

→ SOMERLEYTON

Parish council: A meeting of the Ashby, Somerleyton and Herringfleet Parish Council was held on January 14 via Zoom. The following points were discussed.

County councillor Reeder noted that due to the rise in Covid-19 cases in the county the James Paget University Hospital was operating under extreme pressure. A newly built extension to its accident and emergency department has helped. He pointed out that many parishes in Suffolk have concerns

regarding traffic speed. Many have automatic number plate recognition boards by which speeding vehicles can be identified and information passed by Suffolk County Council to the police. There is a fund available for the siting of these boards. He encouraged the identification of local lanes which could be designated and signposted as quiet lanes, thereby encouraging vehicles to be considerate to walkers and cyclists. There will be an overall increase of 5pc in the county council budget for 2021-2022. This includes an increase of 3pc in the social care budget.

East Suffolk councillor Ashdown said that some locality funding was still available for local initiatives and that there had been only two applications to date. The deadline was February 4. He also reported that East Suffolk Council will not be increasing its budget this year.

It was reported that as prior notice was not given before The Street was last cleaned, car owners could not be asked to move, councillor Ashdown will raise this with the street cleaning service manager.

The Widows Row cottages now have attractive wooden signs on their gates. It was thought that detailed maps of the villages would be useful for defibrillator responders and for reference in the proposed information point. The advice and information working group will take this forward.

A speed detection device has been fixed by the police at the pond. The information from this could be used at the next meeting to decide further action.

A parishioner had requested the parish

council to ask Network Rail to repair the extensive damage to Angles Way around the area north of the pond. The estate has already contacted Network Rail to ensure that this damage is repaired.

The green and environment group suggested the following ideas; a fun competition to educate children and adults about what is recyclable in the blue bins. A tree nursery in the allotments, possibly involving school children. A bed of long grass and wildflowers encircling The Green. The central area could be maintained and the view of the village would not be obscured. A follow up to the footpath survey, started three years ago, carried out as a group activity once social distancing allows. This could feed into the Suffolk County Council's footpath register and could update the hedgerow survey conducted 1998-2002. All these ideas would require liaison between parish council, highways, the estate and other interested parties and could only be taken forward once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The pre-submission consultation with the community and stakeholders regarding the neighbourhood plan is being held until Friday, February 26. Documents can be accessed by visiting www.lound.one.suffolk.neighbourhood-plan. Paper copies are available from Miles Thomas 01502 730613 or Somerleyton Cycles, Jernigan, The Street, Somerleyton 01502 732004. The steering group welcome comments from residents by email at somerleytonlound@gmail.com or by contacting Miles Thomas or Jenni Livingstone 01502 730610. There will be a further opportunity to ask questions and discuss the plan with steering group members via Zoom on Wednesday, February 17 at 7pm. Residents can sign up for the Zoom session at the Lound Parish Council website above.

Villagers responded well to the request to display a lighted Christmas decoration in their front window or garden. A band has been booked in the hope that it will be possible to hold a barn dance later in the year. As the social fund has a healthy balance, parish councillors have been asked to suggest possible projects that may improve life in the parishes. The Christmas lights, used on the Green, are in poor condition and spares are not available. The purchase of a new set of led lights, costing up to £500, was agreed in principle, pending consideration at a meeting later in the year. Councillor Ashdown said that funding, or part funding, might be available from the locality budget.

The Jack Burdett memorial seat on the Green is in poor condition. The rotten timber planks are to be replaced with recycled plastic, costing £500 to £600. A budget of up to £200, previously agreed to convert the telephone box to an information point, was confirmed. The estate has given temporary permission to install it in its current position. It would be possible to relocate the box to an alternative position, if necessary, later.

The result of an application, made for a grant from East Suffolk council towards the purchase of a table tennis table, will be learnt in early February. The table will need to be set on secure foundations. It was agreed to discuss this project again in March, when the final costs are known. The next meeting will be held at 7.15pm on Thursday, March 4, via Zoom.

Lowestoft Journal

Friday 12th February 2021