

**Minutes of Meeting of Roade Parish Council
held on Monday 8th September 2008 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Village Hall**

Present: Susan Mallock (Chair)

Rev Malcolm Beech	Bill Dredge
Glenn Dudman	Rick Thake
Dr J Gwilt	David Bennett
Stephen Miller	June McAlear
Sharon Lowther	

Dis Cllr Sally Townsend

Apologies: Myra Inglis, Bill Mann, Dis Cllr Stephen Clarke, Brian Binley MP

Clerk: John Marshall

1. Declarations of Interest:

There were none

2. Public Session:

The Chair opened the Public Session at 7.35pm.

2.1 *PCSO Cooksammy* gave an update on the Police investigation into the recent spate of vandalism and nuisance within the village. The culprits have been identified and Police are now considering what action, if any will be taken against the perpetrators. Several Councillors expressed the view that financial reimbursement (both to the Parish Council and to individuals) for the damage caused should be sought. *PCSO Cooksammy* undertook to raise this with *PC Smith*. All present expressed their thanks to *PCSO Cooksammy* and her colleagues for bringing the matter to a successful conclusion.

2.2 *Mrs Phillips, St Mary's Way* raised 2 issues.

i. the phasing of M1 Junction 15 traffic lights, to improve the traffic flow from the A508 northbound. *Mrs Phillips* was advised that the phasing had recently been altered and that the flow was now much improved.

ii. the poor performance of some gulleys causing flooding, particularly at the Blisworth end of Knock Lane. She suggested that the Council litter pickers could also clear the gulleys. *Dis Cllr Townsend* advised that the Knock Lane flooding was attributable to a problem with the land drainage rather than the gulleys, a matter that is the subject of discussion between SNC and land owners. She further advised that whilst the litter pickers worked for SNC, the gulleys were the responsibility of NCC Highways ie different authorities.

2.3 *Dis Cllr Sally Townsend* reported on personnel changes at Director level, within SNC. David Price is now the Director of Community Engagement and Corporate Support, Stephen Shuttlewood is the Director of Service Delivery and Calvin Bell is the Director of Policy. The latter's role will include liaison in respect of the Roade Master Plan and in answer to a question from *Cllr Gwilt*, she confirmed that this would probably signal an acceleration in the delivery of the Master Plan agenda, with significant action expected by the end of this year.

2.4 *Mr Griffiths, Orchard Way* raised the issue of overgrown hedges on both sides of

the Churchcroft junction with London Road. *Cllr Gwilt* reported that following the 11 August Meeting of the Parish Council (where the matter was first raised by *Mr Griffiths*) he had received assurance from the resident of 43 London Road that the offending hedge would be cut back. *Cllr Gwilt* undertook to pursue the matter.

JG

Considerable discussion then ensued regarding the hedge on the northern (Courteenhall) side of the junction. Whilst NCC have maintained this hedge in the past, they now deny liability. *Cllr Dudman* indicated that the necessary work to bring the hedge back under control would cost approx £6000. The Council assert that the hedge is part of the highway and therefore for NCC to maintain. It was resolved that;

- i. the Clerk would investigate ownership of the hedge
- ii. the matter would be referred by the Chair to the Parish Plan Monitoring Group

Clerk
S Ma

- 2.5** *Mr Napier, Priory Crescent* raised the issue of speeding within the village. *Cllr Mallock* reported on progress with obtaining approval for the village to obtain and use a Vehicle Activated Device (VAD). *Cllr Gwilt* reported on his discussions with Northamptonshire ACRE regarding the use of a hand-held speed gun. Our application is well advanced but for it to succeed, it would require firstly a poll of residents (as the approval of 20% of the village population is needed before the device could be used) and secondly a pool of 12 volunteers to operate it during the 3 weeks in the year that it would be allocated to Roade.

Cllr Mallock indicated that the matter would be referred to the Parish Plan Monitoring Group to take forward. She also reported that we are seeking the support and co-operation of adjoining Parishes with a view to obtaining a meeting with NCC on the major issues of speeding, traffic flow and volumes on the A508.

S Ma

- 2.6** *Mr Griffith, Orchard Way* raised the issue of cars being offered for sale whilst parked on verges etc around the village. *Cllr Dudman* reported that on a number of occasions, he had contacted the seller (many of whom live in the village) and the offending vehicle had been removed. He offered to approach sellers on behalf of any resident who felt intimidated and further reported that at least one untaxed vehicle had been removed by 'ELVIS'.

- 2.7** *Mr Saunders, The Leys* raised the issue of path repairs in The Leys. The promised work had still not been started. Councillors sympathised and shared *Mr Griffiths'* concern; meetings had been held and promises given but Councillors felt that there is little more that the Parish Council can do.

- 2.8** *Cllr Dudman* on behalf of *Mr Parrish, Butlins Lane* raised the issue of the drainage culvert in Butlins Lane. The culvert failed to cope with the heavy rains of the previous weekend.

- 2.9** *Cllr Miller* on behalf of *Mrs Costello, The Ridings* asked whether it would be possible to arrange for lunches provided by 'Age Concern'. *Cllr Mallock* suggested that the matter be referred to the Parish Plan monitoring Group and *Cllr McLear* asked to be included in any discussion.

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- 2.10** *Mr Samwell, Churchcroft* raised the issue of the lack of weeding and maintainance for the paths in Churchcroft Open Space. Considerable discussion then ensued as to the ownership of the paths ie whether they are privately owned or the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to investigate with a view to obtaining a definitive answer to this recurring question of ownership and map the area.

Clerk

The Chair closed the Public Session at 8.30pm

3. Acceptance of apologies for absence:

All accepted

4. Attendance Register:

All present had signed

5. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

Nobody had come forward.

6. Approval of the Minutes of 11 August 2008:

Cllr Thake highlighted two errors in para 11 (a), p1096 relating to the value of two cheques (884 should be £29.91 and 894 should be £391.61). With those amendments made, *Cllr Dredge* proposed and *Cllr Dudman* seconded that the Minutes be approved. All were in favour.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes:

para 14 p1097: in the light of the current round of consultation being undertaken by SNC over the whole issue of dog control, dog fouling was not on the Agenda for this Meeting. *Cllr Mallock* suggested that the way forward was for the Parish Plan Monitoring Advisory Group to take up the issue and for either that Group or the Clerk or both to meet with the SNC Dog Warden.

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Clerk

8. Reports from outside bodies:**8(a) Neighbourhood Watch / Police Matters**

Cllr Dredge presented his report. In addition to the items mentioned therein he also drew attention to the activities within the village of a door-step salesman, with no identification or credentials offering insulation, the theft of number plates from a vehicle in The Leys and the wider issue of theft of catalytic convertors, particularly from 4 x 4 vehicles.

8(b) Village Hall Charity

Cllr Dudman reported that agreement had been reached with the Village Hall Management over the provision of a replacement window in the Parish Council Office (see Agenda item 10 (d) v. The total cost is £288 and he proposed that the Council contribute £100 towards that cost. *Cllr Dredge* seconded the proposal, which was unanimously approved.

9. Reports from Advisory Groups:**9(a) Cemetery:**

Cllr Beech reported on minor repairs that had taken place to the chapel roof and also the lack of response from Hewitsons, Solicitors regarding titles, documentation etc. He agreed to brief the Clerk on work that is outstanding; Clerk to then pursue with Hewitsons.

Clerk

9(b) Lighting:

Nothing to report.

9(c) Planning:

- i. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting were tabled for Approval. *Cllr Bennett* was concerned that a resolution from the Meeting had not been actioned properly and *Cllr Dudman* therefore proposed that the Minutes be held over to the next Planning Meeting. *Cllr Dredge* seconded the proposal and all were in favour.
- ii. PA for the erection of a conservatory at the rear of 5 Churchcroft, S/2008/1151/P. There were no observations. *Cllr Beech* proposed and *Cllr*

Dredge seconded the proposal that the Application be supported without comments. All in favour.

iii. The Leys development, S/2008/04303/PO.

Cllr Mallock advised that there was nothing new to report on this issue.

iv. Pear Tree House, S/2008/1106 & 1107/LB & P

Cllr Mallock reported that a revised plan, showing a revised 'red line' to include the access driveway had now been received.

9(d) Roade Master Plan Group:

Cllr Mallock presented her Report. A further meeting with Andy Darcy, SNC is being arranged.

9(e) Roade Parish Plan Monitoring Advisory Group:

Cllr Lowther presented her Report.

9(f) Footpaths:

Cllr Thake had nothing to report..

9(g) Recreation Field/Churchcroft:

Cllr Dudman reported that the contractor (Allseasons) had been unable to carry out grass cutting due to the inclement weather. This had led to some complaints from residents but normal service will be resumed, once the weather improves.

9(h) IT –Website:

Cllr Dudman introduced Agenda items 10(d) i & ii. He advised that the Parish computer was now several years old and that the software was out of date; this was giving rise to incompatibility problems when documents were passed between Councillors' and the Parish computer. He proposed the provision of a new laptop computer for the Parish, together with an external hard drive to allow us to back up work and records. *Cllr Bennett* queried whether it would be possible to obtain a second hand computer, perhaps from Northamptonshire ACRE. *Cllr Dudman* counselled against purchasing second hand, even if such equipment were available; this would be a false economy. The decision whether to purchase the equipment was deferred, to 'Finance', Agenda Item 10.

9(i) Community Forum:

Cllr Mann was not present but his Report had been previously circulated. *Cllr Gwilt* indicated that he had some difficulty understanding the Report and *Cllr Mallock* undertook to discuss this with *Cllr Mann* on his return.

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9(j) Youth:

Cllr Mann was not present but his Report had been previously circulated.

9(k) Village Technician's Report:

A Report of the work undertaken by the Village Technicians had been circulated prior to the Meeting. The format of the monthly Report, which will now be a regular item on the Agenda will be altered slightly to include a 'forward look' for work planned. *Cllr Dudman*, in speaking to the Report confirmed that the Line Management function for the Village Technicians lies with the Clerk.

9(l) Emergency Planning:

In his introduction, *Cllr Dudman* reminded Councillors that information about Emergency Planning had been previously sent to them in the Circulation Box. He proposed 'that Roade Parish Council establishes a Parish Council Emergency Group (PCEG) to create a Roade Emergency Plan, together with processes and procedures to increase the short-term resilience of the Community to an

emergency.’ *Cllr Dredge* seconded the proposal and all were in favour. *Cllrs Dredge, Beech, Gwilt and Thake* all expressed their willingness to be members of the PCEG. *Cllr Dredge* suggested that following on from the flooding of the previous weekend, the Parish Council should purchase its own supply of (say 6) flood warning signs. The Village Technician will obtain price details from quotes

Clerk
VT

10. Finance:

(a) *Cllr Thake* presented the Financial Report. The bank balances are;
Deposit account £1485.61
Current account £20358.02 (including £8894.53 of ‘Youth’ funds)

(b) The ‘Bills for Payment and Receipts’ (copy appended) were tabled and *Cllr Thake* indicated that there was one item missing from the Schedule, namely the monthly PAYE payment to HMRC. He advised that the Schedule, together with a payment not to exceed £300 to cover the missing payment be approved *en bloc*; *Cllr Dudman* proposed and *Cllr Thake* seconded the proposal; all were in favour. *Cllr Mallock* referred Councillors to the proposed Financial Summary that she had prepared and circulated previously; she asked whether Councillors wished to receive such a monthly summary in future; Councillors indicated that they did.

S Ma

(c) An application for a grant of £100 had been received from the 1st Roade Ranger Guides. *Cllr McLearn* proposed that the grant be made; *Cllr Dredge* seconded the proposal; all in favour.

- (d) i. & ii. The proposed expenditure of £400 for a laptop computer and £50 for an external hard drive
iii. £58 for Councillor training; 2 places on ‘Budgets and Precepts’ Training course
iv. £121 for membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks
Cllr Bennett proposed and *Cllr McLearn* seconded acceptance *en bloc*; all in favour.
v. replacement window for the Parish Office had previously been approved (see Minute 8(b) above)

11. Correspondence:

Cllr Mallock advised that 3 items of correspondence had been received.

- i. a letter from a resident who was concerned about a number of matters relating to a neighbouring property, particularly risks from stored liquids and dilapidation. She advised Councillors that the Village Technician had been asked to make enquiries with the complainant, to establish whether there was a problem and advise on resolution.
ii. an e-mail enquiry (relating to the Leys derelicts) about a change in Government policy with respect to the payment of commercial rates on empty commercial buildings. Details had been circulated and the query answered prior to the Meeting.
iii. An invitation to attend and submit motions to the AGM of Northants CALC. *Cllr Thake* indicated that he would attend the AGM on behalf of the Council; *Cllr Dudman* might also wish to attend. *Cllr Mallock* asked for details of any Motions to be passed to the Clerk.

Cllrs

12. Items for inclusion on the next Agenda:

Cllr Thake asked for the ‘Public Session’ element of the standing Agenda to be included on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

13. Date of next Meeting:

Monday 13th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9.15pm