



Covid-19





The Pandemic Effect on how the Parish Council does Business

- Under the legal framework before the Coronavirus Bill, Councillors could only attend face to face meetings in order to be eligible to vote. The Coronavirus Bill allowed us to meet virtually.
- We held our first Zoom meeting just after the Coronavirus Bill received Royal Assent to accept and activate our High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy.
- The requirement to hold an annual meeting in May was disapplied and we that the existing chairman and vice chairman would remain in office until May 2021.
- We agreed to review the need for a meeting on a monthly basis and decided to use Zoom if held one.
- From June 2020 we went back to meeting monthly just via Zoom.
- That continued until May 2021. The Coronavirus Bill ended on 7th May and we could no longer meet virtually. We met in June in Collinson Park and went back to face to face in August.

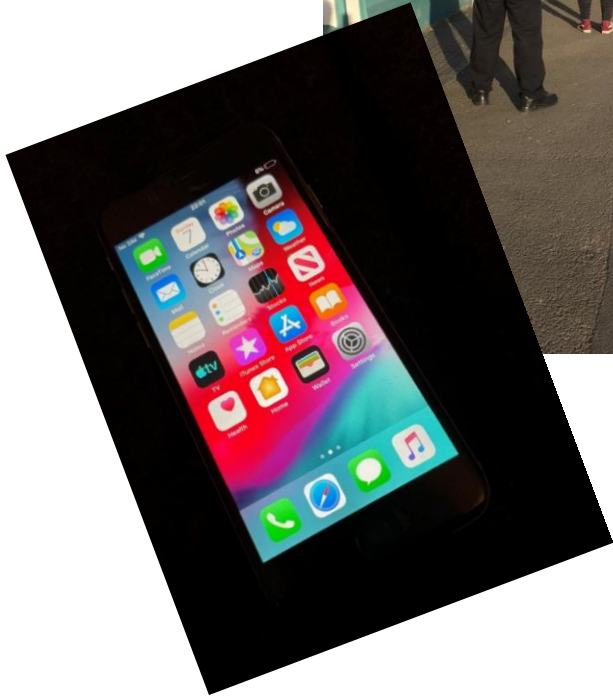


Initial Impacts

- We had to close the Fish Pond until 13th May and technically Collinson Park was closed although that was more difficult to enforce despite police support.
- We postponed Barton Live to October 4th (in line with the London Marathon as they were on the same day in April) and eventually altogether.
- The Flood Review Open Meeting was cancelled although we kept supporting all those impacted.



Barton Volunteer Network



- Lots of people wanted to help mitigate the effects of Lockdown on one another
- Once we started to understand what lockdown would mean we pulled together the Barton Volunteer Network or BVN to give an umbrella to the 150+ volunteers who stepped forward to support their neighbours, an absolutely stunning community effort.
- The first calls were taken on March 22nd and Councillors Sharkey and Jones x 2 manned the phone for 4 months meaning help was only ever a phone call away.
- BVN were initially taking 20 to 30 calls per day, running 2 prescription collections of 10 to 15 prescriptions at a time. Also food shopping, calls like "I have no milk or bread- is there any chance someone can fetch some because I can't get out and I've run out of food". Morrisons stepped up to deliver medication to the village and as lock down went on got a phone line so people could phone up, order food talking to a real person, then deliver.
- We were delighted when the Barton Neighbourhood Volunteers decided to form a charity and carry on the good works (and more) started by BVN. BNV is still taking calls about meds, but only about 6 or 7 a week. Transport is provided for hospital appointments. The call and chat line is still really busy and there's a core of people who need ongoing help and support. JTHS are making gift bags for some of the people through the year as was done last year. They are now actively involved with the Places of Welcome.



The Musing was Born

Our Needwood Newsound, started sharing his musings on a weekly basis as he himself was in social isolation. We hope it put a smile on your face and perhaps provided some comfort in difficult times – he delivered over 100 and is still writing at nearly 85.





Supporting the NHS and Key Workers



Signs of thanks to the NHS and Key Workers were put up





Memory Chest



So we remember
the impact of
the Pandemic on
the Village
people
contributed to a
Memory Chest





Remembrance – VJ Day





Remembrance – November



- An act of remembrance and the dedication of the world war 2 names plaque took place on Remembrance Sunday.
- We were also able to do a small ceremony at 11am on the 11th.
- Special thanks must go to Councillor Alison Jones who ensured we had an event despite the rules on what we could and couldn't do changing as we went into tier 2 and then national lockdown, indeed we didn't know anything could be done on the 11th until the evening of the 9th !
- Wreathes were laid by councillors.
- We also had to thank the Rev. Richard Tebbs who came and dedicated the plaque for us, he wasn't sure he should, but our pleas of this is our third attempt in this special year wore him down. The beautiful poppy display was done by Cllr Lindy Young.