**COVID-19 AND CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL: BRIEFING PAPER FOR AUGUST 2020.**

1. It continues to prove impossible to hold Council meetings in person. As this month is normally our recess, I have no proposals to hold virtual meetings. The latest NALC bulletin refers us to the revised regulations on telling the public about remote meetings. So, it seems increasing likely that this will remain the norm for some considerable time.
2. I attach a draft copy of the proposed NALC revised code of conduct for Members. The last revision appears to have been on 2015. If you have any comments please let me know. I will place it on an agenda for approval as soon as I can. NALC has also sent us a plea from The Royal British Legion to continue to fund and organise Remembrance Sunday events, be they real or virtual. I await further guidance on this matter.
3. The Memorial Park – Amazon has proved to be a very difficult organisation to obtain funds from. The company is happy to allocate funds to a chosen charity, but the funds generated are based upon the amount of business transacted between the Council and Amazon. As a Parish we spend nothing with them. The only alternative is for staff members to choose to allocate support to a charity. As yet, there are no staff on site in Thinford.

On the park itself, I have instructed our ground maintenance contractor to prune back trees overhanging the footpaths. The crash damaged fence has been replaced. Durham County Council has offered to restart its inspections of playgrounds and supply signage on safe usage. I will ask them to do so.

1. Planning applications - I will continue to monitor the applications received by the County Council and if necessary call on the views of Members of the Application Sub Committee by telephone. There have been none for several weeks.
2. Seeking an additional bank account – I am undertaking further research.
3. Complaint about the condition of the cut near 15 The Oaks. – The resident at the above property has complained about the above cut. It has been a long running problem. I understand the path belongs to Livin’.
4. I am continuing to work with the Village Show Committee and we hope to be able to hold our show in September.
5. I enclose the bank reconciliation statement for July.
6. Should Members have any pressing issues requiring attention please let me know.

Ray Sunman

Parish Clerk: August 2020