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Greetings clerks and councillors. Hope everyone is fine. Our round up of Norfolk's local council news and information for this week is as follows:

NATIONAL ALC UPDATE

Financial impact survey

National ALC is negotiating a slice of the £1.6bn extra council funding but needs your help to gather evidence on the financial impact of the coronavirus on local councils. This is to support NALC's representations to the government for a financial support package for us. A short survey includes questions on precept, staffing and income here: [completing the survey](#). Please help by taking a few minutes to complete the survey this week, particularly if you've got examples to provide.

Update on pay negotiations

The employer side has now [offered improved pay increase of 2.75 per cent from 1 April 2020](#), plus an additional one day's leave which would increase the minimum from 21 to 22 days per year (plus public holidays). The unions have responded, and the employers are reviewing the union's response. The circular setting out the employer offer can be found [here](#).

Update on discount for Zoom subscription

National ALC is still liaising with the Crown Commercial Service and Zoom regarding the £7.99 discounted package previously communicated. NALC have now been advised that this is for a minimum of 10 licences. They are exploring this further and will provide an update as soon as possible. In the meantime, Zoom has reduced their annual Pro Package to the equivalent of £9.99 a month if paid annually (£119.90, saving £24). Councils can still use the free service from Zoom allowing 40 mins meetings — [set up an account](#). If you do choose to use Zoom, which is one of a number of good packages available, there is a range of free [information and training](#) to help use the platform to help get you started, in addition to what Gabbie has prepared locally.

ICCM Update on Cemeteries Closure Guidance

Alongside the ministerial plea over the weekend for people not to be excluded from funerals of their loved ones, there is now refreshed guidance from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) covering the closure of crematoriums

In summary, whilst an increasing number of cemeteries are being closed to the public, except for funerals/ burials, there are also cemeteries where burial authorities have decided to keep them open because they are satisfied social distancing can be enforced. It would seem that local councils are being asked to balance the risk associated with CV-19 and possibly allowing public access to mainly unsupervised cemeteries, given the understandable desire of many families and friends to continue being allowed to visit the graves of loved ones. This suggests the decision to close or to remain open be taken by councils with advice from clerks, whilst also factoring in staff safety. Whichever decision is reached is likely to be supported by some and criticised by others in our communities! Thanks in the meantime to Alan Fairchild for his continued advice/ sharing of the ICCM's news, whilst we await any further guidance nationally.

Public Works Loans Board – Webinar

You may like to know about a webinar on the Public Works Loans Board and its loans which the Plunkett Foundation is organising between 2pm and 3pm on 29 April at the following link – <https://event.webinarjam.com/channel/PlunkettPWL> .

Cyber Security and Latest Scams

BHIB Councils Insurance has produced some [cybersecurity tips](#) to help keep local councils and their staff to stay secure and keep their online data safe. Similarly, our good friend Ross Bullard, of Came & Co, has pointed out similar advice issued by the National Cyber Security Centre: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/10-steps-to-cyber-security?curPage=/collection/10-steps-to-cyber-security/the-10-steps/home-and-mobile-working>

Also, on the theme of nasty things to watch out for, Norfolk CC have provided examples of recent scams here: [trading-standards - scams and consumer-alerts](#)

Covid Support Being Provided By Councils In Norfolk

We continue to hear about a lot of great work across Norfolk– so, again, well done to all those town and parish councils active in supporting charities and groups in delivering food and essential supplies, in also providing advice and support about physical and mental health, as well sometimes advice about employment and welfare benefits. There are too many of you to mention here individually, but there now many examples from across the country listed here: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/news-stories/3221-coronavirus-case-studies/file>. As mentioned before, we are looking to be compile a record of our local case studies as soon as we get time, so please continue to send us your brief updates/ examples!

Norfolk Community Foundation Grants

Nearly two hundred Covid response grants have been made, with well over half of the successful applications coming from town and parish councils. Donations to the fund have exceeded £0.8m. If not done so already, click here to get [funding details and application forms](#) . You can also give a donation to support [Norfolk's Covid-19 Community Response Fund](#).

Gabbie recently posted some more thoughts on holding meetings now that Town and Parish Councils can conduct remote meetings and these can be found in her blog [here](#). You might like to now see an example of a council meeting using Zoom, for the fictitious Great Pipping Parish Council recorded by our colleagues in Northants ALC: <https://youtu.be/AN56Xe2Nt8I> and may also be interested in [guidance on hosting public meetings](#) which covers how to keep uninvited guests out of meetings!

We are also aware a good number of councils are finding holding remote meetings a challenge – capacity and connectivity issues are a factor for many councils across Norfolk, particularly in rural areas. Gabbie’s blog [here](#) also provides some thoughts on approaches for such councils.

If not already done so, you are still invited to also complete our survey of Norfolk’s town and parish councils approaches to meetings here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NZKRSYQ> .

Locally Adapted Standing Orders

If not already received, and you still want to have a locally adapted example of NALCs template standing orders for virtual meetings, let us know.

KEEPING IN TOUCH – ZOOM MEETINGS THIS WEEK

We will again be holding Zoom conference calls next week, including.

Wednesday 22 April – Clerk Conference calls

South Norfolk, Broadland and GYBC councils at 2pm.

North Norfolk, Breckland and KLWN councils at 3.30pm.

Wednesday 22 April – Chairman Conference call at 5pm.

Please email Russell for a link at countyofficer@norfolkalc.gov.uk (note – links will be same as those for last week)

TRAINING

Finally, please continue to let Gabbie know of your requirements for webinars etc. Keep in touch with her at trainer@norfolkalc.gov.uk.



To book a training course click here

Click here to view the Calendar for more Events & Training

To view the current Parish Clerk Vacancies in Norfolk click [here](#)



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