CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL Clerk’s Report June 2025

Correspondence

Neighbourhood Plan

From Planning Consultant:

We received the Fact Check Version of the Examiners Report on Friday 25th April. This version of the report is for the purpose of identifying if there are any factual errors.

To ensure that the Policy changes recommended in the report result in a clearly readable final policy, I have tracked changed those policies and I confirm I have no concerns about the legibility of the changes.

We have not lost a single policy from the Neighbourhood Plan. Some clauses in some of the policies have been amended and three clauses deleted. Amendments have been made to 12 of the 22 Policies. Some of the amendments have improved the policies or brought them up to date using information that we did not have when we Submitted our Plan for Examination. Overall, this is a great result from the Examination. The Parish Council will be asked to confirm that it is happy to proceed to Referendum once the final report has been received from the Examiner. I have no hesitation in recommending that you respond positively.

I will provide a report and track-changed version of the Neighbourhood Plan, which will include changes to the text to reflect the policy amendments for your Meeting in May, and a log of the text changes for North Herts to put to their Cabinet meeting in June. Arrangements will be made for the referendum following the Cabinet meeting.

Projects

Twenty’s Plenty Project

The Twenty’s Plenty project has now completed the construction phase. Council is keen to understand whether the agreed plan is the same as that implemented. Further updates on progress will be given by County Councillor Ralph Muncer at the June full Council meeting.

Pavilion Project

The Parish Council have received quotes for the solar panel installation on the pavilion roof. The Environment and Recreation Committee considered the quotes at the March meeting. Council decided that the current s106 funds available for the upgrades (£37k) needed to be prioritised as the funds are currently not enough to allow for all the projects to be undertaken. Council unanimously **resolved** that the electric and hot water system upgrades should proceed, and Cllr Bundy will shortly provide quotes for the work. Council also **resolved** that due to the costs of the solar panel installation project and the lengthy payback time, that this part of the project should be put on hold at the present time. A more pressing issue will be to upgrade the kitchen area and Council **agreed** that Cllr Bundy should obtain quotes for the work and bring these back to Council.

The clerk can confirm that a 2-year fix for the pavilion electricity has now been arranged with EDF Energy which should save the Council around £1k annually for the duration of the contract.

CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting with Stakeholders to discuss youth hut project

Members of the committee met on May 12th to discuss the latest situation with the receipt of s106 monies and to agree a way forward. Further updates on progress will be provided as and when the working party have further information to hand. At this stage, North Herts Council have received no further s106 monies, other than those previously documented.

Allotment Holders

The clerk has issued rental fee letters to all plot holders at the beginning of April. The fees from which are steadily being received in the current account. There have been a number of shed enquiries resulting from the annual fee letter and the clerk has issued the appropriate tenancy agreement, shed rule sheet and shed application form to facilitate the requests. In addition, a quote to clear vegetation from four overgrown plots, along with contaminated waste was agreed to at April’s meeting. The work has now been carried out and the clerk has secured tenants for all current available plots.

Annual Inspection and Risk Assessment of Play Areas

The clerk has signed up to North Herts Council for the annual inspection of the four play areas in Codicote. The reports have been received and have been presented to the Environment and Recreation Committee for discussion at the March meeting. Although the decision taken at that meeting was that no work needs to be done, the clerk strongly recommends that work at the Valley Road play area and highlighted as a moderate risk should be reconsidered. Details of the work, along with costings, were presented to Council at the April meeting and agreed to and the clerk is arranging for the replacement parts to be ordered and then installed.

The Internal Audit Report has recommended that quarterly inspections are carried out at the play areas by a professional. The clerk has contacted an appropriate company and has obtained a quote for the inspections. This will be discussed as part of the agenda at the June full Council meeting.

Parish Council Owned Bus Shelters

Council is aware that two of the Parish Council owned bus shelters on the High Street near Tower Road have been replaced. The Parish Council have never been contacted about nor have authorised any such work. The clerk has asked County Councillor Ralph Muncer to contact his Highways Liaison Officer to investigate why this has happened. It is hoped that Cllr Muncer will provide an update at the June full Council meeting.

Police Invite to Parish Council Meeting

The clerk has issued invites to the Police both to the June and July Parish Council meetings to discuss the latest crime figures for Codicote. Unfortunately, neither date has proved suitable for the Police to attend. The clerk will send out an invitation for the September full Council meeting.

All other items should be on the agenda.

Simon Crosier,

June 18th , 2025