

**Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th February 2020
in the Church Rooms, New Street, Doddington at 7.00p.m.**

Present: -Cllr. R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs H Fisher, L Howard, R Mason, K Presland, J Shepherd and J Welcher. The Clerk Mr R Wilkin was present.

1. Open Forum: - One resident was present who reported that the street light outside 57 New Street was not working. The Chair advised that a number of lights had been reported to Electrical Testing and they would be chased to effect repairs.

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

3. Declaration of Interests:-

Cllr R Mason declared an interest on agenda item 14 that was to be considered later in the meeting.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chair as correct.

5. Matters arising from previous Council discussions: -

- a) The Chair advised members that FDC were holding a meeting with Parish and Town Council representatives tomorrow on "Operation London Bridge". Members took the opportunity to discuss the condition of two flags owned by the Parish Council and concluded that that a new Union Jack and a new St George flag should be purchased. A quotation had been received from House of Flags in the sum of £520.26 plus VAT. No delivery charge would be incurred as Cllr Shepherd could arrange for them to be collected.
- b) Members considered a number of issues that Cllrs Howard and Presland raised from their recent attendance at the "Councillor Training Day". One issue that of using generic email addresses on the Council web site should be used. This option had been raised before and the Chair agreed to ask Cllrs Harrison and Gowler to explore making the necessary changes.
- c) The Clerk advised members that the Parish Council Annual Dinner would be held at The Three Tuns on Thursday 27th February 2020.

6. Police Matters: -

- a) The Fenland Neighbourhood Policing Team Monthly report for January 2020 had been circulated.

7. Highway Issues:-

- a) The following highway defects were reported:-
 - i. The pot hole in Eastalls Close was still outstanding.
 - ii. Trees along Church Lane were overhanging the roadway.
 - iii. There were deep ruts along the verge near 22 Wimblington Road.
- b) The Chair advised members that a meeting with a representative from CCC Highways is due to take place on 14th February 2020 to discuss traffic parking issues that were occurring along Benwick Road.
- c) The Clerk advised members that the new three year contract with Swarco, for maintenance of the MVAS unit had been signed and the first years maintenance charge was due to be paid.
- d) Members considered a request from John Cutteridge that due to the early growth of grass along the verges he asked for authority to undertake an additional cut. Members agreed to the request.

e) Members were advised that CCC have earmarked money for improvements to be made to the surface of Floods Ferry Road.

8. Local Highway Improvement Initiatives:-

- a) The Chair gave a brief report on the meeting that had taken place with CCC over the submission of our bid for funding for the footway improvements along the High Street.
- b) The Chair reported that a Project Feasibility Summary for a pedestrian crossing near the primary school had now been received from CCC. The report showed the estimated preliminary costs of installing a puffin crossing was £57,941. CCC advised that an accurate costing will not be known until a detailed design undertaking has been provided by a specialist signalised crossing team. This will incur a design cost. In addition, CCC will require the Parish Council to pay for the maintenance of the signals for a period of 25 years. They have indicated that they will not bill the parish council on an annual basis but have offered a commutation of the total estimated costs totalling £25,000. Members expressed surprise at the stance being taken by CCC and will seek a detailed answer on the maintenance issue. In the meantime, steps would commence on approaching companies and organisations on the feasibility of seeking grants to pay for the installation works. An approach would be made to the Mick George Community Fund for £20,000.
- c) The Clerk reported that CCC had announced new arrangements for the receipt of applications for LHI funding for the financial year 2021/22. The timetable is being brought forward by two months meaning that the application window will now open on 1st April 2020 and will close on 31st May 2020.

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

- a) The Clerk reported that Fenland DC was investigating options for parking enforcement to tackle illegal, unsafe and inconsiderate parking across the district.

10. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

- i. F/YR20/0026/F Erect plant room and bio-mass boiler flue involving removal of existing tanks at Delfland Nurseries Benwick Road Doddington.
Members supported the application.
- ii. F/YR20/0082/F Formation of a vehicular access and dropped kerb to existing dwelling fronting Newgate Street at 5 Miller Close Doddington.
Members supported the application.
- iii. F/YR20/0100/F Change of use from equestrian to dog grooming, training and agility at Ivydene, Beezling Fen Drove, Chatteris.
Members supported the application.

b) Existing Application:-

- i. F/YR19/0918/F and F/YR19/0919/F Erect 1 dwelling and conversion of barns to 2 dwellings at Post Mill Farm Benwick Road Doddington
FDC advised that both applications had been withdrawn. Members noted the position.

c) Pre Application Consultation:-

Morton and Hall were preparing a planning application to develop an area north of 1 Wimblington Road Doddington and had submitted their draft plans to the Parish Council for their initial views.

Members were concerned that any development along the northern side of Wimblington Road would create further coalition between Doddington and Wimblington. However members asked for further details on the size and justification of need for “executive” units. In addition there did

not seem to be any information on arrangements for disposal of foul water and sewerage or what maintenance arrangements were being proposed to cover the additional lamp posts along Wimblington Road.

d) Fenland Local Plan:-

Members were advised that FDC had published a list of possible sites that may be suitable for development within the district and had asked Town and Parish Councils to comment on any sites within their area. It was agreed that a separate meeting be arranged to consider Doddington's response.

11. Street Lighting:-

a) The Chair reported that she had been in conversation with Wimblington PC on the question of maintenance options for the parish street lights. Electrical Testing were unable to provide a maintenance facility for the Parishes therefore It was agreed to seek quotations from other companies, and share results with Wimblington PC.

12. Abbey Field/Skate Park:-

- a) The Chair reported that she had submitted a grant application for £10,000 to Amey to pay for the installation of CCTV facilities to cover the pavilion and skate park.
- b) The Clerk reported that a routine safety inspection by Sovereign had been carried out on the skate park equipment. It reported that a side panel on one of the ramps had been damaged and they had provided a quotation of £939.54 plus vat to repair it. Members noted the report and agreed to ask Brian Elmore to provide a quotation.
- c) The Clerk reported that the signed copy of the new lease with Benwick Athletic Football Club had been received.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery:-

- a) Members discussed the various options available to improve the condition of the grasscrete roadway but decided not to take any action for a period of 12 months other than to spray the area to clear the weeds.
- b) It was reported that the quantity of gravel at the entrance to the cemetery was excessive and made it difficult for vehicles to drive over. The Chair agreed to speak to Jonathan Tibbett to see if they would be prepared to reduce the depth of gravel and remove the surplus.
- c) It was agreed to purchase, at an appropriate time, a suitable waste Bin for dead flowers.
- d) The Clerk had circulated a draft update to the Rules and Regulations that had previously been prepared. Members made two alterations to the draft which was then approved.

14. Allotments:-

Cllr Mason left the room whilst members considered this matter.

The Chair updated members on the correspondence she had received from the architects acting for the land owner. Fenland DC planning had advised that a section 106 provision for allotment land could not be secured as part of the planning application and therefore any agreement with the land owner needs to be outside of FDC's involvement. The land owner is still prepared to "gift" the land to the village. Members agreed to ask that the agent prepares a plan showing where the gifted land would be sited including its access.

15. VE Day:-

The Clerk circulated the revised design of the new seat that had been authorised which was approved.

Members considered whether a community event should take place to commemorate VE Day in May 2020. It was agreed to give further consideration to this at the next meeting.

16. Financial Items:-

a) The Clerk advised members that the Council's insurance company had provided details of an extension to the existing policy that provided cover in the event of a cyber-attack and any liabilities due to a breach of privacy legislation (GDPR) at a cost of £299.99. Members agreed to take out cover but explore the option of taking out joint cover with a neighbouring parish council.

b) It was formally reported that the recent storms had caused significant damage to the bus shelter in Benwick Road. The Clerk advised that the incident had been reported to the insurance company. The Chair thanked those councillors who helped remove the rubble and roof of the shelter and made the area safe. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the two youngsters who turned out to help.

Members agreed to consider samples of a replacement shelter at the next meeting.

c) Payments:

EON PLC	Street Lighting Electricity	182.62 (offset refund)
(members were advised that there was £54.86 of refund still available)		
Doddington Scouts	Litter collection Abbey Field	100.00
David Ogilvie Engin.	New VE Day bench	1,441.20
CAPALC	Training course	150.00
Swarco	MVAS Maintenance	381.60
EON PLC	Clock Tower electricity	2.58
R Hufton	Brown bin – Church	36.00
CCC	LHI Contribution	3,472.69
R Wilkin	Net Salary	678.50
R Wilkin	Petty Cash	31.00
HMR&C	Income Tax – Clerk Salary	169.62

17. Correspondence:-

a) The Clerk reported receipt of a request from East Anglia's Children's Hospices for a donation. Members regretted that they were not in a position to make donation of public money to charities.

b) The Clerk reported receipt of a notice from the Keep Britain Tidy Group on a scheme called "Great British Spring Clean 2020". Members agreed that the Street Pride Group were already providing an excellent service in keeping the village clean, but that the notice should be passed to the Street Pride Group for their decision.

18. Any Other Business:-

The Chair advised that she and the Vice Chair would be making the annual check on the condition of the Parish assets.

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