

Parish Magazine June 2020 Issue

Under the Coronavirus Act 2020, Shere Parish Council held its first official Zoom meeting at the beginning of May. Councillors and staff embraced this technology and the meeting started extremely well until.... a power cut in Peaslake! which left the Clerk (me hosting the meeting) and several councillors losing contact. However, with the nifty use of a laptop and a mobile hotspot, I returned to the meeting quickly followed by the lost councillors. All agreed the meeting went extremely well and although the council was not legally required to hold an Annual Council Meeting, by doing so, all our procedural items were completed and other items could be considered.

Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor K Taylor reported at the meeting that the majority of their activities were dominated by the response to the coronavirus; in particular, tracing the vulnerable, ensuring they had sufficient support and stepping in where necessary. He also said that some recycling centres were re-opening but only accepting a smaller range of items - see their website for details: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/community-recycling-centres>. Councillor Taylor also confirmed that some highways maintenance was continuing with social distancing.

Coronavirus Covid-19 – newly re-elected Chairman R Davey thanked on behalf of the council, Suzanne Hoyland, Samantha Robins and Melody Barnett for their response to the crisis and all the volunteers who have stepped forward as co-ordinators, street co-ordinators and neighbours helping neighbours. The community has responded and come together.

Councillor R Davey also reported that the Village Larder and Henry Smith Fund were fundraising to purchase PPE for informal volunteer carers and the council agreed a donation of £400 for this cause.

Councillor C Carlisle raised the concern over the Prudential RideLondon Race taking place in August this year. This concern was echoed by other councillors and it was agreed to write to Surrey County Council to request that it is cancelled.

A discussion took place regarding the easing of restrictions and businesses re-opening around the parish. The council was sympathetic to the difficulties local businesses have had to deal with and are continuing to deal with. When the easing of restrictions allows them to re-open, the council has stressed that they must abide by the current and future rules and adds that Shere Parish Council owned or lease land (Oak tree in the Square, along the stream, the Pound, and Old Fire Station Garden) must not be used for queuing, to allow free movement of people and to aid social distancing. The council encourages the use of virtual queuing systems if possible and the policing of their own physical queue.

Please keep social distancing - stay alert, control the virus and save lives

Other News

Shere Surgery and SALV have been raising money for a new prescription dispensing machine – Shere Parish Council has agreed a donation of £2,000 towards the purchase and groundworks. This will allow people to collect some prescriptions without going into the surgery.

Shere Swimming Pool Club – requested help with additional funds for phase 2 of the renovation works (changing rooms and disabled access); the council has agreed to an interest free loan over a period of years, to support the club and enable them to carry out the works in October.

Finally, stay safe and look out for your neighbours.

Next Council meeting – 7pm on Tuesday 9th June 2020 held remotely using Zoom (unless restrictions are lifted) – please email clerk@shereparishcouncil.gov.uk if you would like to join to observe or speak about an item on the agenda.