

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held by remote video conference on Wednesday 10th February 2021 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 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: - All members were present.

3. Declaration of Interests:- The Chair, Cllr R Hufton, declared an interest in a planning item that was to be considered later in the meeting.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meetings held on 13th and 28th January 2021 were approved. Following the meeting, the Chair would sign the minutes of the 13th and the Vice Chair would sign the minutes of the 28th and forward them to the Clerk.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) The Clerk updated members that the proposed start date of road work improvements surrounding the Guyhirn roundabout on the A47 was March 2021.

6. Police Matters: -

a) Members noted the minutes of the Police / Parish representatives meeting from 21st January 2021 and commented on the excellent local patrols and how responsive police were to calls for action.

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

No new items of interest were raised

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Updates on items previously raised:

1. Repairs to the junction of Beech Road and Wimblington Road had been undertaken by CCC.
2. Flushing out of drains in the area had commenced.
3. Repairs to damage to the road surface of Blue Lane was not being supported by CCC but members suggested that posts and markers could be sited along the road edging in an attempt to prevent the very large tractors and trailers using the road from damaging the edging.
4. CCC was issuing notices to landowners adjoining footpath 19 near Turf Fen Lane requiring them to remove any structures that had been placed incorrectly on the footpath.

b) Members raised the following new items:

1. Pot holes were reported on Dyke Moor Road and near junction of Hospital Road and Benwick Road.
2. A broken drain was reported near 48 Benwick Road.

c) The Clerk had previously circulated members with an advice that works would be starting on the footpath improvements from the school towards the clock tower from 13th to 20th February 2021 in accordance with our successful bid under the LHI scheme for 2020/21.

d) The Clerk advised members that our bid under the LHI 2021/22 scheme would be heard by the CCC panel on 1st March 2021. The feasibility summary prepared by CCC shows that if the bid is successful, the Parish Council will be making a £5,012.01 contribution towards the estimated total costs of £20,012.01

e) FDC had recently taken part in a multi-agency meeting to consider the flooding that had taken place in the area over the Christmas period and as a result of that they were now requesting all Town and Parish Councils to provide a list of affected areas with possible reasons why localised flooding had occurred. Members provided details of a number of instances which the Clerk was collating for submission to FDC.

9. Pedestrian Crossing Public Consultation:-

A general discussion took place and members agreed the following action points:

1. An advert to be placed in the Doddington Diary that contained a form in which residents vote on the suggestion to create a pedestrian crossing outside of the school.
2. Two zoom meetings take place to give information out to residents. Meetings to take place on 20th March from 2.00 to 4.00pm and 22nd March from 6.00 to 8.00pm. Briefings to be given out by the Chair and Vice Chair. The Clerk to take minutes and collate responses given on the forms that would be dropped into the One Stop Shop and Doddington Newsagents was agreed that personal contact be made with house owners who could be affected by the operation of the crossing lights

10. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

Prior to the members considering the applications, Cllr D Connor advised members that he had advised FDC Planning Committee that he would be declaring an interest in application 0065 and would not therefore be taking part in the discussions or vote on the application. This had been agreed and therefore he was able to take part in any discussions on that application tonight.

Cllr M Davis advised that she would be taking part in the FDC discussion and therefore would take no part in tonight's discussions.

i. F/YR21/0050/F Erect brick wall, piers, railings and electric gate to front existing boundary (max height 1.7m) at 3 Wood Street Doddington

Members supported the application.

ii. F/YR21/0066/F Alterations to existing garage to include a roof extension, installation of a dormer window and 4 x roof lights and the installation of an external staircase (to create first floor storage area) at 4 Askham Row, Benwick Road Doddington

Members supported the application.

iii. F/YR21/0065/F Erect 16 x dwellings (5 x single storey 2 bed and 11 x single storey 3 bed) with associated garages, parking and landscaping on land north of 43-53 High Street Doddington.

The Chair, Cllr R Hufton, declared an interest in the application and withdrew from the meeting and did not take part in the discussion or the vote. Cllr I Gowler, Vice Chair, took the Chair for this item.

Members discussed this application at length and made numerous observations and comments about the application and unanimously voted to object to the application. The Vice Chair and Clerk agreed to prepare a comprehensive objection to the application.

Cllr D Connor tendered his apologies and left the meeting at this point.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) The Clerk advised members that a safety inspection was being scheduled to take place by Sovereign later this month

12. 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.

13. Street Lighting:-

a) Cllrs Harrison and Howard agreed to make a tour of the village to list any non-working lights.

14. Village Maintenance:-

a) The Chair advised members that routine maintenance to PC assets would now be undertaken by a Mr Mathew Carpenter from Wimblington.

b) The Clerk and Cllr Shepherd updated members on progress for the replacement of the damaged bus shelter including arrangements for the removal of the damaged brickwork.

c) The Bier House has experienced some flooding and water is believed to have entered the unit by flowing under the front double doors. It is not known if any lasting damage has occurred but a better assessment may be made once the unit dries out.

15. Website and Communications:-

Members agreed that a further annual charge to WordPress be made as this will enable all items to be transferred to the new website and warning messages can be arranged directing people to the new site.

16. Financial Items:-**a) 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
E Mason & Son	Maintenance of cemetery grounds	432.00
Hugofox Ltd	Web site annual fee	287.86
I Gowler	Web site monthly fee	19.99
A Harrison	Word Press Annual fee	84.00
R Hufton	Church brown bin fee	38.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	733.42
HMR&C	Income Tax	182.10

17. Correspondence:-

a) CAPALC had advised that, at the present time, the Government had not extended the regulations permitting the use of remote meeting facilities beyond 7th May 2021 and guidelines are being compiled for local councils to return to physical meetings during the current coronavirus pandemic. Members noted the position.

b) The Clerk reported that Benwick Parish Council were considering offering residents in Doddington the use of the allotments. Members indicated that they were interested in assisting Benwick and the Clerk agreed to speak to the Benwick Clerk to obtain further information.

18. Any other Business:-

a) Cllr Mason informed members that a theft had occurred at the Parish Church.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

