

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

4th July 2023 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

“Working in partnership to make our Parish a safer place to live”

Clerk's Update & Significant Communications Report

1. Casual Vacancy (agenda item)

An application had been received for the vacancy following Cllr Bob Edwards's resignation, but the Council previously agreed to defer making a decision due to an ongoing matter affecting one of the candidates. This seat has therefore not been filled, but the PC should fill the seat as soon as reasonably practicable, so this is on the agenda again for consideration. The candidate has confirmed they still wish their application to be considered, so the application will be circulated.

2. Policies to approve (agenda item)

These will be circulated separately to meeting papers:

- Action Plan quarterly update – To be deferred.
- Complaints Procedure - Unchanged
- Grievance and Disciplinary Policies - Unchanged
- General Reserves Policy – No changes other than page references to latest Practitioners Guide, and small addition highlighted in green
- Cllr-Clerk Protocol – New model protocol from the Civility and Respect Project

3. Countryside Working Group (agenda item)

Arboretum – Still awaiting update on repairs to benches from D. Peate.

The Spinney - I contacted SC to check the PC/community had permission to cut back the paths on the Spinney, but found out after the fact that this work had already been done by members of the public at that point. Re. the larger project to better manage the overgrown areas in between paths, SC seem supportive in principle but have no budget to offer supervision or leadership. This is not a PC asset so the PC should be wary of putting itself in a position where it is assumed to have taken responsibility for this land, and should not rely on the goodwill of volunteers/local businesses to do the necessary work when SC should be managing it themselves.

4. War memorial plaque project (agenda item)

Listed Building application was submitted through the Planning Portal on 19th June (no fee to be paid) and was validated by SC Planning department on 30th June. Cllr Lister put up the planning notice near the War Memorial on 3rd June. The application alert came through on 30th June but was too late to be added to the agenda as a separate planning item, but as the PC is the applicant it should not submit any comment on the Planning Portal anyway. Councillors wishing to submit any comments on this application as an individual should exercise caution due to the conflict of interest, and should make it clear that any comments are their own personal opinion and not submitted as a representative of the Parish Council.

5. Birch Grove matters (agenda item)

Concerns raised previously regarding a recently sentenced individual from the parish. This was raised during Housing Options meeting, but SC have confirmed that this is not a Housing Options matter as the individual was not living in temporary accommodation organised by Housing Options. No further information from the police is available at this time.

Additional concerns have been raised about damage to play equipment in Birch Grove, apparently caused by a dog from a STaR Housing property. This has been reported to the SC

Environmental Maintenance team and they have been asked to inspect the play area and arrange replacements/repairs as necessary, as apparently some of the equipment is no longer usable. I have also emailed STaR Housing to update them and ask for their assistance in this matter.

6. Shropshire Housing Options and STaR Housing Association (agenda item)

SC Housing Options have agreed that No.6 Birch Close (that was damaged during the incident last New Year) will no longer be used for temporary accommodation and will be returned to Shropshire Rural Housing Association. The other two temporary accommodation properties will hence-forward only be used for families or people with a genuine need for 2-bed properties, and no single males will be placed there in future. The PC has been given contact details for the Temporary Accommodation team manager (Kelly Evanson) in case of future concerns. Cabinet Member Dean Carroll also suggested that the incident in Ruyton could be used as an anonymised case study for the next strategic meeting for Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership to establish what processes can be improved across multiple agencies, though SC feel that the main issue is the quality/reliability of the risk assessments from the police and probation officers as those assessments decide whether or not SC Housing Options can place specific tenants in the chosen location.

7. Consultations (agenda items)

West Mercia Police survey – Circulated with meeting papers.

Community Governance reviews - Cllr Spicer has been liaising with members of the public who straddle two parishes and who had previously stated they would like the boundary changed, to check if this is still their preference, and has also been liaising with neighbouring parish councils to gauge their position on these boundary anomalies. I have re-circulated Cllr Spicer's report from 2022 and the outline boundary map with meeting papers.

Place Plan – Notes from Zoom discussion on Place Plan have been circulated with meeting papers.

8. Fallen tree on School Road 03.07.2023

This has apparently damaged a streetlight near the vets which will be a PC-owned asset. The insurers and Highline have been made aware, but as the tree also took down power cables as well, I wanted to be sure that this was dealt with by Scottish Power before sending contractors in.

9. Hanging baskets

These are in place, but no invoice has been received yet. I have chased the supplier but, as the PC is not meeting again until Sept and they have been budgeted for, it may be a good idea to agree to make the payment (£496) in between meetings to avoid delaying settlement of the invoice.

10. Church street traffic lights

A resident queried how long traffic lights would be in place and when the wall repairs would be finished. I understand from Cllr Bibow that they are awaiting a second quote, but that hopefully work will be able to start soon once quotes have been accepted by insurers.

11. Late planning applications

A planning app was received for a menage in Coton Side but arrived too late for inclusion on the July agenda. An extension to the comments deadline is not possible so this will need to be considered under Scheme of Delegation and ratified at the Sept meeting.

12. Platt bridge damage

Bridge repair works are currently anticipated to start on 8th Sept but will depend on when the resurfacing works finish. The bridge will be closed in both directions for a period of 6 days. Discussions need to be had with SC Passenger Transport team and Tanat Valley Coaches re. 576 bus service during this full closure.

13. Parish Council Email provider

I am waiting for confirmation from Cllrs that they have successfully logged into their new Outlook accounts, which is needed before we can do the switchover. Please can all Cllrs look at this asap. Please note that the Outlook emails **will not work until we have done the switchover** so no emails should be able to go in or out of these accounts yet, so please continue to use the Council's existing webmail for now.

14. Reports to SC

- Damaged play equipment Birch grove
- Tall trees on Little Ness Rd (back of Birch Grove houses) – resident complaint about overly tall trees, loss of light, leaf litter, encroaching roots, etc. Reported this to SC Trees dept who have said they will inspect the trees for hazards, but I have advised resident that SC will not prune back trees to create more light so there may not be any action from this inspection.
- Missing traffic mirror on Old Post Office (historic damage from 2022)

15. Correspondence

Clerk circulated the following emails: Email accounts updates; National Highways update re. trees at Shottaton crossroads; query from resident re. traffic lights on Church street; planning validation of War memorial LBC application; Oswestry Rural South police newsletter; Roadworks: Cefn-y-Wern jct to Haughton Farm jct (3-4.07.2023); Park Bank (24-28.07.2023); Station Road, Baschurch level crossing (21-24 and 28-31.07.2023, night time closure only); Newtown, Baschurch (24.09.2023).

Regards, Mrs Lydia Bardsley

Clerk for Ruyton XI Towns PC
Updated 04/07/2023