

**Minutes of Roade Parish Council Meeting  
held on Monday 14 January 2008 at 7.30 p.m.  
at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Dr John Gwilt (Chairman)

Rev Malcolm Beech	Dave Bennett	Cecil Bottomley
Bill Dredge	Mrs Anna Freund	Mrs Myra Inglis
Mrs June McAlear	Mrs Susan Mallock	Rick Thake

**Apologies:** Glenn Dudman      Dick Johnson      Bill Mann

**Clerk:** Mrs Sylvia Mawby

**Minute Taker:** Mrs Nicky Hall

The Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

**Action**

1.      **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Mallock declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 10. S137 for Grasscutting of St Marys Churchyard £500 and would withdraw from the room for the period of this item.
  
2.      **Public Session:**
  - 2.1      The Chairman opened the Public Session. County Councillor Bernard Ingram had spoken to the Chairman before the meeting started but regretfully was called away to another engagement and could therefore not be present at the meeting. The Chairman welcomed District Councillors Steve Clarke and Sally Townsend.
  
  - 2.2      Cllr Townsend confirmed that, at every opportunity, she, Cllr Ingram and Cllr Clarke continued to raise the topics of weight restrictions on roads leading into the village, speeding, and the provision of a yellow box on the A508. They are also working with Highways to reduce traffic on the A508. Although there is no funding available, the necessity for a By-Pass for Roade is also regularly raised as part of the infrastructure required to cope with continued expansion of both housing and traffic in and around the village.
    - 2.2.1      Cllr Townsend noted that a meeting on Options and Issues would be held at Daventry on 24 January 2008 between 6.30 pm and 9.00 pm, which is specifically tailored to Parish Councils.
  
    - 2.2.2      Cllr Townsend had been pleased to receive the Chairman's email regarding the Walkerpack site and continued to raise the subject in Council.
  
    - 2.2.3      Cllr Townsend passed on a copy of a press release for display on noticeboards from South Northants Council regarding their Chill Out and Keep Hot campaign.
  
    - 2.2.4      Cllr Townsend reported that it is expected that the council tax would be finally agreed at the end of this month at SNC at 4.9%.
  
    - 2.2.5      Finally, Cllr Townsend would be passing to Cllr Freund some information about lottery funding.
  
    - 2.2.6      Concerning weight restrictions on roads, the Chairman asked that Hartwell Road be included in any discussions on weight restrictions as many lorries used this as a back route from Junction 15 of the M1 to Milton Keynes.

**Clerk**

- 2.3 Cllr Clarke had nothing further to add other than to wish everyone Happy New Year.
- 2.4 Cllr Thake had met Mrs Phillips to discuss her concerns over flooding in the area of White House bend and confirmed that work is required, particularly on the south east side of the bend where the pipes underneath the road come into the ditch – there is currently 2-3” of silt blocking the pipes. Also, the ditch between there and the inlet to the culvert going down to Tithe Way needs cleaning out. **Clerk**
- 2.4.1 Cllr Thake reported that a parishioner had complained about some rubbish which had been left against a fence at the back of Tithe Way which amounted to fly-tipping. SNC has so far done nothing about it and it was agreed that a letter should be written. **Clerk**
- 2.5 *Mr Ray Griffiths of 1 Orchard Way* reported another case of fly tipping at the bottom of Croft Lane. In answer to Mr Griffiths’ question, Cllr Bottomley confirmed that, having searched the Parish Council records, he can find no further evidence regarding the ownership of the strip of land at the bottom of Croft Lane.
- 2.6 *Mr Chris Hillyard of 28 The Leys*, speaking on behalf of the Roade & Courteenhall Ex-Servicemens’ Club, raised the subject of a Model Racing Track (item 11 on the Agenda which was taken at this point). Mr Hillyard noted that concerns had been raised about activities in the back paddock of the Club where in the past couple of years a radio-controlled car club has held a few meetings. A request has now been received to hold these race meetings on a more regular basis. Mr Hillyard confirmed that, through his agent (Cllr Johnson), the landowner had confirmed that he had no objections as long as the area is kept tidy. Mr Hillyard had also confirmed with SNC that there would be no problem about change of use of the land provided it is for occasional use (i.e. perhaps once a month). On-going monitoring of noise and environmental issues would also need to be undertaken. Mr Hillyard is in the process of drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding which would cover all aspects of when, where and how the Radio Controlled Car Club would operate on this land, a copy of which would be sent to SNC, to the Chairman of the Parish Council and which would also be available for any member of the public to inspect at the Club.
- 2.6.1 Mr Hillyard agreed to confirm what sort of fuel powered the engines as this would have a bearing on noise levels. He also confirmed that the racing would be confined to the hours of 11.00am – 4.00pm on Saturdays and until 3.00pm on Sundays. No dates had yet been agreed for race meetings, nor would they until such time as the Memorandum of Understanding had been completed and agreed by all interested parties. Cllr Dredge suggested (and it was agreed) that a number of Councillors should attend the first meeting, as well as a several near neighbours.
- 2.6.2 *Mrs Maria Nichola of White House Farm* raised her concern at the prospect of regular race meetings as her house is immediately adjacent to the back paddock of the Club. In the past there has been a lot of noise and this is likely to increase. Mrs Nichola was concerned that work was already underway in the paddock and that, despite the size of the available area, digging was being carried out immediately next to her garden. Mr Hillyard agreed to look into this and have the track area moved. Mrs Nichola was also concerned about the safety of her family’s private property since in the past items had been stolen from her garden. She also asked to be invited to attend the first meeting.
- 2.7 *Mr Stuart Shrubb of 33 Priory Crescent* speaking on behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Roade Scout Group asked Councillors whether there was any project in the village which the Scouts could undertake during the year. It was deemed that the flowerbed in Churchcroft needed a contractor to do the digging out, and that the area in front of the Library was actually County Council responsibility. The Chairman thanked Mr Shrubb for his kind offer and any suggestions for a suitable project would be passed on in due course.

- 2.8 *Mr Dave Saunders of 37 The Leys* asked for an update on the proposed new lamppost for the entrance to The Leys. Cllr Dudman (not present this evening due to illness) would be asked to contact Mr Saunders with the relevant information. GD
- 2.9 The Public Session closed at 7.58pm.
3. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Dudman, Johnson and Mann, and Brian Binley, MP.
4. **Attendance Register:** This had been signed by all Councillors present.
5. **Minutes of the last Meeting (10 December 2007):**
- 5.1 *P1010 item 7.1.9.1* correction to spelling of name: Mr Colin BEAVEN.
- 5.2 *P1012 item 9.1* Cllr Bennett requested that his name be noted as having cast his vote against the adoption of a £50,000 precept.
- 5.3 *P1012 item 9.1* For the sake of clarity it was confirmed that £50k should read £50,000.
- 5.4 *P1013 item 14* Cheque number 769 for the Poppy Appeal should have read £250.
- 5.5 Cllr Dredge proposed, Cllr Thake seconded and with all in favour it was agreed that with these amendments in terms of accuracy the minutes be signed as a true record.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting (10 September 2007):**
- 6.1 *P1008 item 6.3* A reply has now been received from Kent Associates and would be discussed later.
- 6.2 *P1011 item 8.3.4* Cllr Bottomley confirmed that the site fall in the Walkerpack site is 5 metres from Stratford Road to the back of the site, or approximately 16.5 feet.
- 6.3 *P1012 item 9.1* Cllr Mallock has amended the draft budget and circulated the front page with revised totals to all Councillors.
7. **Reports from Outside Bodies:**
- 7.1 **Neighbourhood Watch/Police Matters:**  
Cllr Dredge reported on the following:
- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Dec 28 <sup>th</sup> | Anglian Water Uniforms were reported stolen from an area on the Northamptonshire/Leicestershire Border. |
| Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | There was an attempted burglary in Hyde Road. This was prevented by the householder.                    |
| Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Vandalism damage to a car in Manor Close.   |
| Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>  | There was an altercation apparently over a parking dispute in Hartwell Road.                            |
- Cllr Dredge also reported that an Anglian Water van had been stolen in Milton Keynes. Although unmarked, the van may contain useful information for villains and everyone was encouraged to be on their guard.
- 7.1.2 Cllr Dredge had attended a Community Panels meeting on 10 January which is made up of Parish Councillors from the 10 villages within the old Beat 45. The police wish to try and ascertain areas of concern to the public and to that end have asked each village to circulate a survey form to be completed and returned. After some discussion it was agreed that, although such information is already available from the Parish Plan questionnaire (even though this is now 12 months old), this new survey should be circulated by means of the forthcoming issue of Roade News. Cllr Dredge suggested that

he could be the recipient of returned forms, and hoped that a box could be placed in the Post Office. Cllr McAlear also offered to place a box in the Ridings. Cllr Dredge proposed, Cllr McAlear seconded and with all in favour it was agreed.

BD

**7.1.3** The Chairman confirmed that the original contact between the village and Mr Jolley of Chartwell Industries had been made by Cllr Dredge on behalf of NeighbourHood Watch. Thanks to Cllr Dredge's efforts, dialogue has been opened and, amongst other things, we now have a note of Kent Associates' landholdings in and around the village. It is to be hoped that further development in the village can be carried out in a "joined up" way with input from the village itself.

**7.1.4** Cllr Dredge had put forward a suggested composition for a discussion group but Cllr Bottomley was unhappy at the effective exclusion of some councillors. In addition, he was concerned to note that **all** councillors are entitled to be members of any committee, advisory group or ad hoc discussion group (unless they have a financial or prejudicial interest in the matter). Councillors who do not wish to be part of a formal group should, however, be free to attend as observers. After some discussion, it was agreed that a small group of Councillors should attend any such discussion meetings, together with Cllr Townsend and a minute taker, with the core members of this group being the Chairman and Cllrs Bennett, Bottomley, Dredge and Mallock, with Cllr Thake on a reserve list. It was believed in his absence that Cllr Mann would also be interested in attending. Cllr Dredge proposed, Cllr Beech seconded and it was agreed with all in favour that the matter should proceed on this basis. It was also agreed that Cllr Dredge would forward the names of the councillors proposing to attend any meetings to Mr Beaven at Kent Associates. The meetings would be transparent with minutes taken of discussions and circulated to all other councillors.

BD

**7.2** **Village Hall Charity:** Nothing to report

## **8. Reports from Advisory Groups:**

### **8.1 Cemetery:**

Cllr Beech confirmed that a response had now been received from Kent Associates in reply to our request regarding extra land for the Cemetery. Cllr Dredge believed that the map supplied to Kent Associates outlining the area required had not been sufficiently clear and also understood that they were looking for assurances that the Parish Council would take on the responsibility for having any footpaths moved.

**8.1.1** Cllr Beech suggested that our initial response to Kent Associates be for a meeting of the Cemetery Advisory Group with the Clerk in attendance, together with Cllr Thake (for his expertise on footpaths) to be convened. This Group will consider our reply to the correspondence and how further to proceed in order to bring conclusions for debate and decision to the next meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Mallock proposed, Cllr Dredge seconded and with all in favour it was agreed, with Cllr Beech to chair the CAG meeting.

MB

**8.2** **Lighting:** Nothing to report in Cllr Dudman's absence.

### **8.3 Planning:**

Cllr Bottomley reported on the following:

**8.3.1** *Land to rear of 57 High Street* – application withdrawn.

**8.3.2** *25 Churchcroft* - Parish Council objects on several grounds: i) the outline application was for a bungalow whilst this application is for a four bedroomed house; ii) the proposed dwelling has a form, mass and height which would intrude on the surrounding landscape and clash with the layout of nearby properties; iii) the proposed construction materials, particularly the red roof tiles, would clash with nearby dwellings; iv) the

footprint of the proposed dwelling covers a disproportionate area of the site; v) the Parish Council's 2 metre strip of land and immediately adjacent to the Orchard Way garden boundaries has been included in the application site and needs to be amended accordingly; vi) vehicular/pedestrian access to the site from Croft Lane should not encroach on the Parish Council two metre strip of land, nor should any on-site construction eg garden sheds; vii) the application site should cater for all vehicular parking; viii) the site is situated on the lowest point of the surrounding land. To aid drainage and avoid run-off onto the adjacent public footpath, the parking area should use gravel instead of brick paving; ix) as the unmade section of Croft Lane is of unknown ownership, there is therefore no known entitlement to drive over or park on that unmade section of Croft Lane.

- 8.3.3** *Grounds of Tilecote House:* A letter has been received from Hadland's, surveyors and valuers to the Cherry Estate which owns the land to the rear of Tilecote House. However since this land is currently outside the village confines line, it was deemed inappropriate to discuss any future development of it until such time as the confines line is redefined.
- 8.3.4** *Walkerpack site:* Cllr Clarke confirmed that the meeting held on 13 December at SNC had not been a formal meeting of the Planning Committee but had been a briefing for all members of the District Council who wished to attend this information group, which is why the Chairman and other members of the Parish Council were not invited also to attend. Were District Councillors to have expressed any views at this meeting, they would then have been disqualified from any decision making in the future. No minutes were produced of the meeting. Cllr Clarke also confirmed that it is normal practice when significant applications are pending for SNC to invite developers to an informal meeting at which they describe their plans. In this way District Councillors are much better informed and able to take issues on board and debate the issues. As the minutes of two meetings attended by the Chairman had already been passed to Angela Whitfield at SNC, Cllr Clarke did not believe it would be appropriate to widen their circulation. The Chairman was pleased to accept Cllr Clarke's invitation to facilitate a meeting between the Parish Council representatives and the Planning Department of SNC at which the Parish Council's concerns might be raised.
- 8.4** **Footpaths:**
- 8.4.1** Cllr Thake confirmed that the problems surrounding KZ12 have now been resolved, with the dry ditch being filled in, strimming carried out, the fence moved and, apart from the natural pinch point at the north end, the footpath is now 6 feet wide. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks to Katy Brown at Rights of Way for getting this work done. **Clerk**
- 8.4.2** Regarding the relocation of footpaths KZ4 and KZ25, as previously agreed, this would be discussed by the Cemetery Advisory Group and recommendations brought to the Council for discussion. **MB**
- 8.4.3** It was reported that Hog Walk is becoming dangerous, particularly in the dark, due to tree roots. Cllr Dredge proposed, Cllr Mallock seconded and it was agreed that the Clerk be asked to write to Atkins requesting that they carry out the necessary work. **Clerk**
- 8.4.4** It was reported that "The Gravel" (the path between Ashton Road and the railway) is becoming very muddy and also needs attention. Clerk to write to Atkins. **Clerk**
- 8.5** **Recreation Field/Churchcroft:**  
Cllr Bennett reported that the Recreation Field is in reasonable condition, but concern was raised that, with the recent closure of the George public house, vandalism may occur in the area. The fence between the pub and the Recreation Ground needs to be properly secured; the Clerk was asked to write to the Brewery to ask what its intentions are in this

area, its plans for security and requesting that the fence be fixed.

**Clerk**

**8.6 IT -Website - broadband/phone:** Nothing to report in Cllr Dudman's absence.

**8.7 Youth:**

Cllr Freund confirmed that she had that evening received a cheque from Cllr Ingram in the sum of £1,000. This is to be used to purchase a specific item for the youth group. Cllr Freund had hoped by now to have heard from SNC regarding a £10,000 grant but no call had been received as of this evening. Plans are progressing slowly.

**8.8 Elderly & Vulnerable:**

Cllr McAlear reported that quarterly meetings would be held in future, on 1 April, 1 July and 1 October. These would co-incide with Roade & Quinton Old Folks Fund information leaflets and so could be advertised at the same time. It would be made clear that if anyone preferred not to attend a meeting, they could send a nominee in their place.

**9. Finance:**

**9.1 2008/9 Precept Requirements:**

Cllr Mallock confirmed that a precept of £50,000 would be requested – the form is ready for completion and signature and, together with a covering letter, would be despatched before the due date. Cllr Bennett was concerned to note from the revised draft budget top sheet circulated by Cllr Mallock that a deficit of £2,600 was currently anticipated by the end of the next financial year. It was noted that a separate budget meeting was needed in order to fit the budget more accurately to the precept. It was agreed that a public meeting would take place in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 30 January at which the budget would be finalised.

**All**

**9.2** With regard to the 2007 Pensions Act which requires any employer with 5 employees to provide access to a stakeholder pension provider, Cllr Thake confirmed that we were just on the borderline and this would not be necessary.

**9.3** The grass cutting rebate has now been received.

**10. S137 Grant for Grass Cutting of St Mary's Churchyard £500**

Cllr McAlear proposed, Cllr Dredge seconded and with all in favour it was agreed that a one-off S137 grant of £500 would be granted to St Mary's Church in respect of grass cutting.

**Clerk**

**11. Model Racing Track on field next to Roade Ex-Servicemens' Club** – taken during the Public Session.

**12. Risk Assessments - Council Property:** None.

**13 Parish Plan Update:**

**13.1** Cllr Mallock had circulated an update to all councillors. A number of major concerns had been raised by parishioners. Cllr Mallock confirmed that as each section of the Parish Plan is written and completed, it is circulated to members of the Steering Group to ensure that it has been correctly interpreted. It is hoped that the final draft will be ready for the Parish Council at the next meeting.

**SM**

**13.2** As speeding was one area of major concern in the village, Cllr Dredge noted that he might be able to secure a Speed Indicator Device in conjunction with a neighbouring village in order to minimise the cost. He will look into this.

**BD**

**14. Bills for Payment and Receipts:****Receipts:**

		<b>Rct/</b>	<b>£</b>
Northants County Council	Grass Cutting rebate		1,219.16
VAT	VAT refund		2,307.98
Gostelow & Downing	Purchased grave	303/9	120.00
Davies	Interment Mem Gdn	304/9	60.00
Parish	Memorial Headstone	305/9	25.00
Roade Primary School donation	Litter Bins		<u>184.10</u>
			<b>3,916.24</b>

**Cheques for Signature:**

		<b>Cheque</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>inc VAT</b>
Eon	Lighting	770	796.87	118.68
Aylesbury Mains	Lighting & Maintenance	771	1,531.40	228.08
B&Q	Hardware	772	74.50	11.10
All Seasons	Trim Greenery round Lamps	773	1,116.25	166.25
Roade Village Hall	Hire of Office	774	250.00	
R&C Ex Serv. Club	Parish Plan Room Hire	775	45.00	
Rotary Club N'ampton	Donation towards Litter Bins	776	184.10	
Glenn Dudman	Fax phone & cable	777	70.37	
Riverwood Associates	Minute Taking	778	67.56	10.06
Mr A Johnson	Asst V Tech Salary	779	103.55	
Mr H Geddes	V Tech Salary	780	277.53	
Mrs S Mawby	Clerk Salary & Admin costs	781	371.87	
Post Office Ltd	HMRC	782	<u>153.72</u>	
			<b>5042.72</b>	<b>534.17</b>

The Chairman asked that these be taken en bloc. Cllr Beech proposed, Cllr Thake seconded that they be approved and it was agreed.

**15. Correspondence:** Nothing further received.

**16. New Noticeboards in London Road:** carried forward to the next meeting.

**17. Purchase of Signs to indicate Local Businesses** carried forward to the next meeting. (Any signs must include the Post Office.)

**18. Replacement of some street signs:** carried forward to the next meeting.

**19. Any Other Business:**

**19.1** Cllr Dredge had been asked to raise the problem of dog fouling against the wall at The Green. It was agreed that without catching the perpetrator, there was little to be done.

**19.2** Cllr Mallock has received a letter from a resident complaining about vehicles parking along Wayside, a copy of which will be passed to the Clerk for circulation.

SM/Clerk

**19.3** The Chairman is in the process of writing Council Comment for the next edition of Roade News. He reported that inter alia he would be mentioning the current status of the Walkerpack site, Parish precept; the possibility of erecting signs for local shops and the post office; upgrading street lamps, S137 grants; dog fouling.

**20. Date of next meeting: Monday 11 February 2008 at 7.30 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.