

Roade Parish Council

Clerk's Report for 9th August 2021 including Actions Taken from July 2021 Meeting

All actions down to me have either been completed or are work-in-progress and for mention tonight.

RPC/21/617 – Annual Review of Roade Neighbourhood Plan - our neighbourhood plan has been in force now for two years. In the plan itself under 6.11, it is a requirement to review the plan to ensure it is meeting the needs of the village and that we do/don't need to make any significant changes. Cllr Shrubb has taken time to look over our policies RNDP1 through to RNDP12 and believe they are still all fit for purpose and meet the need, development and growth of the village up to and including the year 2029. Our robust and confident wording throughout our neighbourhood plan reflects this. It should be noted since the adoption of this plan, our local authority South Northants Council (SNC) has now become a new unitary council (WNC) however all policies held by SNC at the time have transferred ownership to WNC. There is no requirement to change any wording to reflect this. The local/regional/national policies we fore mention in our document are still in current use as of today. When the bypass is started/completed we may need to consider making an amendment due to the potential opening of land for development and inclusion of a green belt/wedge on the south west side of the village.

RPC/21/618- Finance

The Unity bank balance as of 1st August was £180,887.84, this included the Windfarm grant of £9405.12 and cemetery income of £135.00.

On 2nd August we also received £52 resident income.

Our S106/Windfarm Grant Nationwide account, as of 1st August was £137,137.68, this included £5.82 interest.

I can confirm that I have set up payments to transfer the windfarm grant of £9405.12 and £1241.08 VAT for the CCTV cameras to our Nationwide account, these payments will need to be authorised on the online banking.

I have found out who the cheque needs to be made out to for the application to move the footpath for the cemetery extension so need two signatories to sign the cheque so I can send the application off.

I have sent off the VAT refund claim with HMRC for the first quarter (1st April 2021 – 30th June 2021) totalling £3451.73.

I have also invoiced Roade Junction Community Group for the first instalment of the library lease.

EDF have confirmed that that the windfarm grant agreement is for 25 years (starting in year 2014), 2021 payment is year eight so there are seventeen years remaining on the agreement.

RPC/21/619 - QR Code – investigate setting up a QR code that residents can scan to report issues in the village (similar to this) <http://warmington.org/index.php/15-local-authority/256-warmington-matters>

RPC/21/620 - Fair – A resident advised that years ago there used to be a funfair that would visit the rec, they have asked if this is something that could start up again.

RPC/21/621 - Queens platinum jubilee

The costs for beacons are £490 +VAT unless we build our own bonfire type beacon + Gas canisters. I have spoken to WNC licensing department who have advised that we do not need a license for this. Our insurance has asked lots of questions before they can give us a quote regarding costs, so before we can proceed with the insurance quote we would need a decision as to which beacon to go with and where we would put it.

RPC/21/622 – Library – we have received two quotes for the fire safety checks for the library and these have been email too all councillors prior to the meeting.

RPC/21/623 - Replace broken Bench

The local carpenter who completed the repairs to the benches in the cemetery and churchcroft open space has looked at the bench that has been broken outside the shop on the Ridings. He has advised that the bench is in bad condition and is beyond repair. The bench appears to have been purchased to commemorate the wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton. The bench has been taped up, and I've emailed quotes for replacement benches to all councillors prior to the meeting.

RPC/21/624 - Rec Fence— N&P Gardening have advised that they are unable to give us a date when they will be able to carry out the repairs to the fence and gate at the bottom of the rec. All Seasons Gardening and Logs have quoted to repair the fence and a copy of their quotation has been circulated to all councillors.

RPC/21/625 - Cemetery inspections – I have spoken to ICCM about inspecting memorials and they have advised that we would need to carry out inspections and keep a written record. Inspections should be carried out at least once every five years to ensure that the memorials are secure. As the burial authority these inspections are needed to comply with health and safety act 1974.

They advised that there are companies who can complete inspections, but these usually charge approximately £3.50 per grave.

ICCM run a managed of memorial inspection workshop, which covers the scope of the problem, legal health and safety issues, how to carry out memorial inspections including how to start, inspection forms, physical and visual inspections, actions, codes of practice, registration schemes, and practical inspections. Their next course is on Monday 27th September in North Yorkshire. The Course is price at £135 + VAT for ICCM members.

RPC/21/626 – Shop local - Now that lockdown is finishing it's been suggested that the Parish Council should consider a 'Shop Local' campaign. An online campaign online only because those not online will still be shopping locally. Using the Roade Parish Facebook page to promote one business or charity with links to the village each day for a month (or however long it takes). Companies to provide their own information, or we just link to their page.

RPC/21/628 – Oxford – Cambridge ARC - The Oxford-Cambridge Arc is a huge swathe of middle England that has been identified for inward investment and development. The Arc is a centre of high-tech manufacturing and research but east west infrastructure within the Arc is limited. Work has begun to extend East West Rail from Bicester to the West Coast Main Line at Bletchley (Milton Keynes) and onward extension to Cambridge is planned. New roads linking the A34 near Oxford with the A14 near Cambridge are planned. With the improved infrastructure comes huge economic and residential development. The plan is for one million new homes in the Arc by 2050. The consultation will run for 12 weeks until 12 October 2021 and is open to all members of the public. See the government's consultation pages at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-vision-for-the-oxford-cambridge-arc> for details on how to respond.

RPC/21/629 – Grant a green space campaign – The Open Spaces Society (OSS) recommends that Parish Councils consider voluntarily registering green spaces that it owns as a town or village green. This can be done, under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006, with our unitary council, which makes no charge for the application. Once registered as a green, local people will enjoy the right to recreation there, and the space is protected for ever from development.

RPC/21/630 – Small Grant – Roade Football Club have requested a small grant for £385 for a road sign at the junction of Hyde Roade and Hoe Way indicating where the football club can be found. A copy of the small grant application form has been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

Not included on the agenda:

Wet Pour quote - The company have requested payment upfront, so I've included this invoice for payment this month. They have provisionally scheduled the repair in for the week commencing 16th August and will confirm a date nearer the time.

Purchase new benches - These have been ordered but are on a minimum of at least eight-week delivery time. I have asked All Seasons Gardening and Logs to fit these.

VAS – I met with a highways representative to look at possible locations for the VAS speed detection device outside Elizabeth Woodville School on 5th August. He is going to produce the Section 50 Licence and include three of lamp posts outside of the school for us to potentially use, he saw no problem with us putting a VAS device up and could see that there was a need.

Highways meeting - Our contact at Highways was unable to attend the meeting on 14th July so sent one of the Highways engineers to discuss the KZ8 footpath. Our contact can meet on Tuesday 7th September at 10am at the parish office to discuss the Courteenhall drainage and lighting by new rail freight roundabout.

Extending the footpath at Churchcroft openspace – I'm currently still working on getting quotations for this.

Rec inspection – our last free annual inspection was due last month, Kompan have advised that there has been a delay and they will confirm a new date as soon as they hear back from the play inspection company.

Parking Warden – Cllr Fowler is currently assisting me in contacting WNC about the path warden, we are still waiting for a reply from WNC and have chased.