

**ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**REVIEW OF BUSINESS**  
held by email and published on  
**TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

All Councillors received the Agenda/Discussion document and this is the position of Enford Parish Council as at 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**1. Police Matters & Neighbourhood Watch**

The latest Police Report has been sent through. There are no incidents reported for Enford. If anyone wishes to see a copy of this, please contact the Clerk.

**2 MOD/Army Matters**

A report of incidents was requested but not received

**3 Unitary Council Matters**

Covid 19 Matters

The 'R' factor in the South West. This appears high but it is influenced by Bristol and Weston Super Mare and is extra sensitive to changes as the overall infection rate is substantially lower than other areas i.e. small local increase can have disproportionate effect on 'R'.

Our Communities - Well done to all our communities for stepping up and looking after those in need among us. Each community has approached it differently. In our villages the majority of needs are covered by family, neighbours and friends in a complex mix of informal arrangements. Alongside that some voluntary groups have plugged any gaps. Our Community Engagement Manager (Richard Rogers) has been helping to develop a GIS based index of all the community support available across the Authority and assures me that all of our ward is covered and continues to update it. You can find everything you may want to know about what is happening and what help may be available in our Authority at <http://wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus>.

Workforce – The Council has hugely reconfigured its workforce to focus on the additional tasks while working from home. Our systems now support nearly 5,000 people working remotely. Plans are in hand for some staff to return to work in hubs, but this will be a significantly reduced proportion (<50%).

Support to Businesses - The Council has redeployed staff to develop and operate systems to enact the various measures that Government and the Council have made available. We have distributed £80+M worth of grants to 6.5K businesses. We are now in the process of calling for bids for £5M of discretionary grants aimed at those businesses who have not qualified so far on previous schemes. Criteria and bidding instructions have been issued. This will not be such a simple hand out and will require evidence of impact.

Finances - We are in a perfect storm of increasing requirements and costs and reducing income and savings caused by the Covid crisis. Dependent on how long the shutdown lasts, how quickly the economy and services return and taking into account the additional funding so far from Government, our predicted gap is between £18M and £50M this year. Don't assume a steady return to the previous status quo of what the Council did and how it did it. In the short and medium term we simply cannot all go back to our offices, and shall be continuing to operate in a more remote distributed way. We have to understand what the financial deal between central and local government is and cut our cloth accordingly. Council is restructuring itself to focus on the workstreams associated with recovery: community resilience, health and well-being, economic sustainability, care safeguarding and education & partner organisations' internal recovery plans. Within this is a proposal to change soon to a single Chief Executive to provide greater focus.

Decision making. From the declaration of the major incident officers have operated under Wilts & Swindon LRF at required tempo and made decisions accordingly. CEOs have submitted a Covid 19 Update and financial position report including of all decisions to Cabinet and this will be submitted to full Council next

week along with a revised Capital programme. In the recovery phase (starting now) Wilts Council takes the lead separate from Swindon.

Current issues:

HRCs – open from Monday 18 May. Initially physical queues with daily allocations split into 2 halves by post codes, now using a web-based booking system. Non-IT users can book through customer services. Increasing range of items accepted but need to check what and how i.e. limitations on users.

Meetings – We are now reasonably well versed with how to run our democratic system remotely moving rapidly to Microsoft Teams. The Council has published guidance. Have now held: Cabinet, Strategic Planning, Overview and Scrutiny Management, tomorrow 2<sup>nd</sup> Cabinet, next week full Council. Area Planning committees as and when required. Scrutiny has been redesigned and conducted through one principal committee, but now see Environment Select scheduled for Tues 16 June.

Schools – Decisions are with School leadership and parents. Council doing all it can to assist. e.g. access distancing and risk assessment.

Safer places – CATG staff focussed on plans and implementation to make high footfall locations and cycle routes safer, in terms of distancing and separation.

Also focussing on:

Overview and assurance of PPE etc

Care Home resilience, provide finance support, risk assess financial sustainability & assist with staffing and PPE

Local Outbreak Control Plan in support of national test, trace and contain service

Prep for future waves.

**4. Minutes of the last Meeting.**

As we have been having 'Reviews' of business as opposed to actual meetings, everyone has already read/contributed/agreed with the written ongoing business at present. There are therefore no Minutes as such to be verified.

**5. Matters Arising -**

i. Annual Accounts Audit (internal)

The Parish Council would like to note their thanks to Alan Day for internally auditing the Parish Council accounts and administrative systems.

ii. 'Plant for your Life'

Cllr Roberts has been in correspondence with Dave Townsend regarding the replanting of hedgerows on public footpaths in Enford. 'Plant for your Life' is a voluntary group working in association with the Woodland Trust. To date they have received favourable responses from Landmarc Head Office however there are more hurdles to get over and on-site discussions before they could actually start planting anything – not least, the lifting of Lockdown Restrictions. This work is still some months away and any further information will be passed on to all Cllrs.

iii. Annual Donations

The level of annual Donations was agreed at the Precept meeting in early December 2019. All donations (including Section 137s) have now been sent and to date grateful thanks have been received from the Enford Football Club, the Enford Newsletter, the Enford Village Hall, Enford Parish Hall, Enford Playpark fund, the Netheravon Day Centre and the Parochial Church Council.

iv. Parish Council Website

The Clerk is continuing to work on this project and will let you all know as soon as the site is available.

v. Support Network update.

As per the notice in last month's Newsletter, approximately 50 members of the community from E & W Chisenbury right through the valley to Coombe and Fifield have contacted the Clerk to be on the network of those willing to help anyone with problems in isolation. There have been only 5 calls to date but on each

occasion the Network has assisted it has been with an 'almost' neighbour. We are delighted that we have not had huge amounts of calls which implies that everyone in the Parish is safe – long may this continue.

vi. A Village Map

A village map is being used in Milton Lilbourne to assist delivery drivers with finding properties. It was suggested that this might be useful for Enford as well though the Parish geography would make this tricky and it was decided against.

vii. New battery for the Speed Indicator Device (SID)

As part of the Community Speedwatch team Mort Burdick has very kindly taken over the running/maintenance of the SID. It was initially thought that a new battery would sort it however the device had to be returned to the supplier for 'extra' work. This has been dealt with promptly and the SID is now back and functioning at 100%. The Council would like to thank Mort for overseeing this process.

viii. Sale of Face Masks

The group making and selling face masks (availability in the central bus stop in Enford and also in Netheravon) have reported a huge success with their project and have so far raised over £1,000.00 They would like to buy two Community Unity benches (1 each for Enford and Netheravon) as a reminder of how we all coped during the pandemic, with remaining funds going to local charities. Whilst discussion and final agreement on this continues, the Parish Council would like to congratulate all members of the sewing group on their huge success and thank them for their community-minded spirit and ultimately, the additional Unity Bench.

6. **Finance**

Bank reconciliations for April and May 2020. In April we received the first tranche of our Precept in the sum of £8,153.50 which, when added to the balance brought forward from March of £8,456.04, less a spend of £450.58, gave a closing balance of £16,158.96. The total spend in May was £819.00, giving a closing balance of £15,339.96

7. **Planning** No applications outstanding

8. **Playpark**

The Playpark has been closed until further notice in line with Government guidelines. The bank balance stands at £3,791.52 however this does not reflect the donation to the Playpark fund of £750.00.

9. **The Parish Hall** Cllr Cliffe-Roberts had no news to report.

10. **Roads/Highways** Cllr Coulthard had no news to report.

11. **Rights of Way (PRoWs)** Cllr Hiskett had no news to report.

12. **Any Other Business**

Please list any item that you feel should be raised for discussion by the Parish Council:

12a. **Date of next (scheduled) meeting** - if possible, though unlikely:  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 in the Village Hall

Prepared by Elizabeth Harrison, Clerk to the Council

Signed as a true record by Cllr Richard Roberts – Chairman, Enford Parish Council.....

Dated:.....