

**Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th January 2020
in the Church Rooms, New Street, Doddington at 7.00p.m.**

Present: - Cllr. R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs H Fisher, I Gowler, A Harrison, L Howard, R Mason, K Presland, J Shepherd and D Connor (District and County Councillor). The Clerk Mr R Wilkin was present.

Prior to the commencement of official business, representatives from Age UK were present and gave a presentation of the work that they do within communities. They were hoping to launch a Friendship Club within the area and there was a suggestion that if local parishes near Doddington were interested then a warden service could be started in which trained personnel would be available to provide a facility to assist residents with help.

1. Open Forum: - No resident was present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs J Welcher and M Davis (District Councillor).

3. Declaration of Interests:-

i. Cllr R Mason and I Gowler declared an interest on planning application F/YR19/1001/O that was to be considered later in the meeting.

4. Minutes: - The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair as correct.

5. Matters arising from previous Council discussions: -

a) The Clerk advised members that the Chair and Clerk were attending a meeting at FDC on “Operation London Bridge” on 13th February 2020

b) The Clerk advised members that Cllrs Howard and Presland would be attending a “Councillor Training Day” on 1st February 2020

6. Police Matters: -

a) Members noted the correspondence that had been circulated regarding an incident in Wimblington in which a man was wrestled to the ground causing him to break his arm. Whilst the matter had been reported to the police no record appeared to be available when later enquiries had been made. It later transpired that there was an issue with the police reporting facilities which has now been rectified.

b) The Chair reported on discussions with a resident and the police on traffic incidents in Benwick Road. It was hoped that a meeting with CCC and other interested parties could be arranged to explore solutions to the parking issues.

7. Highway Issues:-

a) The following highway defects were reported:-

i. Pot holes were reported at the following sites: near Church Rooms, entrance to Hospital Road, Witchford Close and in Eastalls Close.

ii. An “Uneven” road sign from Primrose Hill was lying in a ditch and needed refixing.

iii. The footpath from Ingles Lane towards the village centre needs patching.

iv. When the drains in Wimblington Road were cleared, rubbish was left on the verge.

b) The Clerk reported that Swarco were prepared to provide a three year maintenance contract on the MVAS equipment at a fixed annual cost of £318 plus VAT. They were also prepared to bill the Council on an annual basis rather than pay for three years up front. Members agreed to take out a three year contract on this basis.

8. Local Highway Improvement Initiatives:-

- a) The Clerk advised that he along with the Chair would be attending a panel meeting on 22nd January 2020 to discuss our bid for funding for the footway improvements along the High Street.
- b) Cllr Connor agreed to chase CCC for the promised feasibility study for a pedestrian crossing near the local school.

9. Fenland DC, CCC and external organisation reports: -

- a) The Clerk had previously circulated a published CCC Climate Strategy Consultation and whilst members applauded their proposals to reduce carbon emissions they felt that as a Parish Council that had no vehicles or heated any public buildings there was little assistance that Doddington could undertake.
- b) The Chair reported that nominations for this year's Pride in Fenland awards close on 17th February 2020. Members suggested a number of potential names that could be put forward and the Chair agreed to prepare suitable nomination reasons.

10. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

- i. F/YR19/1065/F Erection of a 2 storey 6 bed dwelling with integral double garage involving formation of a shared access and demolition of existing shed within a conservation area, land west of 27-35 New Street Doddington.

Members objected to this application on the following grounds:

- a. The size of the development is likely to obstruct the view of the Parish Church from Benwick Road,
- b. The location of the development is back filling and its design is out of character with the surrounding properties,
- c. A building of the proposed size and design would seriously impact the Doddington Conservation Area and lends nothing to enhance the area.

b) Existing Application:-

- i. F/YR19/0956/F Erect 1 x dwelling (3 storey 7 bed) with integral garage and a shed involving the temporary siting of a caravan during construction at Land South of May Meadows Doddington.

Members were advised that FDC had approved this application.

- ii. F/YR19/1001/O Erect up to 10 dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) land south of 63-77 Newgate Street Doddington.

The Chair advised members that she was writing to the agent to express the Council's disappointment that the provision of allotments had not been included within the application and that FDC had now advised that the provision could not be made a section 106 condition.

c) Fenland Local Plan:-

The Chair advised that a number of members had considered what areas of land were available for possible development together with areas that should remain undeveloped in perpetuity. The report of the meeting was adopted by the Council and members agreed that the findings should be reported to FDC as part of the Parish Councils submission on the new local plan.

d) Pre application planning:-

Members agreed that, as a future routine, whenever the Parish Council is involved in a pre-application meeting with developers or agents that a report of the meeting together with the Parish Councils feelings on the proposal be recorded for future use should the proposal be brought forward as a formal planning application.

11. Street Lighting:-

a) The Clerk reported that the revised UMSO certificate had been received that took account of the new status of the street lights following their upgrading and replacement. He advised that EON had now issued a full credit note for the £696.98 charge that was paid at the last meeting and had issued a revised invoice for that period amounting to £276.87. In addition he had also received the charge of £182.62 for the December 2019 period. At present the Parish Council still holds a credit of £237.48 to cover future charges. He also advised the Council that EON were now charging VAT at 5% on the electricity costs whereas the original charges were incurring VAT at 20%. Members noted the position.

12. Abbey Field/Skate Park:-

a) The Clerk advised members that Benwick AFC has now confirmed their agreement to the wording of the new rental agreement and have suggested that the new agreement starts on 1st January 2020. Members were informed that a formal agreement will now be prepared and signed by the Chair and Clerk. As the football club has paid £140 for the January rental they will be paying a further £10 which will then cover the rental sums for January, February and March. The Clerk also advised members that the December grass cutting invoice had been received and the Parish Council's contribution of £100 towards that would be presented for payment later in the meeting. He confirmed that it would be the last settlement we would make under the old lease arrangements.

13. Financial Items:-

a) Parish Precept 2020/2021. The Clerk had circulated a draft calculation for the next financial year's precept. The various ideas and suggestions for projects had been incorporated and after a general discussion, members voted to increase the precept to £56,459; an increase of 9.5%

b) Payments:

E Mason & Sons	Grass cutting	36.00
EON PLC	Street Lighting REFUND	696.97 cr
EON PLC	Street Lighting Electricity	459.49 (offset refund)
Benwick Athletic FC	Grass cutting contribution	100.00
Doddington Scouts	Litter collection Abbey Field	100.00
St.Marys Church	Closed Churchyard Contribution	1,500.00
R Wilkin	Net Salary	678.50
R Wilkin	Petty Cash	56.80
HMR&C	Income Tax – Clerk Salary	169.62

14. Correspondence:-

Cambs ACRE are holding a peer learning event on the Local Council Award Scheme on 31st March 2020. The Chair advised that she was proposing to attend and invited any other Councillor to join her.

15. Any Other Business:-

a) Renewal of Council flags would be discussed at the next meeting.

b) Annual Dinner. Clerk was asked to organise a date with the Three Tuns for the end of February 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.