

Clerk's Report – Warham Parish Council – 18 March 2021

Hopefully, this meeting will be the last by email. When the first lockdown came, almost a year ago, various pieces of legislation were rushed through. One of these was to allow Local Councils to meet “remotely”. This, however, expires on 1 May and at present there does not seem to be any suggestion of extending it. Currently, the figures (of vaccinations, infections, and deaths) seem to be improving every day – so it should be possible to meet properly, and safely. North Norfolk's figures which were over 400 infections per 100,000 at the beginning of the year were down to 10 at the time of writing. The population of North Norfolk is about 104k, so the figures are similar to the actual number of cases. Assuming that the Reading Room is available to us, we should be back there on 20 May.

I gave some preliminary thought to the new playground and have decided that it is too early to start making plans. We will need to know the exact dimensions of the area, and such questions as will it be surfaced, and with what, and will it be fenced. The answers to these questions should be available once building work starts.

I have spoken to David Fennell, wondering if he will continue to work with us, or whether someone from Flagship would now be more appropriate. He has given me the name of Mark Burghall the Development Manager at Flagship, and also the person who will be the project manager. The latter will probably be useful to communicate with during the construction period, particularly if there are any problems with neighbours. After the houses are completed, although they will belong to Flagship, it will be Homes for Wells who allocate the tenancies. David has therefore suggested that we keep in touch at that time with Jane Berwick. Jane is manager of HfW and will be responsible for the allocations. Jane is well-known to some of us. Until recently she carried out a similar function for houses on the Holkham Estate, and she is still a Parish Councillor at Holkham. I have invited Mark and Jane to the meeting. David is also invited, but will be in an area with difficult broadband, so may not be able to connect with us.

With regard to appeals from local organisations, I have only received one this year – from the Norwich CAB. There are of course, plenty of local worthy causes, and you may feel it appropriate to delay this discussion until May, when we will hopefully be working face to face.