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NATIONAL ALC UPDATE – CORONAVIRUS

The Coronavirus Bill passed through the House of Commons last week. You can find this [here](#). This is enabling the Secretary of State to now make regulations to formally remove requirements to hold annual meetings and to allow virtual meetings until 7 May 2021. Typically, this approach is now involving clerks sharing emails of importance and, where councillor decisions are required, councillors being asked for responses, which are being recorded. Short agendas are being produced, so that the responses/ actions agreed can be compiled, with these then being publicised. We are also hearing that many are now holding/ looking to hold meetings using platforms such as Zoom, and some are also looking to engage members of the public in this way.

As before, we await the later revised timescale for agreement of AGARS/ external audit, but NALC/SAAA are in discussions about options now, and the process for this year – we hope to share that soon.

Please continue to ensure you regularly visit the National ALC page: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/coronavirus>. Recent updates have covered:

- Updated government produced information on [how to help people safely](#)
- Public Health England material to support the [Stay Home, Save Lives'](#) campaign which is free to download and use

[NHS England has launched a national volunteer initiative](#) which you can share with residents.

NORFOLK UPDATE

A letter is to be sent to all households in Norfolk from all our district councils. This should start to land on doormats from today/ hopefully be emailed to parish/town councils. This is about the help being provided in each district. If you have not seen this, I can send some versions, but there are variations by district.

There will also be a further guide for people who are self-isolating available today/ tomorrow, which we could also put it on websites and share with residents.

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

FUNDING FOR CHARITIES, PARISH COUNCILS AND AD HOC GROUPS IN NORFOLK

As mentioned before, Norfolk Community Foundation sought our help to provide a pathway for emergency support funding to reach our various communities. Many councils have stepped forward to act as a funding conduit. Funding is available to support the work of registered charities, community groups and of parish councils.

To get funding details and application forms click: [here](#)

To give a donation to support Norfolk Community Foundation's Covid-19 Community Response Fund click [here](#).

ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN WITHIN COMMUNITIES ACROSS NORFOLK

We were hearing about a lot of great work now happening across the county during our Zoom conference calls last week, and have been compiling examples of activity underway. Many local parish councils have been delivering great practical help on the ground; supporting the behind the scenes administration, managing funds for volunteer expenses, making phone calls to vulnerable residents, signposting to other services and maintaining the vital communication links between the different organisations involved in managing this national health crisis. Well done to all those councils in particular!

CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR CLERKS

Clerks – in the midst of all that is happening, please give thought to what you will do if you yourself become unwell and unavailable. Do you have all your passwords ready to hand over? Is your laptop backed up recently? Do you have a contingency plan? Contact us if any concerns/ difficulties arise.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

This week we launched our new weekly conference calls (Zoom) with Clerks and Chairmen of local town and parish councils across Norfolk, where we can share our latest updates of national and local significance and hear directly from councils on their local activities, both the successes and challenges in supporting the needs of their vulnerable residents during this national crisis.

We will again be holding our Zoom conference calls this week.

Wednesday 1 April – Clerk Conference calls

South Norfolk, Broadland and GYBC member councils at 2pm.

North Norfolk, Breckland and KLWN member councils at 3.30pm.

We will hold more sessions if numbers become too high, with these to be held on Thursday. Please email [Russell](#) for a link to become involved.

Wednesday 1 April – Chairman Conference calls

We may hold more calls if numbers are too high, with these also held on Thursday.
Please email [Russell](#) for a link to a conference call (saying which one)

We continue to provide support and advice:

Russell – countyofficer@norfolcalc.gov.uk

Gabbie – trainer@norfolcalc.gov.uk

John – wellbeing@norfolcalc.gov.uk (wellbeing)

Helen – it@norfolcalc.gov.uk (websites, communications)

Sarah – support@norfolcalc.gov.uk (clerk mentoring, support)

Maddy – admin@norfolcalc.gov.uk (our administration, finance).

We will provide details on other activities, events and training as soon as the timing for the resumption of this becomes appropriate.



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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