REPORT OF THE DEFIBRILLATOR WORKING GROUP

PARISH COUNCIL AGM

14TH MAY 2025

Working Group update:

Following the resignation of Gerda Gibbs from the Parish Council at the time she moved from the village in June last year, Jenny Kingwell agreed to take her place on the Defibrillator Working Group and I am grateful for the support she has given me.

Defibrillator:

The defibrillator has not been deployed over the last year. In December were notified by The Circuit, a database of all available community defibrillators, that the Ambulance Service had advised a caller to collect the defibrillator. However, on checking the defibrillator cabinet, the defibrillator was still there and there was no evidence that it had been used. Therefore, it was checked before confirming its availability on The Circuit.

The defibrillator has been checked weekly, no issues have been detected and all checks have been recorded on the Webnos reporting system.

The only consumable that is due for renewal in the next year is the battery which will need to be replaced on 2nd May 2027. However, the cost of this will be met by the Community Heartbeat Trust under the terms of the support package that we have with them. The same will apply to any defibrillator pads or batteries that need to be replaced in the event that the defibrillator is deployed.

Therefore, we do not anticipate any outlay in connection with the defibrillator apart from the annual cost of the VETS telephone service which is due for payment on May 15th.

VETS:

At present our team is made up of 16 volunteers and their willingness to assist in an emergency is very much appreciated.

On May 6th, annual refresher training in Basic Life Support and Defibrillation was provided for our volunteers by Roxy King from East Coast Community Healthcare. The event was advertised on all notice boards in the Parish with an open invitation to anyone else in the community and was also circulated via Somerleyton Together.

There were 9 volunteers and 2 other parishioners in attendance and Roxy's training was excellent. Although Roxy will not accept any payment, in appreciation of the fact that she had given up her evening after a busy day at work to provide us with this training,

she was presented with a M&S gift voucher to the value of £50 and a bunch of peonies costing £12.

It was agreed at the last Parish Council meeting on 5th March that instead of supplying householders with fridge magnets with the VETS number if they needed someone to collect the defibrillator for them, that it would be preferable to deliver a leaflet to each household with the VETS number and a request that they put this number on their landline and mobile phones, to ensure that it was immediately available if required. I have been away so have not had the opportunity to draft this leaflet but will do so as soon as I am able.

Claire Diggins
Jenny Kingwell