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#### **NATIONAL ALC UPDATE – CORONAVIRUS**

Both NALC and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) are asking local councils to stop holding any physical meetings or gatherings during this time. This includes full council, committee meetings, annual parish or council meetings.

The government is working on a Coronavirus Bill and associated legislation that will allow your council meetings to be held remotely and to make decisions without the need for physically meeting.

For AGAR submission, it is going to be a September deadline, but no one (SAAA/DHCLG) has put this in writing/ legislation yet. We will have news about this and other matters soon.

For updates on what is happening for us nationally, ensure you visit <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/coronavirus> on a regular basis. This is being updated daily throughout the current emergency.

#### **NORFOLK UPDATE**

We liked the presentation from South Norfolk/Broadland Council here:

<https://www.broadland.gov.uk/coronavirusbriefing>

They also have supplied some useful materials (Q/A etc) to councils there which I can share with others on request.

As before, ensure you visit: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus> for information within Norfolk.

#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Every clerk should have received a further 'wellbeing' email from John saying that Norfolk Community Foundation has some funding available to registered charities and parish councils. You can get details and application forms here:

<https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/covid-19-community-response-fund/>

The grants to ad hoc groups will continue as previously described.

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/politics/volunteers-needed-to-get-food-to-vulnerable-in-coronavirus-pandemic-1-6577234>

### **PLAY AREAS AND OTHER ASSETS**

Signs should be placed up stating that the play areas will be closed per government instructions and that safety checks will not be carried out during this period.

It will be best to take a photo of closing all the play areas, for two reasons, one to post up on social media to make residents aware and secondly to evidence in regard to insurance claims should people violate the closure. If the play area is in the open (i.e. no fence around it) then tape should be wrapped round the equipment in addition to the signage. If there is fencing (even if very small) then the gates should be locked (chains and padlock preferably, zip ties if not and tape if no alternative) in addition to the signage. If the fencing is small (i.e. able to be stepped over) then I would advise to also tape the equipment up.

### **COMMUNITY HALLS/TOWN HALLS AND COUNCIL OFFICES**

These should also have been closed or if not already then closed today. With staff working from home.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

This is the guidance from The National Allotment Society <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news/covid19-information/>

"Following the instructions around movement and gatherings from the Prime Minister on 23 March 2020, we are consulting with central government but as we understand the situation at the moment it is still permitted to visit your plot, ideally on your own to take daily exercise. It is vitally important that you follow all the advice about social distancing and hygiene in the points below and not gather together on site."

Any plot-holder who is **self isolating** because a household member is ill with coronavirus should not be visiting the site."

### **CEMETERIES**

Cemetery workers, both admin and manual workers, are classed as key workers and will be allowed out to undertake their work. Preparations should be made to continue the work required. We would advise to keep up to date with any changes via the ICCM <https://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/>

Please ignore the grim report in the Daily Mirror on 21 March claiming that all English parish and town council operating cemeteries were to be asked to set aside grave spaces for victims of CV-19.

### **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

We are aiming to send regular newsletters and to repeat our Zoom Clerk and Chairman Conference calls – details will be provided next Monday

We remain on hand to provide support and advice – Russell on [countyofficer@norfolkalc.gov.uk](mailto:countyofficer@norfolkalc.gov.uk), Gabbie on [trainer@norfolkalc.gov.uk](mailto:trainer@norfolkalc.gov.uk) (both of us providing advice, support and lobbying), John on [wellbeing@norfolkalc.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeing@norfolkalc.gov.uk) (well-being issues, generating council funding), Helen on [it@norfolkalc.gov.uk](mailto:it@norfolkalc.gov.uk) (council websites, communications), Sarah on [support@norfolkalc.gov.uk](mailto:support@norfolkalc.gov.uk) (clerk mentoring, support) and Maddy on [admin@norfolkalc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@norfolkalc.gov.uk) (our administration, finance).

Take care and keep safe.

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