

Stow Longa

Parish Council

May 2020

*“Stay home.
Protect the
NHS. Save
lives”*

Introduction

Firstly, the Parish Council hopes you are well and are coping with the current ‘lockdown’.

Given the restrictions being imposed on all of us, we thought it would be helpful to let parishioners know what has been going on.

Covid-19

Support for villagers

Firstly, thank you to Tiggy and Andy Griffiths for organising a support group within the village to help those who are being asked to ‘shield’.

If you are concerned about collecting prescriptions from Kimbolton Surgery, please contact Jamie or Daniel Hayes on 860519 as they will be happy to collect them for you.

Lockdown

Because of the requirement for social distancing, we have been asked by HDC to tell everyone that the play area is closed. A notice has been placed there.

In addition, the church has been locked on the instructions of our bishop.

Parish Council

The lockdown has affected the way the Parish Council operates and the main points are as follows:

- Council meetings cannot take place in the usual way for the time being. However, we are able to hold virtual meetings via a video link and we have already held one of those. If you would like to raise a particular matter at such a meeting, the dial-in details can be obtained from the clerk - stowlongaclerk.pc@gmail.com
- The Annual Parish Meeting (currently scheduled for 20th May) will be postponed and hopefully we can hold this later in the year.
- We have now been given extended deadlines for producing the Parish Council’s accounts, having them audited and so on.

As usual, the agendas and minutes for our meetings are posted on the parish notice board and are also accessible on <http://www.stowlonga.org.uk>

The temporary rules in place dealing with the above have been posted on the parish notice board.

Traffic calming

Traffic speeding through the village has long been an issue for us and the Parish Council have been looking at ways to deter this.

Among the measures that we have been advised would help include:

- Introducing a 40-mph buffer zone at either end of the village to encourage drivers to reduce their speed before reaching the 30-mph zone.
- Installing gates at either end of the village to let drivers know that they are entering a residential area. These gates will display the 30-mph speed limit and a 'Stow Longa' sign.
- Installing a moveable digital speed system, advising drivers of their speed in comparison to the speed limit. This will be a moveable device so that it can be used at different places in the village. (Note: Tilbrook have a similar system).

We have been able to obtain some grant funding for the above from Cambs. C.C. in the sum of £14,500, in addition to which the Parish has to contribute £1,750. We have the funds for this so this particular project can be implemented.

A little more detail:

- Cambridgeshire Highways propose to install the 40 mph signs before Rookery Farm and at the bottom of the hill on the Spaldwick side.
- The new gates will be installed before Sunnyside Farm and before Stow Cottage on the Spaldwick side.
- Plans have been posted on the notice board if you would like to take a look.

Given current circumstances, the installation of the above may take some time. Once they are in place, we can assess their effectiveness before considering other measures.

Finally, thank you to the speed-watch team. The data they collated from their sessions was valuable in supporting our application for the grant funding.

Town Lands Charity

This is a charitable trust set up for the benefit of the 'needy' in the village. The charity's main asset is a small parcel of land in Spaldwick.

We have vacancies for two trustees. If you are interested in taking up one of these roles, please get in touch with the Chairman. Alternatively, please speak to Jim

Humfryes, the retiring Chairman of the Trustees, who can give you more information.

The Trustees normally only meet twice a year, so the time commitment is quite modest.

Stow Longa Book Club

The Parish Council have agreed with the Stow Longa Book Club that shelving can be installed in the former telephone kiosk. This is with a view to creating a village book exchange.

Access to this may be limited due to social distancing, but hopefully it will be up and running in the not too distant future.

Many thanks to Jane Croft for taking this forward.

New Clerk

Ramune Mimiene, our Parish Council Clerk, is leaving. However, she has put us in touch with a suitable replacement who we have interviewed and appointed. The new clerk is Jo Harvey, who lives in Buckden.

There will be a handover period during May and the new clerk will be contactable on the same email address - stowlongaclerk.pc@gmail.com

The Parish Council would like to express their great thanks to Ramune for the support she has given us.

Contacting the Parish Council

During this time of social distancing, please feel free to contact the Parish Council by email, either through the Clerk's email address above or the individual Councillors:

Chairman - Michael Hayes - stow.longa.mgh@gmail.com

Vice-chair - Adrienne Bonwick - stow.longa.amb@gmail.com

Martin Allen - stow.longa.m.a@gmail.com

Sue Humfryes - Stow.longa.sh@gmail.com

Amy Pearson - stow.longa.ap@gmail.com

In addition, our County and District Councillors can be contacted as follows:

Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Jonathan.Gray@huntingdonshiredc.org.uk