

Clerks Report (Includes Matters Arising from May meeting) – July 2018

Circulated prior to the meeting with the agenda, please indicate to the Chair if there are any comments or queries during the meeting for this item.

Pond – Confirmed with contractor for twice yearly pond tidy in April and October. Painting of railings and wall pressure wash confirmed with contractor. Awaiting response from Andy Wallace pond drainage system layout. The Contractor had completed half the pond and is scheduled to cut other half.

Cemetery Wall – The Contractor had done repairs within the church wall. He is beginning on part near the small gate soon.

Branch from Church yard – Cllr John Millard reported to the Clerk who reported to highways out of hours a large branch from a tree in the Churchyard on Church Road hanging down after high winds on 14 June. The branch was disposed of by volunteers in the Village the next day.

Handyman Services – The Clerk has met with the Handyman regarding the dog bin on Wretton Row/The Row to resolve position issues. The bin is now being emptied by the Borough Council. The Handyman has also assisted the Clerk to make safe memorials in the Wereham Cemetery.

Dog Fouling Survey – The Clerk has submitted a response to the Borough Council's dog fouling survey on 24th June, further updates in a couple of months I presume will come from Cllr Colin Sampson on the outcome of the survey that closes end of July.

Tree Management – A TPO and email to the Diocese had been submitted mid-June regard to one year work to trees in the St Margaret's Church yard. Response has been received from the Borough Council confirming that work can go ahead in the St Margaret's Church Yard. The Clerk needs to chase up a response from the Diocese. Work will be done mid-late September.

Memorial Safety – The Clerk had researched next of kin details for memorials that had been identified as unsafe and contacted funeral directors and stone masons with little return. There have been three families that have been in touch and advised that they will make safe themselves. The Parish Council are due to discuss next steps at the July meeting.

Street lighting – Some LED lighting has been installed, the Clerk is awaiting an update on the finalisation of the upgrade. The maintenance fee invoice for £80 has been received for approval at the July meeting.

Memorial Bench at the Pond – This was finalised by the family involved and placed in situ. The Clerk is arranging for next of kin details to be stored on file. The millennium bench was relocated to the Wereham cemetery and repainted.

Ducks on Pond – Following 10 deaths of ducks on the pond in Mid-May the Clerk contact the Environment Agency. An agent from the Environment Agency Advised that there are rodents in this local area that are resistant to some poisons and people put more down than then get in wildlife circles which may be an explanation for the

deaths though can't be certain. There have been done since and if there was any more we would need to supply them with one if possible.

The latest guidance from CRRU (The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) is as follows: The website about rodenticide resistance is:

<http://guide.rrac.info/resistance-maps/resistance-maps/>

From latest CRRU report ("Anticoagulant Resistance in Rats and Mice in the UK – Current Status in 2017"):

"The very widespread occurrence of the VKORC1 mutations L120Q, Y139F and Y139C in Norway rats is most probably a reflection of restrictions on the permitted use of anticoagulants for rat control in the UK. Until recently, the use of the more effective anticoagulants (i.e. brodifacoum, difethialone and flocoumafen) was virtually precluded at all these loci, and as a result, the resisted active substances bromadiolone and difenacoum were predominantly used, and now appear to be largely ineffective against Norway rats that possess one of the these three VKORC1 resistance mutations.

For these three VKORC1 mutations in Norway rats, it is now the view of RRAG (*Rodenticide Resistance Action Group*) that continued use of bromadiolone and difenacoum will lead to the increasing spread of these severe forms of anticoagulant resistance, will not provide any satisfactory level of rat control and constitutes unnecessary risk to wildlife because of the large quantities of ineffective anticoagulants that are entering the environment. RRAG therefore recommends that Bromadiolone and Difenacoum should not be used against Norway rats that are shown to possess one of these three VKORC1 mutations."