

**Minutes of Roade Village Annual Parish Meeting
held on Thursday 8th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m.
at Roade & Courteenhall Ex-Servicemens Club, Bailey Brooks Lane, Roade**

Present:

Dr John Gwilt (Chairman, Roade Parish Council)

Parish Councillors

Rev Malcolm Beech	Dave Bennett	Rick Thake
Bill Dredge	Glenn Dudman	Mrs Anna Freund
Mrs Myra Inglis	Mrs June McAlear	Mrs Susan Mallock
Bill Mann		

Chris Hillyard – Chair, Roade & Courteenhall Ex-Servicemens Club

Susan Hope – SNC Strategic Housing Team

Joanne Harrison - SNC Strategic Housing Team

Alistair Inglis – Parish Plan

Jenny Evans – Youth Worker (Roade Youth Group)

Sally Townsend and Stephen Clarke – District Councillors

Tara Cooksammy – PCSO

Village Organisations Represented:

Short Mat Bowls, Cripps House, Bell Ringers, Historical Society, British Legion, Neighbourhood Watch, Church Street Reps, Roade & Quinton OF, Womens Institute, St Marys Church, Walks, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts, Tennis Club, Gardening Club, Feoffee & Chivalls, Roade Post Office, Roade Chemist, Gills, Roade Community Choir, Roade Watercolour Group, Roade Yoga Club, Roade Wine Club, Roade Youth Group, Age Concern, Roade News, Mens Own Rugby Club (Ashton), Relay for Life, Roade Mums N Tots, Grafton Scout Band, ACRE

37 members of public

Clerk: Mrs Sylvia Mawby

Minute Taker: Mrs Debbie Dudman

Mr Chris Hillyard welcomed everyone present to the meeting and advised that in the case of a fire the assembly point would be in the main car park.

Action

1. Opening Statement – Chair of the Parish Council

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m. and welcomed Councillors, village organisations represented, members of the public and District Councillors Stephen Clarke and Sally Townsend.

- 1.1** The Chair advised of forthcoming meetings. The monthly meeting of the Roade Parish Council will take place on Monday 12th May 2008 in The Village Hall. The Annual Parish Council Meeting immediately precedes it at 7.00pm where the election of the Chair will take place. The current Chair advised that he will be standing down. He explained that at the Annual Parish Meeting, members of the public were entitled to call a vote if they chose to do so. The Chair advised that the current Parish Council was elected through a full democratic process and new Parish Councillors had been appointed who have brought with them new thinking, energy and encouragement. A number of changes have taken place and it is hoped that there is now a greater degree of transparency. Dialogue in Parish Council meetings is encouraged to enable more participation with members of the public.

- 1.2** Planning has been and will continue to be a particular challenge over the coming months and years. The previous Parish Council tended to be re-active but the attempt now is to be more pro-active. The Chair gave thanks to the Keep Roade Safe Group, particularly Mr Alistair Inglis and Mrs Sue Mallock, for their independent work carried out in relation to the Quarry Site application. Thanks were also conveyed for the support shown by District Councillors Stephen Clarke and Sally Townsend for their help and guidance in facilitating meetings with the Principal Planning Officer in connection with the Walkerpark Site proposed development. Various meetings have taken place in October 2007 and February 2008 with the developers and planning. There was also a very successful meeting at the Village Hall held on 13th March 2008 where numerous villagers represented their views. On 14th March 2008 an email was sent to the Chair of the Parish Council advising of withdrawal of the application of the Walkerpark Site proposed development. Further discussions have been held since that date and a meeting is to take place on 19th May 2008 with the Highways Department to look at the position in regard to the A508. In connection with the Leys Site outline planning it has also been conveyed that the proposed blocks of flats would not be favourable in a village location and that traffic is also an issue. The Parish Council are in discussion with Cllr John Townsend in connection with a long term planning brief, the need to integrate all planning possibilities and to look at long term effects of such developments within Roade. The Chair also referred to developments in Towcester Vale and Brackley. Mention was also made of the village confine lines and the position of the cricket ground. It was emphasised that there was a desire to continue to build for the future of the village so that developments enhance village life and ethos.
- 1.3** The Chair advised that this evening's meeting is the Roade Village Annual Parish Meeting which is held in a different location from the Parish Council meetings. It is an opportunity for the village organisations to be represented and the Chair advised that it was pleasing to see so many organisations represented. Over the last two years it has been encouraging to see so many more activities developing.
- 1.4** The Chair referred to the new project Roade Youth Group. A position paper on youth was presented to Roade Parish Council on 15th March 2007 by Mr Chris Hillyard and together with Cllrs Anna Freund and Bill Mann progress is being made. An update on this will be presented later in the meeting.
- 1.5** Concern has been raised about the "Vulnerable and Elderly" in the village. Cllrs June McAlear, Bill Mann and Rev Malcolm Beech have held surgeries in the Methodist Church and Cripps House in this connection. The name has now been altered to "Community Forum" and participation of other groups is encouraged. Cllr Bill Dredge and Neighbourhood Watch have introduced programmes such as "Nominate a Neighbour" and a green alert sticker for fridges where emergency services can readily have access to medical information about a person. The Ridings is now a "No Cold Calling" zone.
- 1.6** The Chair advised that regular neighbourhood meetings are also held in connection with Roade School Sports College.
- 1.7** Grass cutting has been undertaken in the village by local contractors and there has also been a strengthening of the village technicians.
- 1.8** The Chair advised there is presently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor following the retirement of Mr Cecil Bottomley in April 2008. Notices of a Vacancy have been posted on the village noticeboards. To date electors of the parish have not written to the Proper Office of the District Council requesting an election. Nominations are invited for this position and the Parish Council will now fill the vacancy by co-option.

2. Apologies:

Apologies had been received from Brian Binley MP and Cllr Dick Johnson.

3. Declarations of Interest:

Councillors were requested to note that, should any matters be raised by members of the public during the meeting in which they had an interest, this should be declared.

4. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting (14 May 2007)

The Chair went through the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2007. These Minutes had been agreed and signed as accurate at the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 June 2007.

5. Matters Arising: None.

6. Public Session:

6.1 The Chair advised that this session was for the purpose of raising major matters of policy or of common interest. Any personal or minor matters should be referred to the Roade Parish Council Meetings held on a monthly basis.

6.2 PCSO Tara Cooksammy was introduced. Various areas were highlighted. A Pub Watch Scheme has now been set up and this was launched in September 2007. There are only a couple of public houses on the beat that have not yet joined. This is also to be extended to the Bugbrooke beat. There are presently seven people barred on the Pub Watch list which denies them access to public houses in the Pub Watch area. The overall number of crimes reported this year has decreased. There were 174 last year reported compared to 110 this present year. The Chair thanked Tara Cooksammy and conveyed appreciation to her and her colleagues. Cllr Bill Dredge, on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch, advised that there were just eight officers to cover 55 villages.

No other matters were raised.

7. Presentation by Susan Hope (SNC) – Local Affordable Housing

7.1 The Chair introduced Susan Hope Strategic Housing Officer, SNC. He advised that proposed planning criteria were to be put forward for acceptance at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 12th May 2008.

7.2 Susan Hope advised that a housing needs survey had been carried out and work with developers and housing associations is taking place.

7.3 Social housing in Roade was transferred in March 2008 to housing association SN Homes rather than SNC. She explained about social housing, rents below market price and shared ownership. The need to register on the SNC waiting list for social housing was also mentioned.

7.4 With reference to the Walkerpack Site, restrictions would be imposed with priority being given for social housing to local residents and their families, and those that work within the village meeting with timeline criteria. Nearby villages would then be the next step such as initially Hartwell, Ashton, Stoke Bruerne, Courteenhall and Blisworth.

There was an opportunity for questions to be raised.

7.5 *Cllr Bill Dredge, Manor Close* – Reassurance was asked for that it was unlikely that troublesome families from outside the area would be given social housing in the village.

Susan Hope confirmed that priority would be given to Roade residents initially.

- 7.6** *Bernadette Smith, Grafton Road* – Advised that a person had applied for local social housing and had been refused. Susan Hope confirmed that there was a need for people to register on the SNC waiting list and allocations of housing are based on bands of need. It was confirmed that when places are allocated local connections are considered and outside applications would not be given priority.
- 7.7** *Rev Mike Burton, St Marys Church* – Would the affordable housing proposed meet the needs of the village? Susan Hope advised that SNC are working closely with Roade Parish Council looking at the developments proposed and the mix of dwellings and affordable housing.
- 7.8** *Cllr Bill Dredge, Manor Close*- Commented that the developments at the Walkerpack Site and the Leys should be more acceptable kinds of housing for the village environment rather than those originally proposed. Susan Hope advised that SNC were only able to influence affordable housing developments but have concerns about the high number of flats that were proposed.
- 7.9** *Chris Hay Davison, St Marys Way* – Asked whether the criteria would apply to future applications for development. Susan Hope advised that this would not be automatic but the SNC will continue to work closely with the Parish Council for appropriate criteria.
- 7.10** *Cllr Sue Mallock, Hartwell Road* – Concerns were raised about the possibility of inappropriate families being given social housing in Roade. Cllr Mallock advised that existing social housing in the village would not be covered under the new criteria. Susan Hope confirmed that current housing is not subject to the same restrictions.
- 7.11** *Sally Townsend, District Councillor* – Thanks were given to the Chair John Gwilt and Susan Hope from SNC for their continuing work on planning issues.
- 7.12** *Tony Moore, Wallwin Close* – Asked what number of houses was shown to be needed by the Housing needs survey. Susan Hope advised 41 units for rent and 16 units for shared ownership for affordable housing.
- 7.13** *Cllr Bill Dredge, Manor Close* – Clarified about the number of houses eventually to be built in the village being in the region of 400-500. The Chair advised that it was hoped to be significantly lower number than that. However there were brownfield sites in Roade and it was hoped that mixed developments to bring more employment into the village would also be considered in the future.

Thanks were given to Susan Hope for attending the meeting

8. Close of Parish Council Participation

The Chair closed this part of the meeting and introduced Mr Chris Hillyard

9. Introduction of Mr Chris Hillyard, RVM

Mr Chris Hillyard advised that there would be a presentation of the Parish Plan to include Update on Roade Youth Group followed by opportunities for informal discussion

10. Presentation of Parish Plan – Mr Alistair Inglis

- 10.1** The many village organisations represented were thanked for their attendance and thanks were also given to the Chair of Roade Parish Council for organising the event. The first copy of the Roade Parish Plan was presented to the Chair. Thanks were also conveyed to

Beth Caswell from Northamptonshire ACRE for her help in the process and funding of the Parish Plan.

10.2 The Parish Plan is a statement of what parishioners want and do not want in their village. Main issues were identified such as the future development of Roade, traffic, the level of facilities for youth and the importance of retaining the character of the village. Actions required to achieve the objectives were displayed on the notice board and various activities are already active and under progression such as the Gardening Club, the Wine Club and Roade Youth Group

10.3 Update on Roade Youth Group – Jenny Evans

10.3.1 Chris Hillyard advised that a position paper was submitted to the previous Parish Council in March 2007 advising of the needs of the youth of the village. The Parish Plan results have confirmed that parishioners had concerns for the provision for youth. Cllrs Bill Mann and Anna Freund have been working with Chris Hillyard on this project. £16,000 funds have been raised for provision of youth facilities in the Parish and the vision is for the young people to be involved in the setting up and running of such provision in the form of a Youth Club/Café. Engagement is taking place with the youth to drive the project forward. Support is being provided by a Youth Worker, Jenny Evans, who commenced employment on 1st May 2008.

10.3.2 Jenny Evans was introduced. She advised that she grew up in the village herself and is a qualified youth worker. A steering group of young people is being set up to make decisions about the provision. Research is being undertaken among their peers. There is a need to establish a building for meeting but initially the group are meeting at Roade Ex-Servicemens Club. Sub groups will be formed to set up activity programmes for the Summer. Work with other agencies such as NVYA will be undertaken enabling the young people to be volunteers and gain skills and knowledge for their future lives. Volunteers to help were asked for.

There was an opportunity for questions.

10.3.3 *Mr Duffield, The Ridings* – Raised concerns about the number of young people from outside the village using the youth provision. Jenny Evans advised that initially the project would be exclusively for young people from Roade but other young people would not be excluded. There will be a committee set up with rules to abide by and the support of a staff team. Funding for the project will be built upon and hopefully sustained. Thanks were given to Jenny Evans

10.3.3 *Mr Chris Hillyard, Roade Ex-Servicemens Club* – Advised that the possibility of purpose built facilities in the village were being pursued such as the former Barclays Bank, part of the games room at the Servicemens Club, the old railway booking office and the former George Public House. A Roade Youth Group account has been set up for funding.

10.4 Continuation of Presentation of Parish Plan – Mr Alistair Inglis

A copy of the Parish Plan will be distributed to every household in the village over the next 10 days.

10.5 The Parish Plan Steering Group will stand down and a Monitoring Group is then to be set up. Any volunteers with enthusiasm and a determination to make things happen who would be interested in being involved would be welcome. There are forms available for completion of details if you would like to be contacted. Many people indicated on the anonymous Parish Plan questionnaire that they would be interested in being involved and now it is time for parishioner to “Pick up a Project”. The Group is not the responsibility of Roade Parish Council.

- 10.6** An umbrella liaison group is also needed to help record information about equipment available in the village for loan. This group could also be involved to distribute various information in the village. The Street Reps, Roade News Team and Church Team are set up and more help is needed.
- 10.7** Cllr Sue Mallock was introduced. Development and planning has been identified as of major concern and we need to look at ways that we can influence decisions to be made. The Village Design Statement sets out guidance for development in a village. As mentioned previously, there are brownfield sites and SNC are aware of speculative development here. A Village Design Statement Team is to be set up to produce a more detailed planning questionnaire. A wide spectrum of people with varying knowledge is needed for this group. The Meeting held in connection with the proposed development at the Walkerpack site has shown how people working together can achieve results.
- 10.8** There have also been successful joint activities recently with photo exhibitions and flower festival held at St Marys Church enabling parishioners to work together.
- 10.9** More information and a copy of the Parish Plan in pdf format will be available on the village website www.RoadeVillage.co.uk
- 10.10** There will be a Fete at Roade Ex-Servicemens Club on Saturday 12th July 2008. Raffle tickets were distributed with the Parish Plan questionnaire and no prizes were claimed. These will be entered into a tombola at the fete.

Thanks were given to all that contributed in whatever form to the success of the Parish Plan.

- 12. Closure of Parish Meeting:**
The Chair of Roade Parish Council thanked everyone for attending and encouraged parishioners to continue to be active and involved in the many various activities to enable the continuance of the atmosphere of a thriving village. Cllr Bill Dredge thanked Cllr John Gwilt for his guidance and support as Chair of the Roade Parish Council over the last year. The meeting was closed by the Chair of Roade Parish Council at 8.55 p.m.
- 13. Opportunities for informal discussion**
There was time for socialising.