

Clerk's Update following meeting held 8th March 2021:

Item 5.1.

i) Village Spring Clean: (Agenda item) A resident approached the Parish Council to borrow litter picking equipment as she was willing to clear the verges leading out of Croughton from Portway. She also asked for advice on how to dispose of and separate out any waste she had collected. It was suggested that the resident contact SNC re. equipment and waste disposal, which she agreed to do.

The CPRE has launched The Great British Spring Clean 2021, campaign 28th May - 13th June 2021.

ii) HGV Survey:

On 15th March 2021 Matthew Clark, Assistant Community Liaison Officer, Northants Highways was sent another photo of an HGV travelling through Croughton. The haulier J W Haulage was on the list of sightings provided to the Road JAG Group and had been travelling through the village on 7th October 2020. Hauliers on the list were to have been contacted by the Community Safety Partnership Manager, NCC. Mr Clarke advised that '*There were a couple of businesses that were not contacted for different reasons. NDG Nordic Distribution Group does not seem to exist. ISIS recovery were omitted from the list as the picture showed they were recovering an SNC refuse truck, so were in the area legitimately. PJ Murphy and JW Haulage are both noted as already having been contacted and promising there would be no further repeats. That leaves the attached letters to George Varney Bulk Transport (who may have been collecting or delivering to farms), CLdN, Fermac and BD Haulage.*

We trust this demonstrates our commitment to addressing the concerns raised by the Parish Council, and recommend we continue to monitor the situation in anticipation that the number of heavy goods vehicles is reduced.'

The Clerk responded that JW Haulage appeared to have broken its promise. Mr Clarke will raise the matter at the next Meeting of the Road JAG.

iii) Request to ace a memorial tablet on existing grave: The Memorial Mason was informed of the Parish Council's decision on 10th March 2021.

iv) Insurance Renewal: Allotment Wall: (Agenda item): The insurance provider was advised on 11th March 2021 that the Parish Council was, as recommended by the provider, reviewing the adequacy of the sums insured. The Chairman had measured the dimensions of the wall and estimate an increased insurance figure but recommended asking a builder for a price per square metre. The Clerk had contacted 4 drystone wall specialists. Photographs of the wall have been sent to one of the specialists for his assessment.

v) Gate Sign for Cemetery: Cllr Tomlin affixed the sign 'Please ensure both gates are closed' sign to then pedestrian gate on 23rd March 2021.

vi) Drainage Issues, Park End: On behalf of NCC, the Lead Flood Authority, David Smith Associates undertook a fact-finding investigation on 10th March 2021 as part of a S19 Flood Investigation Report. Cllr Tomlin attended the site visit at 10 Park End. The engineer was not equipped with kit to investigate the drains.

Item 10.1.1.3: Bridleway AF1: (Agenda item) The Parish Council wrote to the Definitive Map Officer, NCC to apply under s53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for a Map Modification Order to be made to remove the Registered Anomaly and for the legal route of Bridleway AF1 to be correctly shown on the Definitive Map.

The Definitive Officer has advised that the necessary order-making process had begun in 2020 but was halted due to loss of staff member dealing with it. The intention is for the process to be completed and will be affected by the backlog of competing matters. The Definitive Officer has advised that the process is likely to be completed more quickly than if the more formal and bureaucratic process of applying for a MMO under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Item 10.2.1.1: VAS: Update on progress with taking the VAS and solar panel down and removing to Lamp 14, Blenheim: (Agenda item) On 19th March 2021 the VAS was taken down from the lamp column in Portway, but the solar panel left in situ. The instability of the

ladder combined with the weight of the solar panel meant that it was not safe to take the solar panel down. An attempt to put the VAS back up was not successful because the padlock would not go back on. The VAS was placed in safe storage.

Cllr James chased up the supplier, firstly on 15th March when he was advised that the clips were being re-designed to make them easier to remove, and again on 29th March when he was informed that an engineer would be on his way to assist. The VAS was erected on Lamp No. 14 Blenheim on 30th March 2021.

On 31st March as resident expressed concern over the location of the VAS - being a few hundred meters from the fixed VAS and set to SMILE at 30 mph on the approach to the 20mph zone.

Item 10.2.2: Cemetery Fencing: The work was completed in 2 days on 18th March 2021.

Item 10.3.1: Local Elections: The Notice of Election dated 25th March 2021 was placed in the Parish Council Noticeboards and on the website. It is a legal requirement for the Notice to be on display in the parish from 25th March 2021 until the Notice of Poll is published on 27th April 2021.

Item 13: Annual Parish Assembly 2021: (Agenda item) Thank you to Cllr Kerby for setting up the Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84003786178?pwd=YLA4YWdDZzBIVERRZTV6YXd3YnNCQT09>

Other:

1. Repainting of 20 roundels/Extension of speed limits Brackley Road: A resident has queried the efficiency of the recent repainting of the 20 roundel and cleaning of the 30/National Speed sign. He provided an update on the traffic along Brackley Road: *'Whilst lockdown has seen a significant reduction in traffic throughout the village, the drop-off has not been so marked along this road. Perhaps drivers are using these smaller roads to avoid the chance of being stopped by police along main roads. Cars continue to speed inappropriately for the width of the road. There is a particular issue with cars speeding at the corner past the trade entrance to the Rowler estate; in the last week alone I have nearly been hit twice as cars have come round the corner too fast and then had to emergency brake as they encountered my car.'*
2. Police speed camera van: A resident is asking why the van is always stationed at the Aynho end of the village (in layby opp. road to Charlton) where he believes it has limited effect on safety, and 'not at the opposite end of the village to catch people coming over the rise up to the mini roundabout and on towards the Co-Op.'
3. Towcester Community Food Larder: Free delivery of the boxes will end w/c 5th April 2021. Thereafter larder boxes will be available to members only, for a fee. The co-ordinator for the Croughton Coronavirus Volunteer Group is not aware that the Larder has been used by anyone in the village.
4. External Audit for YE 31st March 2021: PKF Littlejohn has issued the external auditor instructions for the year 2020/2021. The deadline for receipt of the approved AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return) is 2nd July 2021.
5. Allotments: Rent demands have been issued. A new tenant has taken over Plot 9. The tenant of Plot 12a/b has relinquished the tenancy of Plot 12a/b. This plot will be offered to the person on the Waiting List. There may be items that the Council will need to dispose of. The tenant of Plot 6A has erected a new shed to replace the existing one. The new shed will need to be painted Forest Green in line with the CPC policy.
6. Citizens Advice: Tamara King, Finance Manager, North Oxfordshire & South Northants 'would like to thank the Parish Council for its kind donation of £50. It is very much appreciated - Thank you for thinking of us.'