HIGHER EDUCATION** of former pupils of these local primary schools. The scholarships are available for several years of a University or College course. To qualify, students must have attended one of the three above mentioned primary schools for a minimum of two years. If you qualify please take the time to apply.

APPLICATIONS in respect of the academic year 2020/21 are now invited by **LETTER** only to the Clerk to the Foundation, Gary Atkins at Hawthorns, Laddingford, ME18 6BP. Applicants should state which primary school they attended and when, brief details of the University or College course they will follow, and their home and term time address.

Applications must be signed by the applicant. If an email address is included, applicants will receive an acknowledgement on receipt of their application and a date by which the trustees will be assessing applications so that awards can be paid. To qualify, **ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31st 2020** (this is later than normal to take into account any problems that may be caused by the Covid 19 outbreak).



YALDING FOOD BANK

Donations of food may be left at the church Monday to Friday between 11am and 2pm. Please place any donations on the white benches in the church porch. If you wish to go into church during these times for private prayer, there is track and tracing in place and someone will be there to explain this to you; this is not required if you are just leaving donations in the porch.

If you wish to donate but are unable to do so during these times, please call or text Rachel on 07814 750500.

Thank you to everybody who has donated either food or cash and to Angela, Rachel and their volunteers for their support.



Broadband Internet speed in Collier Street

Most of you will agree the broadband speed in Collier Street is fairly slow, our dependency on it can provide us with everyday challenges. For example, a lock down zoom meeting with clients, cannot be combined successfully with your children thinking you'll never notice if they pop the TV on to watch Netflix, but oh we do notice, and our important zoom meeting crashes! The solution, we get faster broadband, I give up with the kids!

Many of you have already registered an interest in super-fast broadband and will know that Alaric Turner has been researching the possibility of faster broadband for us all. It doesn't look impossible, however, it does require us to all come together as a village to apply for it.

For rural communities there is a cost to have fast fibre broadband installed. To help fund this cost the government provides rural communities grants. For Collier Street we are entitled to The Kent Broadband Voucher scheme. This provides each household who signs up with a grant of £2500 towards the cost of installation. If you run a business from home (you can provide a copy of an invoice with your address on it) the household could receive £3500. A household can only receive one grant either business or residential. It is hoped that if enough residents signed up, the grants would total the full cost of fast broadband installation.

Alaric has been consulting with Openreach. The village is split into three areas:

- Village Centre roughly between the School and Haviker Street Junction. Fast broadband is planned for these households at some point, to check if your household is included in this goto: <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fibre-for-home>
- South of the village (Between the school and Claygate, Spenny lane, Green Lane, Haviker Street and Sheephurst Lane area)
- North of the village (from Haviker Street Junction to Benover at the junction to Emmet Hill Lane, Den Lane, Claygate Rd, Pikefish Lane - to the river, Mill lane (we think if you have an 01892 tel. no.) and Emmett Hill Lane)

Alaric will then arrange for Openreach to provide us with two quotes for the North and the South areas of the village.

What we need now:

We need residents to register an interest in this scheme, at this stage that includes residents from the North and South of the Village (if you're in the centre but are not due for the super-fast broadband please contact Alaric). This does not tie you in or commit you to anything. It just gives an indication of the total amount of households and in turn grants we could receive. We then get a quote from Openreach for the fibre to be laid and at that point we will know if it is financially viable for the village.

To register an interest you just need to contact Alaric Turner by email: alaric.j.r.turner@gmail.com , telephone: 01892 730808 or pop a note through his door (Ingfield, Claygate, opp. The White Hart).

You need to state:

- Your name
- Postcode
- House name or number
- Land line telephone number
- Email address

This information will be retained by Alaric but will not be shared without your permission.

This process is only to upgrade the speed of the lines, you will have to sign up with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) as we all do now.

What will happen next? Alaric and myself (his non-technical helper) will keep us all informed of the progress by email and the Parish News.

If anyone has any questions at all, please do get in contact with Alaric who is very happy to help.

I would encourage everyone to check with their friends and neighbours that they know about this scheme and how they can register an interest.

Lastly on behalf of all of us Collier Street residents I'd like to say a huge thank you to Alaric for the hard work he is doing for us all. I think most of you will agree, faster broadband will be a great benefit. It will certainly reduce the friction in our household!

Jo Manser, The Old Engineer

Jacqui Bakes

Apple Crumble Bars

I hope my recipe finds you safe & well! As we are coming into apple picking time once again I thought I would share this recipe with you, I use Bramley apples for this recipe as we have an orchard full of them. It also works well with apples that are past their best from your fruit bowl.

Ingredients

200g butter
125g golden caster sugar
200g plain flour
4 apples, peeled & diced
1 tsp ground cinnamon
2 tbsp lemon juice
1 tbsp cornflour
4 tbsp raspberry jam
50g pecans, chopped
40g ginger nuts, crushed
Icing sugar to dust

Method

Whizz 175g butter with 75g of the sugar in a food processor, add flour & a pinch of salt & whizz until mix just comes together.

Wrap in clingfilm & chill for 30 mins.

Preheat oven to 170 degrees. Grease & line a 18cm square baking tin.

Once chilled, push mixture into base of tin & prick all over with a fork. Bake for 25 mins.

Meanwhile, put remaining butter & sugar in a pan with apples & cinnamon, cook gently for 5 mins, mix cornflour & lemon juice in a bowl, slowly add to apple mixture & cook gently for 2 mins.

Warm jam & brush over baked base, top with apple mixture. Scatter with the chopped pecans & crushed ginger nuts.

Bake for 10 mins. Once cooled dust with icing sugar or serve warm with ice cream.

ENJOY!



My summer story

This summer I have had some unusual creatures in my house and garden that you wouldn't expect find there!

Firstly my dad got some big bags of wood chipping's which he spread in our flower beds. I was walking up the path and saw my cat Sam in the flower bed, he could obviously see something under a plant it was a baby grass snake, it didn't hang around for long it slithered away, I think he must have come in the wood chippings.



My mum was in the kitchen feeding Sam, when she saw something go under the tumble dryer. When we moved it, it was a small Lizard, called a wall Lizard, we picked it up and moved it into the garden.



Then one day we heard a crash from the bedroom, so mum and I went to see what it was and found a squirrel hiding under the bed, we spent all day trying to get it out, until it finally climbed inside the bedside drawers, so we carried them into the garden, opened the drawer and it ran out to safety.



Lastly when we went to our shed to get some saw dust for the chickens we found to our surprise that there was a hedgehog sleeping under the saw dust bag. I carefully picked it up with gloves and placed it in my hedgehog house, it visited the garden many times, sometimes sleeping in the box during the day.

Sofia Plail Aged 9





COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

CIL MONIES – Background

Introduced in 2010, the **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** is a tool for local councils to help raise funds from developers to deliver infrastructure within the Community.

CIL is charged for certain types of development in the area and commenced on 1 August 2015. We have just received the first tranche of monies in respect of the Bentlett’s development.

Advised CIL monies	£68371.32
1st instalment	£31400.00
2nd Instalment	£2785.66
Balance	£34185.66

As a Parish Council we seek **your views** on the key issues that are important to the area.

Projects can be large or small, capital or revenue. **Only projects that meet the CIL prescribed criteria will be eligible for CIL funding.**

We need to establish when you wish to see these projects delivered in the short, medium or long term.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA THAT PROJECTS MUST MEET TO HAVE CIL SPENT ON THEM

Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) state that CIL must be spent on:

The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

Initially we need to establish

- A list of the projects and schemes you would like to see in the area.
- The location of each project.
- A brief description of each project.
- A brief justification with evidence for each project.
- A priority weighting for each project (as there will always be more demands than there are resources). This does not have to be numerical it could be short/medium/ long term or essential/desirable.

Let us give you a brief synopsis of the areas of responsible the parish council are/are not responsible for.

PLAY AREAS AND EQUIPMENT – Supply and Maintenance
Do we need more equipment if so what?

HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC CALMING & ROAD SAFETY

Kent County Council has overall responsibility for the Highways and whilst the Parish Council has a Highways Improvement Plan. Highways are one of most expensive upkeep items. Because of the current situation and with the budgets tightening it is unrealistic for KCC to fund any large projects the PC would have to fund these.

What improvements would you like to see and the exact locations?

NEW VILLAGE HALL

Your views? What would you like to see?

STREET LIGHTING

Any wish to see?improvement you would

FLOODING ISSUES

Not a direct PC responsibility but an important issue to the parish.

Improvement Issues and locations?

FOOTPATHS

KCC are responsible for the maintenance of these.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Not a PC responsibility

We would need to establish a need against criteria that Housing Associations set. What are your thoughts?

LACKOF OVERALLL FACILITIES IN THE PARISH

What are your thoughts?

HAVE WE MISSED ANYTHING?

We welcome all suggestions, but some may not be included in the survey if they are not financially viable

Please let us have your thoughts by emailing the Parish Clerk parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

We propose to gather your feedback and prepare a survey monkey/hard copy questionnaire to canvass further opinions prior to our next public consultation. We will then be able to cost the various ideas and priorities and bring together a **Community Infrastructure Levy Plan** to share with you.



DO YOU WANT SUPERFAST BROADBAND?

Everyday life relies more and more on using the Internet, including for many people their everyday work. Collier Street has a very slow broadband speed and unfortunately, there are no immediate plans from Openreach to expand to Superfast Broadband in the near future. So, what options are open to us?

Kent County Council have a “Broadband Voucher Scheme” – details can be found <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/broadband/broadband-voucher-schemes/kent-broadband-top-up-voucher>

Where there is a potential subsidy to obtain fibre broadband to the premises (FTTP), which enables very high connection speeds (up to 1Gbps). In order for the scheme to be viable, there needs to be a community group that needs to sign up together to apply for the funding. The more that sign up, the better for everyone.

At this stage, you will not be committing to anything by expressing an interest in the partnership scheme, so if you wish to be included, please email with a subject heading alaric.i.r.turner@gmail.com “FTTP Interest” giving your full name, address and telephone number. The details will be entered into the Openreach system so that they can generate an indicative estimate for the works. Your information will not be shared with any other party and only be used for the sole purpose of registering an interest in the scheme mentioned above.

LADIES ONLY WALKING GROUP IN YALDING

A small number of ladies, (including some from Collier Street) led by Jill Smith, take to the footpaths around Yalding most mornings. Lockdown stopped the group meeting for a few months but they are now back and enjoying their regular exercise whilst having a good natter.

Occasionally they finish with a cup of tea at Yalding Tea Rooms— well it is well deserved!



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

CHURCH

Reverend Paul Kish 01622 814182
Church Warden

Rachel West 01622 872278

Sec to P.C.C.

Vicky George 01892 730239

R.C Priest

Father Victor McLean 01580 211267

KENT MESSENGER VILLAGE COLUMN

Jenny Scott jscott@callflow.uk 01892 459041

PARISH MAGAZINE

Editor

Jacki Fogg 01892 730869

Emma Howard 01892 730245

Tracey Bentley (Advertising) 01892 730252

Email: editorparishmag@mail.com

VILLAGE HALL

Chairman Simon Hill 01892 732064

Mobile 07973 692525

HELPING HANDS

Margaret Ashworth 01892 730323
(Age concern representative)

SCHOOL

Headteacher Paul Ryan 01892 730264

Chairman of Governors

Gareth Waterman TBC

Friends of Collier Street School

Chair Person: Harriet Breslin

email info@focss.org.uk

WOMANS INSTITUTE

Yalding President: Doreen Stanford 01622 813384

Doctors Yalding Surgery

Dr Scott 01622 814380

Marden Medical Centre

Drs Streeter, Potter, Morgan, Estall, DeCourcy

Hallinan & Wilford 01622 831257

POLICE

PCSO Nicola Morris 07870163411

Non Emergency 101

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Barbara Grandi 01892 730376

Paddock Wood Citizens Advice Bureau

08701 264856

COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council

Alan Crocker 01580 766249

parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Dave Sealey 01892 730589
davesealey@hotmail.com

David Goff **Chairman** 01892 730512
david.goff@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Steve Sandys 01892 730628

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Steve Barham 01892 730247

steve.barham@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Andrew Papas 01892 730830

andrew.papas@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Simon Hill **Vice Chair** 01892 732064

simon.hill@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

Deborah Papas 01892 730830

deborah.papas@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk

NOTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL HELD UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS ACT [2020] Monday 13th July 2020 commencing at 6.00pm

In attendance Cllr D Goff[Chair]; Cllr Simon Hill [Vice Chair] after item 07.20.03.02 had taken place Cllr Steve Barham; Cllr Deborah Papas; Cllr Andrew Papas; Cllr Steve Sandys; Cllr Dave Sealey: Clerk Alan Crocker and 1 member of the public.

Apologies PCSO Nicola Morris [emailed report received]

Declarations of Interest Cllr Hill joined the meeting after discussion had taken place on agenda item 20/202520 and declared an interest in agenda item 07.20.03.01 as a neighbour and 07.20.03.02 as owner.

PLANNING

This section of the meeting was chaired by Cllr Dave Sealey as Chair of the Planning Committee.

The parish comments can be viewed under the planning reference number at <https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications>

POLICE REPORT

Information provided by PCSO Morris Community Safety Unit Maidstone

Crimes of note No crime to report

Anti-Social Behaviour incidents of note

Reports of speeding – motorbikes and vehicles – speed gun trained – so will look to carryout speed checks when shift allows.

Local licenced premises visited regarding re-opening – support and advice given. PCSO

Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Minutes of the Virtual Full Council Meeting on 8th June 2020.

The meeting unanimously agreed that these minutes were an accurate recording of the said meeting.

Questions from members of the Public. Public adjournment.

To suspend meeting for any public statements for up to 15 minutes in total. Individual items should not be longer than 5 minutes. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Council meetings and raise any pertinent issues at this point.

A member of the public presented to the parish council, a couple of alternatives that he had discussed with BT/Openreach outlining the opportunities for ‘groups of residents’ to join forces in an endeavour to obtain much improved speeds of Broadband [with the voucher scheme and contributions from KCC] After debate it was suggested by DG that a working party be set up to examine further the proposals that would benefit those within the parish who wished to take advantage of these offers. The working group would consist of Alaric Turner, SB, AP, and DP and the group would feedback to the September meeting with the draft proposals.

It may be possible for this project to include under the Community Infrastructure Levy monies received from new developments in the parish.

Correspondence and Action Points

Defibrillator Update- need to establish and confirm location prior to placing order.

Rev Paul Kish has agreed to come back to the parish council within one month to confirm if the defibrillator can be housed on the outside wall of the Church. The funding is in place and we just need confirmation of the location.

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS - Zoom Meeting Lead Cllr Steve Sandys

- 25 attendees including Martin Cox leader MBC.
- Pilot HGV Scheme – No action due to Covid.
- Defer AGM to 2021 – Agreed.
- Virtual ‘Zoom’ meetings to continue – Agreed.

- Martin Cox – Leader MBC addressed the meeting for a considerable time expressing how well MBC had coped with Covid, 120 houses in High Street ward and among others Headcorn received help! Maidstone has been a model to other Councils in demonstrating help and dealing with Covid.
- MBC incurred some£6m debt due to Covid.
- Maidstone has demonstrated possibility to share offices, (with KCC), hold meetings by Zoom all of which could make MBC more efficient and make financial savings in the future.
- Martin asked, ‘what do Parishes need post Covid?’
- Parish Liaison Group – Agenda matters to Geraldine Brown.
- Call For Sites – deferred to October, sites approved or not, nothing cast in stone, any site could apply post CFS program.
- 2018 – 2020 – Population statistics DOWN, (? less housing needed).
- NOTED – many new build houses NOT selling, (50% at Hampstead Lock and Vicarage Road Yalding still unsold having been on the market 18 months, despite price reductions!).
- Although we registered our frustrations about the poor-quality broadband in the area the Chair appeared quite dismissive of these concerns.
- By attending Collier Street Parish Council was represented amongst the other Kent parishes.

Marden Minors FC. Lead Cllr David Goff

DG and SH met with MMFC to agree the siting of the football pitch. The parish council will need to consider the erection of keep nets to avoid stray footballs being kicked into the adjoining orchards. DG will endeavour to progress a grant application through Kent County Playing Field Association.

The Clerk has received the clubs risk assessment and is happy with the content.

The government has issued guidelines that the parish council is advised to follow on ‘Facility Usage’ owing to Corvid 19. Some of the guidelines are not practical given the location and layout. The Clerk has ordered the appropriate signage and will ensure that these are affixed in the Car Park Area.

Once the club is fully established in its new home they plan going forward to involve the young persons of our parish in this new initiative.

Social Media Policy to be adopted Lead The Clerk

The members unanimously agreed the adoption of the Social Media Policy. This will be available to view in the policy section of the parish website.

Speedwatch Lead Councillor Simon Hill

Co-ordinated by: Victoria Relle and Sean Randell

01.06.2020 to 13.07.2020

Now 11 Volunteers

20 sessions - 393 vehicles exceeding limit.

10 Letters Issued

- Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit 68mph
- Average speed is 39-40
- We have had a couple of abusive drivers.

VOLUNTEERS

- We are gaining numbers of volunteers, now up to eleven. If you are interested The Clerk has the email contact details. Please use the following email parish.clerk@collerstreetparishcouncil.co.uk and The Clerk will ask Victoria or Sean to contact you.
- A leaflet drop will be made around village
- Circulated via the Neighbourhood Watch database

The Parish Council were very impressed and most appreciative of the efforts made by the Group.

SH advised the meeting that the Collier Street Group were the 3rd most active group in the Country – **a great achievement by the team.**

The Parish Council will use this information to lobby via the police forum and our MP.

Working in a Virtual Word - KALC Legal and IT Consultant Zoom Session

Lead The Clerk

KALC advised that the general feeling was that the Zoom meetings improve delivery and effectiveness. New NALC guidelines have been issued on the holding of remote meetings.

On legal advice the parish council adopt S101 – delegated powers of the 1972 Local Government Act. The feeling was that by adopting both mechanisms of remote meetings and the adoption of Section 101 the Parish Council would be able to operate just as effectively as they did before the lockdown arrangements.

On general governance a reminder that the council must ensure that it has the authority, power and policies to act.

NALC continues to lobby central government on the loss of income on councils owing to the Covid 19. Those council's using zoom were assured that increased security was due within 3 to 4 weeks. KALC envisaged at 6months of virtual meetings going forward.

Traffic Surveys, Sheephurst Lane, Longend Lane – for discussion.

Resident Correspondence Lead DG

The meeting unanimously agreed to obtain further quotations for the above traffic surveys to take place in September/October.

Coronavirus Update Lead Cllr Dave Sealey

The latest Government guidelines have been uploaded onto the PC website

In general terms vulnerable persons in the parish were being assisted according to their own particular needs.

Delegation S.101. Of the 1972 LGA. Policy for adoption Lead Clerk

The meeting unanimously agreed to the adoption of Delegation Section 101 of the 1972 Local Government Act.

LORRY WATCH Email

The meeting agreed to observe how the new KCC HGV Lorry Watch pilot unfolds linked with the respective traffic surveys.

CCTV

After a further service visit there are no issues with the camera itself. It appears that some of the ports are blocked and the difficulty is that the server is owned by the school and their server/support is not giving the best of services. The system does not allow the user to retrieve stored information. The parish council discussed the possibilities of siting the camera at a different location and linked into another server. DG says the problem has gone on for long enough and we must find another solution.

Community Infrastructure Levy Lead DG

To discuss strategy and commence consultation with residents of the parish.

Under the Community Infrastructure Levy received as a result of new build developments in the area the parish is keen to seek the views of our residents as to how the monies should be spent. The PC is putting together a suggested wish list of possible projects as test cases and checking the scheme rules via the Borough Council prior to a public consultation with both hard copy surveys, using the various databases within the parish and possible use of survey monkey for online completion.

Flood Committee Report Lead Cllr David Goff

The IDB will be visiting the parish to discuss the 4 outstanding issues including the tree in the river issue.

The Chair of the IDB has now left his post and a new chair has been appointed. It is hope that with the changes to personnel the organisation will become more proactive. DG has been appointed Vice Chair to the Upper IDB.

The Chairman announced that a text received during the meeting confirms a further central government grant of 5.2bn for flood defences.

Recreation Field Report The new play equipment is due for installation next week. Initially new pieces of equipment will be installed on the vacant safety surfaces.

Signage as per government guidance is in place in view of Covid19.

There is a damaged post on the footpath entrance to the field, the members agreed for this to be repaired at a cost of £165.00.

Highways The Parish Highways Maintenance Plan is in place. Lead DG

Accounts Reconciliation & Finance Reports

Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting.

BANK RECONCILIATION – June 2020 Members approved the bank reconciliation. Owing to this being a remote meeting, The Clerk will obtain the necessary confirmatory wet signatures in due course.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – June 2020 Members approved the reconciliation statement.

RECORD OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS – June 2020 Members approved the June spends as detailed on the payment report.

BUDGET REPORT Members approved the budget report

Borough Councilor's Report No Borough Councillor present.

Village Hall Lead Cllr Simon Hill

The Village Hall plans are progressing

Matters for Discussion at the Next Meeting CIL monies

Date of Next Meetings

Details of the next Planning Committee Meeting will be advised, and the meeting link is displayed on the website together with the agenda of item for discussion

Next virtual Full Council Meeting was agreed to be scheduled for Monday 14th September 2020 commencing at 18.00hrs.

The meeting concluded at 20:53

Notes Prepared by | ALAN CROCKER | Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council

Although libraries are closed, did you know:

There are literally tens of thousands of eBooks, audio books, newspapers and magazines which can be downloaded for free, from Kent's "library app". To find the app, go to the website "Kent.gov.uk". On the home page, in the middle top row of the offers, there is the link to libraries. Here is where you can join on line, browse the e-catalogue and download the free software called "Overdrive". Just go to the eLibrary link and on that page is the link to enroll and create a pin.

You can "borrow" up to 12 books at a time. After 21 days they automatically expire and return to the library. If you don't like a book you can return it at any time. There are only so many licences for each eBook/audio book, so if all "copies" are on loan you can place a "hold" (reservation). When it's available for you to borrow you get an email. You can choose to download or delay taking the book.

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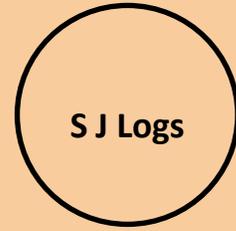


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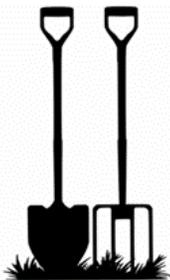
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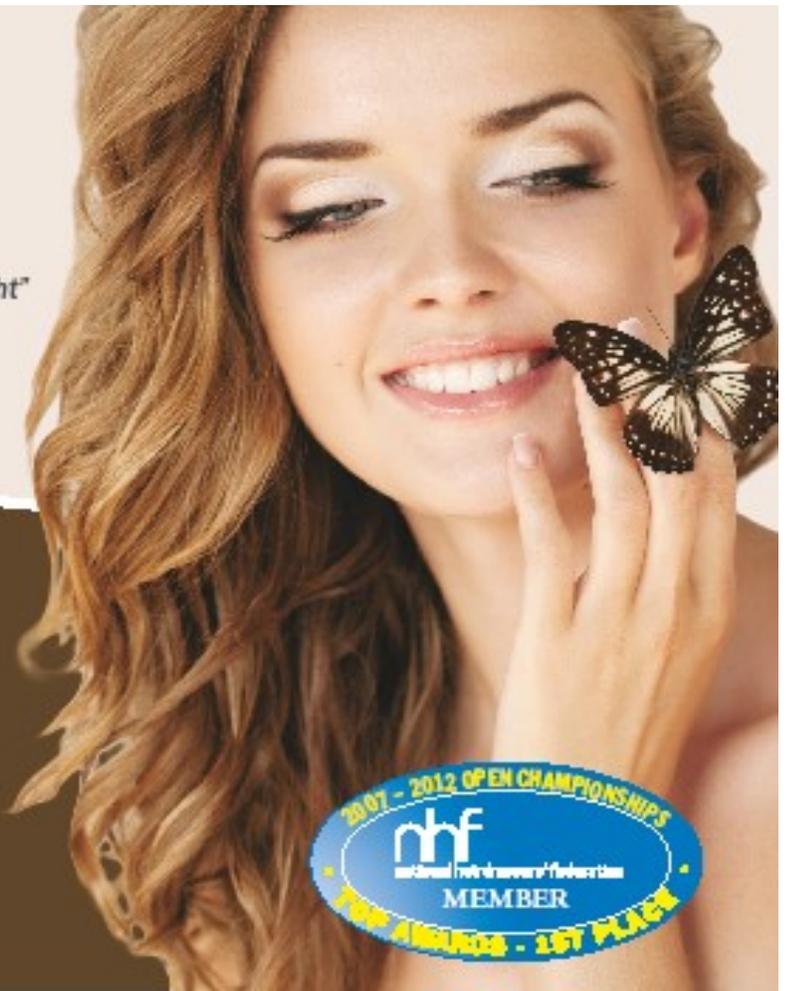
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