

Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held by remote video conference on Wednesday 13th May 2020 at 7.00p.m.

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

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr J Shepherd

3. Appointment of Chairman:-

Cllr. Gowler took the chair for this item and proposed that Cllr. Hufton be reappointed Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr Harrison seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed by the members.

4. Appointment of Vice-Chairman:-

Cllr. Hufton proposed that Cllr. Gower be appointed Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr. Mason seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed by the members.

5. Election of Committees and Representatives on external bodies:-

Street Lighting:	Cllrs. Harrison and Howard
Charity:	Cllrs. Hufton and Welcher
Risk Assessment:	All councillors
Abbey Recreation Field:	Cllrs. Hufton and Shepherd
Benwick Road Cemetery:	Cllrs. Gowler, Mason, Welcher, Harrison and Fisher
Planning:	Cllrs. Gowler, Shepherd, Fisher and Presland
Clock:	Cllrs. Mason and Shepherd
Village Maintenance:	Cllrs. Hufton Gowler and Presland
Flag:	Cllr. Welcher
Website:	Cllrs. Harrison and Gowler

Representatives:

Burnthouse Wind Farm Fund Cllr. Hufton

Ransonmoor Wind Fm Fund Cllr. Harrison

Village Hall Trustees This was left in abeyance pending clarification from the Village Hall Committee on their future proposals on appointing trustees

6. Declaration of Interests:-

Cllrs I Gowler and R Mason declared an interest in one planning application that was to be considered later in the meeting.

7. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2020 were agreed as correct. They were signed by the Chair following the meeting and then forwarded to the Clerk.

8. Updates and matters arising:-

Replies to 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) Connections Bus Project – arrangements still suspended.
- c) Repairs to Abbey Pavilion and Skate Park panels are still delayed
- d) Cllr Welcher confirmed that the surplus gravel from Benwick Road cemetery was due to be removed shortly
- e) The report on the condition of the Churchyard wall was still awaited
- f) The Clerk advised members that Cable Test had been offered the street lighting contract maintenance contract.
- g) The grant application request to Amey to cover the CCTV facilities on Abbey Field has been submitted
- h) Cllr Connor was requested to seek written confirmation on the proposed maintenance position (i.e. annual charge or a 25year commutation figure) that had been suggested for a pedestrian crossing outside of the local school
- i) The Chair reported that delivery of the VE bench had been delayed as the company had temporarily closed due to the pandemic. However, she thanked those who had erected the “Tommy” and poppy garland on the Clock Tower and assisted in bunting being sited around the George Inn. Members agreed to seek a quotation from Brian Elmore to make a second “Tommy”, with slight modifications to protect any copyrights.

9. Police Matters: -

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

10. Highway Issues: -

- a) Members expressed thanks to the recent work undertaken by the “Dragon Pacher” team on pot holes around the village but concerns were raised on the condition of Cooks Green. Cllr Connor agreed to take up the issue with CCC.
- b) Cllr Mason raised concerns on the overhanging trees near the Church and in the surrounding area. Cllr Connor and Cllr Mason agreed to meet on site to assess the position.
- c) Concern was raised on the blocked gutters throughout the village including the Abbey Rec car park. Cllr Connor agreed to take the matter up with CCC but the Abbey Rec car park may have to be cleared by the Parish Council.
- d) The Clerk reported that our application for a 2021/2022 LHI application to improve the footpath on the south side of High Street towards the George Inn had been submitted.
- e) The Chair reported receipt of a quotation from CCC for traffic calming measures in Benwick Road. Double yellow lines would cost around £1,110 and build-outs would cost around £5,000 per unit. Members agreed to seek an idea from CCC on the cost of them providing some plans that could be used to display at a future public consultation exercise before any works were approved. Cllr Connor agreed to take this idea up with CCC.
- f) The Clerk had previously circulated information from FDC on a Combined Authority Bus Service Review which included a request for Parish and Town Councils to report on each bus stop within their area to identify where stops were missing or in need of improvement. There were 6 stops listed for Doddington and the Chair reported that inspections had been made and the result passed back to the CPCA Bus Reform Task Force.

11. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

i. F/YR20/0294/VOC Variation to condition 6 on planning permission F/YR19/0528/F to amend the house design at Land South of 26 Newgate Street Doddington.

Cllr Gowler declared an interest and after a general discussion members agreed to make no comment on the application.

ii. F/YR20/0356/F Change of use from B&B/part residential to 4 bed dwelling at 17 Brickmakers Arms Lane Doddington

Members supported the application

b) Other Planning Matters

i. F/YR20/0339/CERTLU Certificate of lawfulness (existing) : Siting of a mobile home at Caravan land north of The Warren Parsons Land Drove Doddington.

Members were informed that this was not a planning application but was a request for local knowledge to establish the history of the site. The Chair reported that she had spoken to the land owner and had been informed that the tenants had been on site for at least 7 years and probably longer. This information had been passed back to FDC.

ii. F/YR20/0265/RM Reserved matters relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for plot 2 F/YR19/0684/O land east of 4a Primrose Hill Doddington.

Members were informed that this application had been withdrawn.

iii. The Chair updated members on progress that the agents were making prior to submitting a planning application to develop the land known locally as the “Mason Development”.

Cllrs Mason and Gowler declared an interest in this work.

iv. Cllr Connor asked that his abstention from any discussion on planning issues be minuted.

12. Village Maintenance:-

The Chair advised members on the condition of the Council’s street furniture following an inspection. The work included providing a quotation to rebuild the damaged bus shelter near the Bier House and to move a public seat from New Street to outside of the Church Rooms.

13. 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 Scouts	Litter collection Abbey Field	100.00
EON PLC	Street Lighting Electricity	176.73
R Hufton	“Stay at Home” signs	177.60
BHIB Ltd	Annual Insurance premium	3,112.78
R Wilkin	Net Salary	710.94
R Wilkin	Petty Cash	11.73
HMR&C	Income Tax – Clerk Salary	177.74

b) Annual Audits and AGAR Report:

The Clerk had previously circulated the Council’s draft final accounts for the financial year 2019/2020. These show an increase in income over budget due to the receipt from FDC of street lighting funding on cat 2 lights. There was also a significant saving on expenses which together with increased income meant that the Council had a substantial increase in cash funds.

Cllr Mason proposed their approval which was seconded by Cllr Harrison and unanimously agreed by members.

The Clerk advised that the draft accounts would now be passed to the internal auditor for verification.

As the cash sums held in the Council's bank account was in excess of the £85,000 FCI protection arrangement, the Clerk was asked to investigate opening a deposit account with another bank.

In the meantime the Council considered the approval to two sections of the AGAR Report which formed part of the external audit procedure:

- i. The Clerk had previously circulated the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 to members which required members to verify that there was a sound system of internal control including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. It was proposed by Cllr Gowler and seconded by Cllr Harrison that in all respects the Council followed a sound arrangement for financial control and preparation of annual accounts. This was unanimously agreed by members.
- ii. The Clerk submitted the AGAR Accounting Statements 2019/20 for members approval. It was proposed by Cllr Welcher and seconded by Cllr Harrison that the accounting statements be approved. This was unanimously agreed by members.

14. Correspondence:-

- a) Members were advised that a request had been received from The George that a letter of support be sent to the Princes Trust for them to secure a grant to enable them to undertake various community activities. Members agreed to the request.
- b) The Clerk reported receipt of a request from Benwick Athletic FC that permission be given for them to make a square archway between two changing rooms. Members agreed that providing suitable arrangements were made to ensure that any damage caused to the stability of the area was corrected that permission be granted.
- c) The Chair reported receipt of a request from another Parish Council on whether we were considering opening up the use of the skate park. Members confirmed that the opening up of our skate park facilities would take place once District and or National Government advice was received.
- d) The Clerk reported receipt of a notification from FDC that a public consultation was due to take place on the March Area Transport Study. It was agreed to circulate arrangements to all members and record the item on the website with a possible link into the Doddington Diary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.39pm.