

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Issue One, Autumn 2020

**An update from Vigo Parish Council**

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Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have suspended the Vigo Journal over the Spring and Summer. We are reviewing this decision before every journal deadline, and at the moment the next edition is likely to be November / December, but this is yet to be confirmed. As such, Council Members thought it would be useful to send out a general update newsletter, especially for those who aren't able to view our regular updates on Social Media.

## DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL?

Due to the resignation of one of our Members, we have a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested or would just like to find out what the role involves, please contact the Clerk by 12<sup>th</sup> October. Discussions regarding filling the vacancy will take place at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

As a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic, new Government regulations came into force on 4<sup>th</sup> April. These regulations allow Parish Councils to meet remotely, and to remove the requirement to hold an Annual Meeting in 2020. Monthly Parish Council Meetings are now being held remotely via the internet; Members of the Public are still welcome to attend – please contact the Clerk for details (you will need to have access to Zoom).

## MEETING DATES FOR 2020 / 2021

Details of the venue and time will be advised on the agenda, which will be published in advance of the meeting. Or phone the Clerk for details:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Our Annual Parish Meeting (AGM) will be on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.



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Contact us: [clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk) or by phone 01732 823337

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## **RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS IN VIGO**

Covenants were imposed on all homeowners in Vigo by the Developers. This was to ensure that all properties and their surroundings would be maintained to a high standard and look welcoming and attractive to the residents and to people thinking of moving into the Village. Vigo Parish Council has the responsibility for maintaining and enforcing the covenants in the village.

**How do you feel about the covenants?  
Do you think they are important and should be enforced?  
Complete our survey and let us know.**

Surveys can be completed online, or by paper copy. Paper copies can be put through the village hall letterbox or returned via the attached pre-paid envelope. Please complete (and return) by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank you for your time.

## **June 2019 Floods – Update**

Following the floods in Vigo last year, Kent County Council have published the Flood Investigation Report, which can be seen online via the following link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/flooding-and-drainage-policies/section-19-flood-investigations>

Vigo Parish Council first received a draft of the report in April and have spent some considerable time since then making comments on the draft and asking for more extensive information to be included within the report. VPC are pleased to see that this has resulted in a fuller, more detailed report which clearly gives information on drainage repairs and cleansing work that has been carried out since last year.

**Kent Highways have started an extensive program of drainage work in Vigo. Details of this are noted in the Flood Report and can also be found on our Facebook site and our website.**

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*If you would like a copy of the KCC Flood Report, and are unable to view it online, please contact the Clerk who will supply a paper copy.*

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**Residents are encouraged to report blocked drains to either KCC direct or to the VPC Clerk.**

## **Home Insurance following flooding**

We understand that some people have had issues with getting fair and reasonable home insurance quotes since the flood. We have been advised that residents may be able to seek advice and assistance from the following bodies:

- National Flood Forum (a charity to help, support and represent people at risk of flooding).  
<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/> or phone 01299 403 055
- **Flood RE** (a joint initiative between the Government and Insurers. Its aim is to make the flood cover part of household insurance more affordable).  
<https://www.floodre.co.uk/>

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## *SUPER NEIGHBOURS ~ Community Spirit at its Best!*

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One of the last things the Parish Council organised before lockdown was to set up an initiative to ensure that all those who needed help in Vigo received it during the crisis. We were inundated with kind offers of help, with a total of 57 people registering for our scheme. Only 28 families contacted us to state they may need help, so unfortunately many of our volunteers were never contacted.

We have mainly helped with the delivery of prescription medication, and also made a few phone calls to reassure people who were shielding and felt isolated.

**We want to send out a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has helped**

**It has been heart-warming to see the village come together.**

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## *Keep Calm and Carry On!*

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### **VE Day -75 years.**

Our planned party on the green to celebrate VE (75) day had to be cancelled. We are really hoping to organise this for next year – please keep your eye out for details.

Our residents all pulled together however by having street parties and celebrating in their own front gardens adhering to the social distancing guidelines. How lovely it was to see the photos of Vigo decked in red, white & blue.

[www.veday75.org](http://www.veday75.org)

(Photograph courtesy of Rebecca Perry).



### **UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT OF FOWLERS STONE WOOD, HARVEL ROAD**

We are sure that everyone in Vigo, and the surrounding areas, are aware of the unauthorised development of Fowlers Stone Wood in Harvel Road. Soon after the land was sold, machinery moved in and a significant number of protected trees were felled. A large area of land was quickly cleared, and as a result of this a “stop notice” and then a temporary High Court Injunction was served on the owner.

The Parish Council continue to liaise closely with Gravesham Borough Council’s Planning Enforcement Department, who have worked tirelessly on this case.

A date has been set for a further one-day hearing at the High Court, and a statement will be issued shortly after the hearing.

If you have been disrupted by noise or smoke from the site, please contact Environmental Health by email on [ep@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:ep@gravesham.gov.uk) or by phone 01474 337000.

If you have evidence or information you wish to pass to the enforcement officer, please email [planning.admin@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:planning.admin@gravesham.gov.uk) or phone 01474 337000.

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*Following Government guidelines, the Parish Office is closed and our Clerk is working from home. Calls to the office are being diverted and will be answered during office hours on Mondays and Tuesdays.*

*Phone: 01732 823337*

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## **WATERLOW ROAD PARKING – TROSLEY COUNTRY PARK**



In the latter part of April this year, Government restrictions were lifted, meaning people were not restricted to exercising in their local vicinity. People were permitted to drive to an area outside of where they lived, as long as their drive was shorter than their hour's exercise. This resulted in a massive increase in parking on Waterlow Road when people visited the Country Park, especially as the car park was closed.

When the car parks were opened (in May) the situation eased slightly, but there were still great numbers of cars on Waterlow Road, causing issues for local residents. It is worth noting that the car parks in the Country Park were still often full.

Vigo Parish Council recently met with Cllr Bryan Sweetland (KCC Member), Cllr Ejaz Aslam & Cllr Denise Tiran (GBC Members) and Officers from Kent County Council and Trosley Country Park, to discuss these issues. A solution was agreed, and as a result bollards are likely to be installed on the Parish owned side of Waterlow Road, from the junction of The Coach Drive, down to the just before the "S" bend. We are also hopeful that Trosley Country Park will also ensure that when events are held in the park, marshals will be appointed to ensure that if parking overflows to outside of the country park, that this is done in a sensible and safe manner.



## **FLY TIPPING AND WASTE REMOVAL**

We would kindly remind residents that it is their responsibility to ensure that any waste disposal company (or individual) you engage to remove waste from your property must have the relevant waste carrier licenses.

You are perfectly entitled to request a copy of this, to ensure that the company you engage are a reputable firm, and as such they should be happy to provide the information to you.

If you would like further information on this, please contact the Parish Clerk [clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk)

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*Did you know there is a Government website you can use to see if a vehicle / company are registered to carry waste? Always ask to see a waste carriers license, but this could also be of use if you are looking to arrange rubbish removal.*

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

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## POP UP CAFÉ

We just wanted to let our regular café visitors know that unfortunately, due to Covid-19 and social distancing measures, there will be no more visits until at least the Spring next year. The Project workers keep in regular touch with us and we will publish dates for next years visits as soon as we have them.



The Pop Up Café have tried to reach out to those who do regularly visit, and if you are a regular visitor, you should have received a small delivery or two ! If you haven't and you do usually come to the café, please contact the Clerk. Thank you.

## CALLING ALL LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS! Do you need extra funding?



Vigo Parish Council put money aside every year, to allow for grants to be made to local organisations (up to £250 per grant application).

We appreciate that many clubs are not running at the moment due to lockdown restrictions, but please remember the funding for later in the year should you need anything.

We cannot fund running costs, but we could help you with the purchase of equipment, day trips, and a whole host of other things! Email the Clerk for details.

## ERSKINE ROAD BUS SHELTER

We are pleased to report that we have been successful in obtaining some grant funding that will pay for 50% of the cost of replacing all the panels in the Erskine Road bus shelter. This will tidy up the area significantly. We are hopeful that this work will be carried out over the winter period.

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*Potholes? Uneven pavements? Block drains? Streetlights not working?*

*Report all of these issues to Kent Highways online at  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>*

*If you can't report online, or want further advice, please contact our  
Clerk who will be able to help.*

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## PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS

You may have noticed that there are two new defibrillators in Vigo to complement the others which we already had. These have all been jointly provided by the Parish Council and the ambulance service.

A card detailing the locations is enclosed with this newsletter. Please keep this information safe. Copies of the card are available from the Parish Council.

The defibrillators have been put in locations that ensure everyone should be able to retrieve a defibrillator in less than 5 minutes. Much faster than a typical ambulance response.

We have provided the devices as the ambulance response to the village cannot be expected in less than 10 minutes. For every minute a person is in cardiac arrest without resuscitation, their chance of survival goes down by 10%. Where CPR and defibrillation is provided, the survival rate can be as high as 70%.

The code is available when you call 999 for an ambulance. The residents who have very kindly allowed placement of the devices on their property also know the code. Codes are also noted on the location card that we have enclosed with this newsletter. If you see someone tampering with a cabinet, please challenge them.

Free of charge training sessions will be held in the village hall in due course. Cllr Dave Hawkins will be running these, they will be informal and practical and will last around two hours. These courses will be advertised in due course (but we are afraid they will be delayed due to Covid restrictions for some time).

You do not need training to use the defibrillators, simply open the case and follow the instructions. You cannot harm someone with these devices, and they will not shock someone who doesn't need to be shocked! Please be advised that CPR is more important than the defibrillator, but if there is more than one person present at a cardiac arrest, a second person should collect a defibrillator.

### **What to do if someone suffers a collapse/cardiac arrest... In all cases dial 999**

The ambulance service may ask if you can collect the defibrillator. They should advise on the nearest device. They will also coach you through delivering CPR. They may ask someone who has agreed to help to bring the defibrillator to you. They will provide the code.

An ambulance will be sent as soon as possible, however, in cardiac arrest, the initial actions are the actions which determine survival. Recognition, CPR and Defibrillation can all be provided without an ambulance being on scene and are lifesaving.

It is also worth considering retrieving the device if someone is experiencing chest pain and appears unwell with it (Vomiting, Shortness of Breath, Sweating, Grey or Pale)

You can help your family's chances of survival by having a plan to retrieve the defibrillator, knowing your closest one, and knowing CPR.

Please reach out to the Parish Council with any questions or comments, but we hope you will agree that these devices are a great addition to the community, any may help save a life.

Vigo Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Dave Hawkins for leading this project for our village.



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***DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE YOUR COVENANT SURVEY***

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