

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held by remote video conference on Wednesday 14th October 2020 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. The Clerk Mr R Wilkin was present.

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr A Harrison, Cllr M Davis (District Councillor) and Cllr D Connor (District and County Councillor)

3. Declaration of Interests: - Declarations were declared by Cllr Fisher on a planning application that was to be considered later in the meeting.

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

5. Updates and matters arising:-

Updates on a number of projects / subjects are still awaited although some are delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic:

- a) Age UK Community Warden arrangement – no further update
- b) The report on the condition of the Churchyard wall was still awaited
- c) The Chair reported that no further communication had been received from the former landlords of The George over their wishes to retain the “Community Hub” within the village. Members agreed that no further action be taken on this matter for the time being.
- d) The Chair reported that the AGM of The Connections Bus Project would be taking place on 26th October 2020 via Zoom and she was prepared to take part on behalf of the Parish Council. Members approved the arrangements.
- e) The Chair advised members that no further movement has taken place on a possible site for allotments within the village.

6. Police Matters: -

a) The Clerk had previously circulated the minutes of a Police and Councillor meeting that took place on 2nd October 2020. The Chair had attended this meeting and she updated members further.

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

a) In the absence of our District and County Councillors, no report was available.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Members raised the following items:

- 1. Eastmore Lane; there were numerous pot holes and ridges within the road surface.

b) Updates had been received on the following items:

- 1. The “Dragon Patcher was due to further attend to the pot holes in Coneywood Road.

2. CCC are to monitor the dips in Primrose Hill and on Doddington Road outside Thickers Farm

3. FDC are to write to the owners of Doddington Court regarding the overhanging branches of trees fronting Hospital Road.

4. CCC have advised that Hospital Road will require major repairs.

c) The Clerk reported that the Secretary of State had confirmed the modification order for public footpath 19. Notices advising this confirmation had been posted on the village noticeboard.

d) The Chair updated members on progress for the repairs to the High Street footway covered by the 2020/21 LHI scheme. CCC had prepared a works order and a meeting was being arranged with their contractors to agree a start date.

e) The Chair informed members that a public consultation would be advertised later this year to seek comments on the proposed pedestrian crossing outside the local primary school.

9. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

i. F/YR20/0821/TRCA Works to 5 beech trees within a conservation area at Hermitage Gardens Doddington

Cllr Fisher declared an interest. Members voted to support the application

ii. F/YR20/0842/TRTPO Works to 2 willow trees covered by TPO/19/1988 at Lake View 1D Brickmakers Arms Lane Doddington.

Members supported the application.

iii. F/YR20/0857/RM Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (plot 2 only) pursuant to outline permission F/YR19/0684/O to erect a dwelling (2 storey 4 bed) and associated works at Land East of 4A Primrose Hill Doddington

Members supported the application.

iv. F/YR20/0881/F Removal of existing chimney to south porch of church at St Marys Church, Church Lane Doddington

Members supported the application.

b) Other Planning Matters

i. Members considered the Government's Planning White Paper and in particular the response that FDC had submitted in the consultation exercise. It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Shepherd and agreed that a letter supporting the points made by FDC be sent to FDC and the MP Steve Barclay.

ii. FDC had extended the period in which land owners may propose sites for inclusion as areas for development within the new Fenland Local Plan. It was agreed that a special Council meeting take place via Zoom to consider the additional sites within the Doddington area on 20th October 2020 and that the decision of that meeting forms the submission by the Parish Council to FDC.

iii. Following the decision at the last meeting to re-launch a Neighbourhood Plan for the village, the Chair asked members to indicate if they were able to form a working group to work on a Plan. Cllrs Presland, Fisher, Howard, Gowler and Hufton agreed to form the working party.

10. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) It was reported that replacement window covers at Abbey pavilion were now in place.

Members agreed that in view of the minor damage that had taken place to one of the ramps that repairs be deferred for the time being. However, it was reported that graffiti had been drawn on a number of ramps. It was agreed to ask Cllr Connor to seek help from FDC for one of their specialised cleaning teams to remove the offending drawings.

b) It was reported that comments had been made on social media that groups of youths had been seen in the area and it was alleged that a knife had been seen. The Chair advised that she had discussed these allegations with the police who had stated that they would respond very quickly

if an official report had been made but they were unable to take action on social media reports. It was agreed that a suitable note should be included in the PC report to the Doddington Diary asking that if anyone notices unsociable behaviour taking place or weapons being displayed that they should phone the police rather than posting a note on social media.

c) The Clerk reported that the existing safety inspection contract with Sovereign Play was due for renewal. He reported that the renewal rate would remain the same but they had offered a discount if a three year contract was taken out. They had also offered the issue annual invoices for each of the three years. Members were reminded that it was a condition of insurance cover that safety inspections were made by a qualified company. Members agreed to take out a three year contract with Sovereign Play

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.**
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.

b) Members agreed with a suggestion that the VE bench be temporary fixed within the area until a more permanent site could be agreed.

12. Street Lighting:-

a) The Chair updated members on the issue over the removal of street light FP22 and if this could not be resolved with ET Lighting then Cable Testing be asked to undertake the work.

13. Village Maintenance:-

a) The Chair advised members that Neil Sooley had provided a quotation of £250 for the routine maintenance of village street furniture. It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Shepherd and unanimously agreed to accept this quotation.

- b) Members also considered the cost of replacing the bus shelter that was badly damaged by storms. Neil Sooley had quoted £2,900 to rebuild the shelter. The Chair had investigated the cost of providing a new purpose built wooded shelter. Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd had quoted £5,980 for supplying a “Newstead” designed shelter. The Clerk was asked to seek the comments of the insurance company.
- c) It was reported that the damaged white “warning” gate at the boundary of the village had been repaired.

14. Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020:-

- a) Due to the ongoing pandemic situation an outdoor church service would take place and wreath laying would be undertaken by a limited number of people who would lay wreaths for all village organisations.
- b) It was agreed that the flag would be flown and “Tommy” and poppies would be fixed to the clock tower.

15. Website and Communications:-

- a) The Chair advised members that Cllr Howard had kindly agreed to become an additional person on the Web Site Committee, together with Cllrs Gowler and Harrison..
- b) It was agreed that no Zoom recordings would be made of Council meetings going forward.
- c) As part of the ongoing update of the website, notices and records would be retained for a limited time. The Chair and Clerk would however consider the wider issue on the length of time paper records are kept.

16. Financial Items:-

- a) The Clerk circulated for member’s information a half yearly summary of the Council’s accounts and this would be extended to a quarterly review, to be undertaken by Cllrs Hufton & Gowler. The adoption of the account and future procedures was proposed by Cllr Shepherd, seconded by Cllr Mason and unanimously agreed.

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	176.73
E Mason & Son	Grass & hedge cutting	570.00
Fenland DC	Maintenance CCTV system	3,000.00
Amey Cespa (East) Ltd	Third party contrib – CCTV Grant	1,100.00
J O Cutteridge	Grass cutting	3,264.00
I Gower	Domain fee	20.38
St Marys Church	Closed churchyard grant	1,500.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	750.42
HMR&C	Income Tax	182.10

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

