

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

5th Sept 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 a decision due to an ongoing matter affecting one of the candidates. This seat has therefore not been filled. The candidate has since asked if the decision could be deferred a little longer, but the PC should fill the seat as soon as reasonably practicable, so this is on the agenda again for consideration.

2. **Countryside Working Group (agenda item)**

Arboretum – Repairs to benches are on the Council contractor's to do list.

The Spinney paths – PC deferred a decision on path cutting at the last meeting, but residents have been in touch to ask if this can be done soon as they are very overgrown. Looking back at budget notes the PC did actually budget £70 for 2023-24 to cover some path cutting at the Spinney.

Consultants for countryside/wildlife projects – Shropshire Wildlife Trust have come back with some info on land management advice charges (correspondence will be circulated, and Clerk will also contact Pearce Environment and Walford College to see if this is something they may also be able to quote for or possibly help with implementation in the future.

Wildflower meadow (Bridge Inn field) – The PC's contractor now has the necessary equipment and has done a good cut of the meadow, but a volunteer suggests it could do with another cut around mid-end October.

Doctors Meadow playing field – Clerk has reported various issues to SC (see point 9), but a resident has asked whether the grass cutting can be brought under local control as SC don't seem to be keeping on top of the cutting here.

3. **War Memorial Cave leak**

Residents notified the PC of water ingress through cracks in the roof of the cave towards the end of July. Clerk obtained quotes for structural surveys which councillors considered over email due to the time pressure. It was agreed that Phil White Associates would inspect the War Memorial Cave on 30th August. They will give a verbal report afterwards, and a more detailed inspection report will follow in writing. Permission from landowners has also been granted for Phil White Associates to survey the land immediately above the cave. The PC has contact details for a local arborist in case we need a subsequent inspection of the trees above the cave after the structural survey.

4. **War Memorial plaque project (agenda item)**

The Council's Listed Building application was granted on 07.08.2023 and the [decision report can be viewed here](#).

5. **Stone Cross Damage (agenda item)**

Phil White Associates will do a quick inspection of the Stone Cross whilst in Ruyton on 30th August and will take photos to compare against old ones. A report/advice will follow.

6. **Home Grown Show donation and sponsorship request (agenda item)**

The Parish Council has donated £200 in previous years towards the Village Hall as sponsorship Home Grown Show. This year they have also asked whether the PC would formally sponsor a Juniors' trophy as well, as they wish to encourage more junior entries. The Village Hall

Committee already have a trophy, and if the PC agrees it can be named the Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council trophy and could be presented to the winner by a Council representative on the day. In addition to this, the Committee asked if the PC would consider providing a cash prize or book token e.g. £10 as an added incentive to junior entries.

7. Friends of St John's School donation request (agenda item)

In July the PC agreed to donate 50% of the original amount requested (£3000) towards the outdoor shelter for the school, so a total of £1500 has now been sent to the Friends of St John's School. The Village Hall Committee have confirmed they will not be pursuing another donation request from the Parish Council so the PC can consider in Sept whether to donate the remaining £1500 requested by the Friends of St John's School.

8. External auditor report

This was completed by the auditors PKF Littlejohn and published on the PC website on 28.07.2023 (view [external audit 2022-23 report](#) here)

9. Fallen tree on School Road 03.07.2023

The streetlight that was damaged has now been repaired and the invoice has been sent to the landowner to settle direct with Highline Electrical Ltd.

10. Reports to SC

- Dog fouling in Doctors Meadows playing area
- Safety concern about anchors for some of the play equipment at Doctors Meadows
- Vandalised signage at Doctors Meadows playing field (no dogs section had been scratched off)
- Request to move waste bin further away from the play area as it is apparently encouraging dog fouling in the play area
- Stanwardine junction overgrown trees – SC have spoken with landowner who will take care of this. Clerk asked Cllrs to monitor.

11. Correspondence

Clerk circulated the following emails: SALC July bulletin (10.07.2023); Airband webinar (17.08.2023) invite; Unity Trust FSCS eligibility (Clerk has responded); NALC Legal update Aug; Roadworks: Eyton Lane level crossing, Baschurch (29-30.07.2023); [B4397, Ruyton XI Towns \(resurfacing, 21.08 -15.09.2023\)](#); Correspondence from Keir to residents re. resurfacing work; Track To East Of Poultry Houses To Stanwardine (replace BT pole, 11.08.2023); Newtown, Baschurch (24.09.2023); [Big Walls \(replace BT pole, 26.09.2023\)](#); [Station Road level crossing, Baschurch \(26-27.10.2023, 10.00pm -4.00am\)](#);

Regards, Mrs Lydia Bardsley

Clerk for Ruyton XI Towns PC
Updated 30/08/2023