

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held by remote video conference on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr. R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs H Fisher, I Gowler, L Howard, R Mason, K Presland, J Shepherd and J Welcher. Cllr M Davis (District Councillor), Cllr D Connor (District and County Councillor) were present as was the Clerk Mr R Wilkin.

1. Open Forum: - No members of the public were.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr. A Harrison.

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2020 were approved. They would now be signed by the Chair following the meeting and forwarded to the Clerk.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) The Chair reported that she had referred the issue of dog mess along the footpath in Pocket Park to the appropriate authorities.

6. Police Matters: -

a) The next meeting of the Police / Parish representatives was due to take place later in the month.

b) Members reported that there had been a number of instances of hare coursing and the police had attended resulting in an arrest taking place.

7. Fenland DC, CCC and other external organisation matters:-

a) Cllr Davis reported that FDC would shortly be publishing details regarding a small grant facility for local businesses.

b) The Clerk reported that FDC's annual draft Business Plan and Budget was open for public consultation.

c) The Chair commented that FDC's Pride in Fenland award ceremony had taken place last night and although none of the PC's nominations received an award, each had received a mention.

d) The Clerk reported that the Middle Level Commissioners had advised that all their Internal Drainage Boards had been approved to update their present byelaws to bring them into line with the Defra model on regulating the effects on the environment.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Members raised the following new item:

1. The condition of verges on Wimblington Road was raised referring to cars parking on the grass verges causing deep ruts. A suggestion was made that reflector disks on stakes be placed along the verge to dissuade drivers from parking.. The poor condition of the footway from Brickmakers arms Lane to opposite Beech Avenue entrance was reported. Cllr Connor undertook to take the matter up with CCC and ascertain costs of the reflector posts, should it be suggested that the parish council would pay.

- b) The Clerk had previously circulated to members a notice from CCC Highways on proposed road resurfacing activities planned for March 2021. Six roads in Doddington are scheduled for resurfacing.
- c) Highways England had advised that the Guyhirn Roundabout on the A47 was to be improved. Works are scheduled to start in February 2021 with a completion date of April 2022. Road closures and diversions will occur during the construction period.
- d) The Chair updated members on progress being made on the proposed pedestrian crossing outside the local primary school. She suggested that a separate meeting be arranged to discuss options etc to cover arrangements for a public consultation.

9. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

- i. F/YR20/1240/F Erection of an annex (single storey 2 bed) within curtilage of existing dwelling involving demolition of an existing building at Manor House, Manor Estate Doddington.

Members resolved to object to the application on the grounds that no archaeological investigation had taken place to ensure that no damage was likely to be made to the remains of The Bishops Palace that is believed to exist within the Manor Farm area.

10. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) The Clerk advised members that Benwick Athletic FC had apologised for allowing another club to use the facilities and would ensure that any requests that they receive in the future will be told to apply for permission from the Parish Council

11. Benwick Road Cemetery:-

- a) Update on progress in completing matters raised at the Cemetery Committee meeting on 24th June 2020:-

1. Spraying of the grasscrete roadway to keep the weeds down was outstanding
2. **An order had been issued to Anglian Water to make the water connection and provide a water meter.** A push down water tap was to be installed and local plumbers names were suggested
3. The surrounding hedges and trees are to be checked to ascertain if any need replacing
4. **Two waste bins have now been supplied and are currently stored in the Chair's garage.** Arrangements need to be made to safely secure them on site.
5. **A request for a quotation from FDC Construction has been issued to provide a concrete pathway between the roadway and the cremation plots. In addition the first two rows of cremation plots are to be marked out with touching paving slabs. A quotation had been received and members requested that a second quotation be obtained. They also agreed to use standard paving slabs in place of decorative slabs and slate to be used between the cremation slabs.**
6. Arrangements will be made to acquire small circular stainless steel disks showing plot numbers. These will be fixed to either the concrete plinths or cremation slabs.
7. **The Clerk was proposing to seek a meeting with the Clerk of Wimblington PC to clarify what official cemetery record books and application forms would be needed.** These would be supported by a computerised system.
8. It was agreed that "Reserving of Plots" would be allowed but would be restricted to those rows identified for immediate use. The Rules and Regulations would be updated to take this into account.
9. **The Clerk confirmed that FDC were charging double rates for internments from people outside of the area.**
10. Arrangements to inform the local undertakers would be made when we were in a position to become operational.

11. Arrangements would be made to source a suitable notice-board that could be fixed near the cemetery entrance.

12. Street Lighting:-

- a) The Chair advised members that a quotation from Cable Testing was still awaited on the removal of street light FP22

13. Website and Communications:-

Members agreed an annual charge of £239.88 from Hugo Fox for the website fee.

14. Financial Items:-

- a) Annual Precept. The Clerk had previously circulated a briefing note to members on options regarding the precept. Following a general discussion it was agreed to finance the total cost of installing pedestrian crossing by paying for the two surveys in the current financial year and the remainder of the costs in 2021/2022. In addition it was agreed to replace the damaged bus shelter by one provided by GLP Installations at a cost of £4,572 plus vat. This would be partially funded by the Council's insurance company. With regards to the suggestion that the two remaining bus shelters in the village should be replaced, it was agreed that this be considered in the second half of 2021/2022, subject to funds being available.

Finally, it was agreed that no increase in the Annual Precept be made for 2021/2022.

- b) Payments:

The Clerk had circulated a listing of invoices for payment. It was agreed that cheques be drawn for the following items:

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec	100.00
Eon UK PLC	Street Lighting power	182.62
J O Cutteridge	Grass cutting various sites	3,264.00
Cambs CC	Replace damaged white gate	684.11
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	782.41
HMR&C	Income Tax	182.10

15. Correspondence:-

- a) The Clerk advised members that a statutory consultation notice had been received regarding works proposed by Sunnica Energy Farm on sites in Cambridgeshire. Members noted the notice.
- b) The Clerk reported that Peterborough Council and Cambs CC had jointly advised that funds would be available to "Kick Start" new community projects that would benefit the Armed Forces Community

17. Any other Business:-

- a) Cllr Davis advised members that Doddington Hospital would become a centre for Covid 19 vaccine injections.
- b) The Chair advised that a relaunch meeting for the Neighbourhood Plan would be arranged for February 2021.
- c) Notices had been placed on the footpath off Turf End Land stating that the land was privately owned and should not be open to walkers. It was agreed to refer the matter to CCC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

