

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT – MAY 2021

The main news this month is that Parish Councils no longer have the right to meet “remotely”, (with effect from 8 May). There have been moves to try to extend the remote period, but the government has refused to listen. Meetings must be held with social distancing, and other precautions in place, but can no longer be by Zoom or other remote methods. One of the precautions is that we should try to minimize the amount of paper that passes between people at meetings. It would therefore help if you could print and bring any items that you think you may need during the meeting.

Following the elections held on 6 May, and the retirement of Marie Strong, we now have a new County Councillor. At the time of writing, I only have his name and political party, the NCC website still shows Marie's name and details. If this changes over the next week I will attempt to invite him to the meeting. It should be noted however, that County (and District) Councillors do not have an obligation to attend Parish Council Meetings, and not all do. The new County Councillor for the Wells Division of NCC is Conservative Michael Dolby. I am tempted to say that we shouldn't have any trouble hearing him – but that would just be silly.

You will be aware of emails that I have passed to you talking about various consultations on the extensions proposed to the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon wind farms. I believe that the greatest impact of the proposed changes will be in the new cable routes that will be required to bring the electricity from the windfarms to the grid near Norwich. Since the routes are not near our area, I do not believe that the Parish Council need concern itself. Individuals may obviously think differently, and that is why I have continued to pass messages to you.

Keith Leesmith
May 2021