

Clerk's Report – July 2024  
Sudborough Parish Council

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## Agenda Items

### 24/051 – Adjustments and adoption of new model financial regulations

The Clerk and Cllr Dixon made revisions to the model document and included that in the agenda pack. Assuming the council agrees with their other suggestions, the only point remaining for discussion is 13.6

### 24/052 – Resolve whether or not the council can:

This prompted by “Bees’ Needs” from the NCACL update 12<sup>th</sup> of July

### 24/053 – Consider future plans for burial grounds

In the event that a burial ground become full, a parish council can be held responsible for finding a new one. It's been suggested that this can be done in cooperation with other nearby council that might be in a similar situation.

## Ongoing

### A6116

The parish council have engaged with safety on the A6116 historically. Unfortunately, a fatality in 2023 brought this issue to the forefront.

A representative of Highways attended several Ordinary meetings towards the end of 2023 to hear the communities concerns.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, three representatives of NCC Highways Sarah (Community Liaison Officer), Ben (maintenance), and Matt (engineering) attended the village to meet with councillors.

Three issues:

#### **Cutting back of bushes, undergrowth etc to improve visibility**

This is on the inside of the crown of the bend - on the Corby side of where the right of way meets the A6116. Ben accepted that there is no reason in principle why this area could not be cut back further. The only limiting factor is the need not to expose the ditch/stream where it runs through/past that area. It should be possible to cut back approximately 2 metres of bushes and undergrowth. It was agreed there would be no issue in terms of reducing a noise barrier for The Round House. The initial cutting back work would have to be done outside the bird nesting season. The point was made that increasing visibility for vehicles approaching the junction from the Corby direction might encourage them to go faster round the last part of the bend but this would be more than counter-balanced by the advantage of greater visibility for vehicles turning right out of Sudborough at the junction.

#### **Review of lines in centre of A6116**

It was accepted that there may be a case for continuing to allow overtaking along the short stretch of straight road on the A6116 as it passes the junction but it was argued that there should be double white lines right through the long bend on the Corby side of the junction. It was agreed that the dashed lines currently through that bend were probably justified when the new stretch of road was constructed in the early 1990s because there would have been clear visibility across the bend from both directions. However the situation is very different now. Matt explained that the necessary survey work which will have to be carried out right along that section of the A6116 can only be done when the road is closed or half closed and it was agreed that the ideal time for the surveying will be when the cutting back work is being done (as above) to improve the visibility on the bend. Matt and Ben will liaise over this.

#### **Trimming vegetation in area between bend and junction (Corby side of junction)**

It was explained that the parish council is offering to take on the maintenance of that area so that it can be trimmed every 2 or 3 weeks during the growing season. Ben could see no objection to that. There are no obvious health and safety concerns for the parish council's contractors because of the metal crash barrier between that area and the A6116. It will require an amendment to the agreement between NCC and the parish council and Ben will initiate that amendment process. Whether it will be put in place ahead of the coming growing season remains to be seen.

### Flooding

A local culvert was identified as partially obstructed which was causing some of the flooding issues. This has since been cleared.

In March 2022, 21/193 The council resolved to apply for the remaining funds to cover the purchase of emergency supplies: Sandbags (Standard), Sand Bin, 2 x One Tonne Bags of Sand, 2 x Puddle Sucker Pump & piping, Drain clearing spoon , Drain clearing spade, Drain Key , Warning Signs, Flashing Warning Lights, Grill for Culvert, Tree felling service, Contribution to a storage solution

Kier Group have informed us that works will be completed on the gullies before March 2024. The scope of the works will be to adjust the angle of the three gullies, relative the brook, as well as fitting 'non' return valves. No other details have been forthcoming.

### Path Warden

The council do not appoint a path warden but propose the volunteer. We are seeking such a volunteer.

### Welcome Pack

Villagers will be directed to the welcome pack via the notice board and encouraged to contact the clerk or councillors if they would like a physical copy or note any corrections.

### The Phone Box

The parish council resolved to pursue converting the phone box so it can be used as a book swap.

### Cowthick

Outline planning permission has been approved. Flooding and Transport solutions are being considered. There are concerns around inadequate filtration of potentially hazardous runoff. These concerns were raised at the meeting in April. There is a follow up meeting 8th June MD Mulberry, Mike Page & Cllr Dixon will be in attendance.

The council submitted a response to the Phase 1 Transport Assessment. Available publicly and on request

Highways responded to the Phase 1 Transport Assessment appeared on the NNC website on 10 August. This is publicly available and on request.

This report has been forwarded to Cllr David Brackenbury (Chair of NNC's Strategic Planning Committee) and Cllr Wendy Brackenbury (our local rep on NNC)..

The agenda for NNC's Strategic Planning Committee meeting on Monday 11 April was published but the Cowthick developer's application for approval of its Phase 1 Transport Assessment (application no. NC/21/00197/CON) was not on it. The next meeting of the Committee is not due to take place until Monday 23 May.

GLP (the developer which has taken over from Mulberry) lined up a company for the first unit on the new development once it has been built. It is a large manufacturer which will presumably mean considerably fewer vehicles - and HGVs in particular - entering and leaving the unit than would be the case if the unit was to be occupied by someone like DHL (who were originally going to take the first unit).

The Highway Authority/Planning Authority have not yet approved developer's Phase 1 Transport Assessment and their reserved matters application (NC/21/00064/REM) in respect of site access, layout etc. These are the applications that will sooner or later be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Cllr Dixon met with the GLP director. The applications aren't yet ready to be considered by the Planning Committee. The director did say that they are expecting it to take 5 or 6 years to complete the development.

The director told us they have been making good progress on site over the winter months with groundworks and the drainage infrastructure and he anticipates that they'll be ready to give us a guided tour of the site when we next meet which will be in mid to late May.

As was the case at previous meetings, much of the conversation at the meeting on 21 March concerned the issue of access between the development site and the village of Weldon and in particular whether Kettering Road in Weldon will or will not be closed off.

August 2022

At the parish council meeting this month, two of the planning applications were considered related to the Cowthick Plantation development (NE/22/00269/REM and NE/22/00255/REM). It was decided to object to both applications.

The first is application NC/22/00269/REM where the developers are seeking approval of reserved matters relating to the warehouse/factory planned for Plot MPC2. This is the building intended to be occupied by the development's first tenants - a company called Top Hat Ltd who manufacture modular homes. The developers submitted some additional documents to address our objections.

The other application on which we've been consulted is NC/22/00255/REM where the developers are trying to get approval of their plans for the internal estate roads. As yet the developers haven't reacted to our objections on this one.

Cllr Dixon later received an email from David Scane who is our new contact at GLP, the developers of the Cowthick Plantation site. They are going to make an official response to the council's objection to application NC/22/0269/REM and would like the opportunity to talk to us about it at our next meeting.

## September 2022

The Strategic Planning Committee meeting was cancelled due to the passing of the Queen. Their last meeting was in August, but the application we are concerned with (application NC/21/00197/CON for approval of the Phase 1 Transport Assessment) wasn't on the agenda.

They are next due to meet on the evening of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October. If the application we're concerned with is on the agenda, we will seek to send a representative to read an objection. We have also asked Wendy Brackenbury if she will be available to make a statement to the Strategic Planning Committee on behalf of the local villagers who'll be affected by the increased traffic on the A6116.

We also received some feedback from the developers following a meeting with Cllr Forde and Dixon (and local councillors from other parishes) on 4<sup>th</sup> July. This will be available shortly.

## November 2022

The council put in a lengthy objection to the transport assessment because of its failure to make any provision for improvements to the A6116 as it passes Sudborough. We have been waiting for that application to be considered by the Planning Authority. We had been expecting the Strategic Planning Committee to deal with it and another application (NC/21/00063/REM), concerning the access arrangements to the development off the A43, at the same meeting.

The agenda for their meeting on Monday 17 October had application NC/21/00063 is but not application NC/21/00197/CON. This reflect what Gwyn Stubbings (GLP Rep) told us at an ordinary meeting on 28 September that the Transport Assessment was going through revisions. Therefore, we did not need to attend this meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the SPC is on Monday 14 November but as of publication of this report it is not known whether application NC/21/00197/CON will be ready to go on the agenda. It is not expected to appear on an SPC agenda until after the latest version of the Phase 1 Transport Assessment has appeared on the planning website.

There has also been another reserved matters application by GLP (application NC/22/00209/REM), which for some reason we were not consulted on that still hasn't been determined by the Planning Authority.

I note the PC has agreed to purchase some flood equipment. We have a grant for putting up a shed at the hall which can store this equipment. I think March/April would be a sensible time to progress this. John Davies also approached me on Saturday with the suggestion that the church would contribute to the purchase of a slightly larger shed which can store the chairs and some equipment only occasionally used from the church which is making it look very untidy. It seemed like a sensible suggestion.