****

**Coronavirus Support Network**

Led initially by the Parish Council, a Covid-19 Support Network was setup in the village. Run entirely by volunteers this group had responsibility for different areas of Monks Kirby. Volunteers came forward offering help and a bank of helpers quickly built up. People wanting assistance contacted the support co-ordinators who reached out to the volunteer covering that area of the village. This group quickly grew and has become self-sufficient. It is wonderful to see the amount of communication throughout the village and offers of help available. Thanks to all volunteers and to anyone who has or continues to provide essential support for others in these difficult times

**News and information from Monks Kirby Parish Council**

June 2020

Monks Kirby Parish Council Newsletter



**March Litter Pick**

Monks Kirby litter pick took place on Saturday 14th March – with over 15 volunteers coming forward to offer help.

The working party met at the triangle and after a quick H&S talk by Tim Washington headed off with pickers and bags to various parts of the village and parish.

The morning was really successful, and the litter collected was bagged up and deposited by the rear of St. Edith’s, where Rugby Borough Council collected it several days later.

Thank you to everyone involved – it is really appreciated and keeps our beautiful village and countryside looking nice and prevents fly tipping.

As the rubbish tips have been closed during the Coronavirus crisis the occurrence of fly-tipping has increased – please be vigilant as you walk and drive around the village. If you spot any fly-tipping please either contact Rugby Borough Council on 01788 533533 or email the Clerk to Monks Kirby Parish Council on monkskirbypc@btinternet.com.

**Street Lighting**

The Parish Council has been working hard over the last few months on a project to update the streetlighting in the village to LED’s, which are significantly more economical than the conventional bulbs currently in place and also have a longer life and need less maintenance. This project has been quite complex because of the large variety of types of existing lighting columns and lanterns. A viable scheme has been developed and the loan funding has been agreed – the loan repayments will be funded by the savings in electricity consumption so there will not be an impact on the Parish Precept. The scheme now has the full go-ahead and we are awaiting a start date from our chosen contractor so expect to see work on the streetlights in the next few months when the contractor can fit us into their schedule.

# Fishponds Community Park Working Party

A party of volunteers, led by Tim Washington, met on Saturday 16th May. The current contractor is unable to work due to the Coronavirus crisis and the Fishponds Park needed some TLC!

The working party did a great job cutting back vegetation and clearing around equipment and were rewarded with bacon butties from the new Denbigh Arms Shop!

Thank you to everyone involved.

# Fishponds Community Park Grant – Additional Equipment for Young and Disabled Children.

Monks Kirby Parish Council are delighted to confirm that a grant has been awarded, from Rugby Borough Council to enable us to update the Fishponds Community Park so that there is more equipment that can be used by young and disabled children.

The grant, which is match funded, was for £7,500.00 and the community has to contribute £2,500.00. Total amount of the fund is therefore £10,000.00.

The Parish Council now have to meet with Rugby Borough Council’s Green Spaces Officer to ensure that there is sufficient drainage, advise on inspection arrangements and that there is no ecologically negative impact.

Work on this will start as soon as possible but may be delayed due to the impact of Coronavirus.

# The Parish Council

**The Parish Council comprises:**

Tim Washington – Chair Bill Woolliscroft – Vice Chair

Fran Payne John Dalby

Louise Partridge Jane Wright

Alexa Higgins – Clerk to the Council

Monks Kirby Parish Website <http://www.monkskirby.org.uk/>

If you would like future copies of this newsletter by e-mail, or would prefer to read it online, please send your details and e-mail address to: **monkskirbypc@btinternet.com**

# Monks Kirby Parish Council Meetings

**Annual Parish Meeting.**

Following guidance from Rugby Borough Council, the above meeting has been postponed until 2021.

**Monthly Meetings.**

As lockdown commenced the Council had just had their March meeting.

In April no meeting was held but issues were discussed by email and decisions recorded accordingly. Minutes for this meeting will be produced shortly and uploaded to the Parish Council website.

Moving forwards all monthly meetings will be held by Zoom. This will enable the council to continue to discuss important community matters and make decisions. As it looks like meeting in person will not be possible for a while this is a good way to maintain communication.

Agenda for monthly meetings will be publicised as normal on the noticeboard and the website ([www.monkskirby.org.uk](http://www.monkskirby.org.uk)).

Members of the public wishing to join the zoom meetings please contact the Clerk for joining instructions – monkskirbypc@btinternet.com.

The Parish Council elections, which are held every four years were due in May this year. However, the Government issued a statement delaying all local elections for a year, so the elections will be held in May 2021 and therefore the current Council continues to serve.

We wish you all the very best of health during these strange times and if you need any help at all and are unsure where to go please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council – monkskirbypc@btinternet.com.

# St. Edith’s Church

Many residents may have noticed the rainbow flag flying on the top of the Church spire. Thanks to Cllr. Tony Gillias for organising.

The flag symbolises our thanks to NHS Staff and Key Workers during the Coronavirus crisis.

Our thoughts are with everybody involved and it is a reminder to us all to continue to adhere to the social distancing rules.

# Monks Kirby Village Gardens

It is so lovely to see everyone’s gardens looking particularly lovely. One of the upsides of being in lockdown has been that many of us are able to devote more time to our gardens and we have had some wonderful weather for it.

Thank you to everyone – this really helps to keep everyones spirits up!

# Denbigh Arms Pub & Shop

Nigel and Paula sadly had to close the Denbigh Arms under the new lockdown rules. However, sensing a need within the village they quickly put together a plan of action and within 2 weeks had opened the Denbigh Arms shop.

The shop is open 8am – 5pm Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm Saturday and sells fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, bread, larder staples and some truly wonderful ice-cream.

Please bear in mind only 1 person is allowed in the shop at any one time and the beer garden is closed until further notice.

A further note of thanks to Nigel and Paula for organising for free Sunday dinners to go to those within the village who have to self-isolate or are the most in need of support. This is a lovely gesture and has meant a lot to the grateful recipients!

# VE Day Celebrations 2020

The 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day fell on Friday 8th May 2020.

The residents of Monks Kirby truly made everyone proud by decorating the entire village in flags and bunting.

Cllr. Gillias sounded the all clear siren from the church spire, after which residents set-up tables and chairs outside the front of their houses and celebrated with picnics and drinks whilst enjoying talking to neighbours – all at a correct social distance of course!

The day made everyone reflect on what people had gone through during the war and how incredible it must have been after 6 very long years to hear the news that the war was over. It was really good to reflect on the sacrifices people had made during this time and inevitably comparisons were drawn to the sacrifices currently being made during the Coronavirus crisis. It was a great reminder to remain strong and look forward to the future.