

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held by remote video conference on Wednesday 10th June 2020 at 7.00p.m.

Present: -Cllr. R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs H Fisher, I Gowler, L Howard, R Mason, J Shepherd 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 Cllrs A Harrison and K Presland.

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were recorded

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2020 were agreed as correct. They would then be signed by the Chair following the meeting and forwarded to the Clerk.

5. 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 – youth zones and youth buses are still suspended but the organisers are currently looking at holding courses that can take place using video conferencing or in a socially distancing setting. Whilst costs will be lower than their full schemes these arrangements are likely to reach fewer young people. Members expressed the view that they may be interested in these alternatives when more details become available.
- c) Repairs to Abbey Pavilion and Skate Park panels are still delayed
- d) The report on the condition of the Churchyard wall was still awaited
- e) Cllr Connor advised that CCC was being slow in providing a definite answer on the financial arrangements for any maintenance contract that may be taken out should a pedestrian crossing be installed outside of the school.
- f) The Chair updated members on whether the Parish Council should nominate two of its members to be trustees on the Village Hall Management Committee. During an exchange of emails with the existing officers of the Management Committee it became apparent that there was a significant difference of opinion on the roles of the trustees. In the circumstances members agreed not to pursue matters further other than to request that copies of the minutes of the Management Committee be forwarded to the Parish Council.

6. Police Matters: -

- a) The shortened Fenland Neighbourhood Policing Team Monthly report dated 4th June 2020 had been circulated. There were no issues in the report relating to Doddington which was noted by the members.
- b) Members noted that it was possible that some youths, that at one time had caused some issues in the village, may be revisiting the village again. The police were aware of the situation.

7. Highway Issues: -

- a) Cllr Connor advised that CCC were planning on repairing the pot holes in Cooks Green shortly providing that no cars were parked in the area. Residents had been circulated advising them of the proposed date for works to take place.
- b) Members were advised that CCC were hoping to clear all gutters in the village shortly. This should alleviate localised flooding that was occurring especially along Wimblington Road, and in the layby against the churchyard.
- c) 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 received by CCC but that due to the Covid-19 situation there was no timescale when the LHI applications would be reviewed.
- d) The Chair informed members that CCC had advised that the cost of providing plans for traffic calming measures along Benwick Road would be £2,000 per project. Revised costs for providing double yellow lines would cost £2,500 and build-outs would cost around £7,500 per unit. The Chair agreed to ask if CCC could reduce their costs for providing the plans.
- e) Members were advised that Skanska were proposing repainting the white lines at road junctions within the village.
- f) Members were advised that there had been a complaint about the state of the footpath through to the Pocket Park, because of a kissing gate. Members were advised that CCC would resolve this by removing the gate.

8. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

- i. F/YR20/0411/TRCA Felling of 3 sycamore trees within a conservation area at The Lodge 4 New Street Doddington

Members supported the application.

- ii. F/YR20/0412/F Erect 2 x single storey 3 bed dwellings with a detached double garage involving demolition of existing buildings at Land North West of 11 Church lane Doddington. Members objected to this application as they considered the construction of two dwellings on this parcel of land to be overdevelopment.

b) Other Planning Matters

Members were asked to consider changing the current arrangements for handling planning applications by circulating details of planning applications to the Council's Planning Committee as soon as they were received in order that the Planning Committee can report their observations at the monthly meeting. Members agreed that planning applications should be forwarded to all members rather than just the Planning Committee.

9. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) Benwick Athletic FC are currently upgrading the inside of the pavilion and have asked to construct an opening between two of the changing rooms; an undertaking had been received from the builder that the wall was not load bearing. They also asked if they could fence in the main football pitch to prevent the area being used by dog walkers. Members gave permission for the internal alterations but were not happy to authorise any fencing being erected on the field as the area was a public open space. It was reported that sub-letting by BAFC may be taking place which was contrary to the lease agreement and that the grass needed urgent cutting. This would be taken up with the Club.
- b) Members were advised that our application for a £10,000 grant to pay for the proposed CCTV installation had been approved and two orders for the work and maintenance arrangements would be issued.

10. Village Maintenance:-

- a) The Chair advised members that instructions had been issued to Neil Sooley to undertake the routine maintenance on the street furniture and to provide a quotation to replace the bus shelter near the Bier House.
- b) The Clerk updated members on the cleaning of the Clock Tower. As there had been no reaction from the original company he had approached a company who specialised in cleaning war memorials. This company, IMI, had undertaken some clock tower work in the past. Members agreed to seek a quotation from them.

11. Financial Items:-

- a) The Clerk reported that the Annual Internal Audit had been completed and he read out the audit report to members which effectively gave a “clean” report with no matters that the auditor wished to draw member’s attention on. Members noted the report and thanked the Clerk for the financial work that he undertakes. The Clerk advised members that the external AGAR report had been submitted to PKF Littlejohn, the external auditors.
- b) The Clerk advised members that the period available for public inspection of the Annual Accounts will run from 15th June 2020 to 24th July 2020. The notice had been published on the Council’s website.
- c) The Chair suggested that the Council purchase a projector and screen that could be used at PC meetings. This was agreed with the following proviso:
 - i. That internet access is available within the Church Rooms
 - ii. That a grant application be made to Burnt House to finance the purchase.

d) 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	182.62
I Cooper	Internal Audit fee	135.00
BHIB Ltd	Insurance policy extension	299.99
R Wilkin	Net Salary	710.94
R Wilkin	Petty Cash	15.70
HMR&C	Income Tax – Clerk Salary	177.74

12. Correspondence:-

- a) A request had been received to create a “Spoon Garden” near the village sign that was similar to one created in Chatteris. Members agreed and asked Cllr Gower to liaise with the group who made the request.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.