

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held by remote video conference on Wednesday 9th September 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 also present.

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

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

3. Declaration of Interests:-Declarations were declared by Cllr Gowler on planning applications that were to be considered later in the meeting.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 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 Clerk reported that an update had been received from the Youth Service via The Connections Bus Service on arrangements that they were now hoping to arrange. Members considered the options which would need to be organised via remote video conference and considered that a better response would be likely if sessions took place on a face to face arrangement and accordingly agreed not to pursue the matter until the Covid 19 situation improved to allow classroom sessions.
- e) The Clerk reported that registration for the 2020 Cambridgeshire Local Councils Conference was now open. The conference that was due to take place on 23rd October will be via a remote video arrangement.

6. Police Matters: -

a) The Fenland Neighbourhood Policing Team Monthly report dated 3rd September 2020 had been circulated. There were no issues in the report relating to Doddington. The report was noted by the members.

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

a) Cllr Connor advised the meeting that the Chair of the FDC Planning Committee now vets all applications where officers are recommending refusal.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Members raised the following items:

1. The edging of Benwick Road near the recreation ground and Delfland Nurseries has crumbled away causing a traffic hazard.
 2. Hedging, bushes and thistles outside Doddington Court are encroaching onto Hospital Road and Benwick Road
- b) Following representation over lorries being unable to turn round in Turf Fen Lane, a No Through sign had been erected at the entrance of Eastmore Lane in error. CCC had agreed to retain this sign in its present location but install a second sign on Turf Fen Lane.
- c) A resident had complained that her car had been damaged by grounding on the uneven road surface along Blue Lane /Coneywood Road. Some repair works to the road surface had taken place but further works were unlikely to take place, although Cllr Connor has agreed to pursue the matter further.
- d) Cllr Connor was arranging a meeting with Greenvale Transport Manager over alleged HGV speeding. He would advise the Chairman when details had been agreed.
- e) The Chair advised members of receipt of a complaint regarding overhanging trees along Church Lane that were causing pedestrians to walk in the road. She advised that she would try and talk to the owner of the trees/bushes and report back to the council.
- f) The Chair advised members that the dead tree behind the Bier House had now been taken down by UK Power Networks.
- g) The Chair reported that the preliminary plans prepared by CCC Highways for the 2020/21 LHI scheme to repair the High Street footway had been agreed and they were now finalising drawings and would advise on costings and possible start date.
- h) It was reported that Ingles Lane would be closed for manhole repairs on 9th October 2020.

9. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

- i. F/YR20/0717/F Erect a 2 storey side and single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 53 Newgate Street Doddington.

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

- ii. F/YR20/0728/O Erect 1 dwelling (outline application with all matters reserved) land rear of 25A Newgate Street Doddington.

Members objected to the application on the grounds that it was for back garden development within a conservation area and as such it should not be encouraged as it closes down the open views of the area. In addition it is likely to have an adverse effect on the neighbouring properties.

- iii. F/YR20/0732/LB Internal works to a listed building to install a through floor lift at Doddington Hall New Street Doddington.

Members supported the application.

- iv. F/YR20/0739/F Erect a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory at 6 Thistledown Doddington.

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

- v. F/YR20/0783/TRCA Fell 1 salix tree covered by a TPO at 15 Brickmakers Arms Lane Doddington.

Members supported the application.

b) Other Planning Matters

- i. The Chair had circulated various publications to members on the Government's Planning White Paper. It was agreed that the Chair would draft an initial response for consideration by members and in addition it was agreed that the Chair could attend a NALC meeting on the subject at a cost of £30.

ii. The Chair reminded members that an attempt had been made to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the village a few years ago but this had stalled. However in view of the current Government white paper and FDC's proposed new Local Plan perhaps this suggestion should be revisited. Members agreed to consider the matter in more detail at the next meeting.

10. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) Members were advised that the signage for the CCTV system had been installed. A draft CCTV policy document had been circulated to members which was adopted. Members were also updated on the electronic reporting arrangements.
- b) Repairs to Abbey Pavilion shutters and Skate Park panels are still delayed.
- c) The Clerk reported that the Benwick AFC had asked if white lines could be painted in the car park to define the parking spaces. Members considered that if spaces were defined it would reduce the number of cars that could park there. Subletting by the club was still taking place and the club would be advised that this was not permitted in the terms of their lease.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Connor had to leave due to another commitment.

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 noticeboard that could be fixed near the cemetery entrance.

12. Street Lighting:-

- a) Members agreed to install uplighters on three sides of the Clock Tower in place of the two lights at the top of the tower.

13. Village Maintenance:-

a) The Chair advised members that she was following up the routine maintenance items with Neil Sooley.

14. Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020:-

a) It was agreed that a decision on the positioning of the new metal bench be made at the next meeting.

b) The Clerk would order a wreath for laying at the war memorial although at this point in time it is not known what the arrangements will be for the service.

15. Financial Items:-

a) It was agreed that the Parish Council pay 50% of the insurance costs for the Speedwatch equipment.

b) Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2020-2021. The Chair reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government had reach agreement on pay scales payable from 1st April 2020. In accordance with the agreement, the Clerk's salary should be revised in line with the new scales backdated to 1st April. The hourly rate for the Clerk who is on point 30 of the NJC scale increases from £17.04 to £17.51. Members approved the increase.

c) 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
Cromwell Fire Ltd	Fire extinguisher service	84.41
Cambridgeshire CC	LHI sign movement	795.37
A Harrison	Domain fee	15.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + back pay	820.78
HMR&C	Income Tax	203.94
March Rural Neigh Watch	Insurance Speedwatch Equipment	56.00

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

