

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllr. R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs H Fisher, L Howard, R Leonard, R Mason, I McNulty, J Shepherd and J Welcher. Cllr M Davis (District Councillor) and the Clerk Roger Wilkin were also present.

1. Open Forum: - No members of the public were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr K Presland and Cllr D Connor (District and County Councillor)

3. New Parish Councillors:- The Chair welcomed Cllrs McNulty and Leonard to their first meeting of Parish Council. Both councillors had signed a Declaration of Office before the meeting started.

4. Declaration of Interests:- Cllr Fisher declared an interest in respect of a planning item later in the meeting.

5. Minutes: -The minutes of the meetings held on 15th July 2021 and 16th August 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. Updates and matters arising:-

a) The Clerk informed members that local (parish and town) councils have been asked to play a part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by lighting beacons on 2 June 2022. Members expressed their support for the idea and briefly discussed previous lightings of beacons that have taken place in the village. Cllr Welcher would endeavour to find the metal scaffolding that had been used to support the beacons base on these occasions.

b) The Chair reminded members that they need to appoint a representative on the Ransonmoor Wind Farm Fund committee. For the information of the two new members she briefly outlined the various committees that members can be on and made an open invitation to all members for a volunteer to represent the Parish Council on the Ransonmoor committee.

7. Police Matters: -

a) Members noted the previously circulated minutes of the Police / Parish representatives meeting held on 27th July 2021.

b) Members noted that reports of anti-social behaviour taking place around Ingles Lane and Church Lane had been reported to the police. It was also reported that youths had been throwing crab apples taken from the tree near the bus stop at Policemans Corner. It was agreed that as the branches from this tree were now overhanging the bus stop some of the branches should be lopped. Alan Mason to be asked to provide a quotation to carry out this work.

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

a) The Chair advised members that District Cllrs Connor and Davis together with the Chair and Cllr Mason had met with representatives from Anglia Water to discuss problems with the disposal of foul water in Doddington and Wimblington. Three representatives from AW were present, including the Regional Manager. The issues of flooding, foul water disposal and AW's contribution to planning applications were discussed. The representatives from AW were taken to various sites in both villages where problems had been worst. We were informed that there are

plans to improve the treatment works on Wood Street/Coneywood Road but not until 2024/2025. AW will always state on planning applications that they have capacity to deal with foul water, and have no legal responsibility for commenting adversely on proposed drainage on planning applications.

b) FDC had announced that the date for receipt of nominations for this years Pride in Fenland awards was 4th October 2021.

9. Highway Issues: -

a) Members raised the following new items:

1. The owner of the magnolia tree in the garden near to the clock tower was to be contacted to lop back some of the branches overhanging the footway.
2. There was a deep pot hole near 7 Cooks Green
3. There is a dip in the surface of Wood Street

b) Members considered options for submission to CCC for a grant under the LHI scheme for 2022/23. The Chair advised the meeting that discussions had taken place with CCC on whether the LHI scheme could be used to help finance the construction of a crossing near the local school. Members were advised that the use of a LHI contribution towards the crossing would be feasible even if works were spread over different financial years. Members therefore agreed to submit a LHI application to assist in the financing of the school crossing.

c) Following the agreement made at the July meeting, a suitable tablet for use in downloading the data from the MVAS machine had been purchased by Cllr Shepherd.

d) CCC were proposing seeking a Temporary Traffic Order to close a number of roads within a number of Fenland Parishes in order to undertake resurfacing works. In this respect Eastmore Lane and Church Lane would be closed at some time during 2022. Nearer the dates for closure all affected residents would be given notice of the closures. Members noted the position.

10. Pedestrian Crossing - Survey Works:-

Members noted that CCC had confirmed that despite delays caused by the covid pandemic, there is no change to the cost of the TOPO and Speed Survey. Members authorised the issue of a formal order for £2,862.65 to cover the cost of the surveys.

11. Planning:-

a) Updates on previous applications:-

F/YR21/0777/F Erect a dwelling (2 storey, 4bed) detached triple garage/store and front boundary wall (approx. height 2.0m) including demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings at 12 Wimblington Road Doddington.

FDC have advised that this application has been withdrawn.

b) New applications:-

i. F/YR21/0889/F Formation of a vehicular access with parking and turning area for approved dwellings including 1.5 metre (approx.) footpath realignment at land west of 10 Newgate Street Doddington.

Members agreed to support this application

ii. F/YR21/0962/TRCA Works to 1 Beech Tree within a Conservation Area at 48 Benwick Road Doddington.

Cllr Fisher declared an interest in this application. Members agreed to support this application.

c) Other Planning Issues:-

i. Following the report made at the last meeting on a proposal to create a Community Country Park of Primrose Hill, as no further contact has been received from either the agent or the land owners, members agreed to take no further action.

ii. Following the report made at the last meeting on a proposal to develop the site north of Wimblington Road, the agents had advised that they were not yet in a position to present a proposal to the Parish Council. Members noted the matter.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) The Clerk advised members that he had received the signed lease agreement with Benwick Athletic Football Club plus a copy of the sub lease between BAFC and Doddington Junior Football Club. The sub lease agreement had been countersigned by the Chair and Clerk
- b) The Chair advised members that the fire extinguishers inside the Pavilion had been serviced.
- c) The Chair gave members a report on the FDC CCTV meeting that she had attended.
- d) It was reported that the locking mechanism on one of the rear doors was not working correctly and that this had been reported to the contractor. A report had also been sent to BAFC regarding the mess inside the Pavilion caused by their members trying to clean the paint lining machine.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery:-

A meeting of the Cemetery Committee took place on site on 21st April 2021. That meeting updated or revised the outstanding items as follows:

1. **FDC Construction are to be instructed to provide a concrete pathway between the roadway and the cremation plot site similar in design and length to the concrete footway on the burial side of the roadway. It had now become apparent that the design of the existing grasscrete cups would never permit grass to grow throw the roadway. It was therefore agreed that kerbing needs to be installed around the edging of the roadway and a thin layer of gravel laid on top of the existing roadway. In addition, two rows of cremation plots are to be marked out with touching paving slabs and standard paving slabs are to be used. Slate to be used between each duplicate row of slabs to create footpaths.**
2. **An order had been issued to Anglian Water to make the water connection and provide a water meter.** Work had been delayed as there was a suggestion that the land may have been contaminated. This may require specialised pipework to be installed which ultimately will need to be directed through the brick wall and a push down water tap to be installed.
3. A combination lock needs to be purchased to secure the main gates which in turn required some minor repairs to correct a bent rod.
4. **The surrounding hedges and trees have been checked and a number of saplings need replacing. It had been agreed with the garden centre that replanting will take place in October/November.**
5. **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.
6. **The circular stainless steel disks showing plot numbers and row names had been received and as these had been provided free of charge a donation of £50 had been given to Metcrafts charity.**
7. **The Clerk was ordering the official cemetery record books and application forms.**
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.

14. Street Lighting:-

a) Members were advised that three faulty street lights had been repaired. Members approved a quotation from Cabletest amounting to £500.86 plus VAT to remove the surplus light column in Cooks Green.

15. Village Maintenance:-

- a) Update on condition of the Bier House - This is still with the preferred Contractor who will be submitting a report for the Parish Councils consideration.
- b) Discussions are continuing with the car drivers insurance company following the damage caused to the oak plinths and chains around the Clock Tower.

16. Website and Communications:-

Updates to the new web site are continuing.

17. Financial Items:-

a) External audit report. The Clerk read out the external audit report to members.

b) Payments:

It was agreed that cheques be drawn for the following items:

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec(2 months)	200.00
Eon UK PLC	Street lighting electricity (2 months)	365.24
A Harrison	Web Domain Fee	15.00
R Hufton	Attendance at NALC meeting	38.93
J Shepherd	Purchase of tablet for MVAS data	199.95
Doddington Rec Cttee	Room hire	60.00
Stainless	Donation to Metcrafts charity	50.00
J O Cutteridge	Grass Cutting	2,448.00
Cromwell Fire Ltd	Fire extinguisher service	68.27
Cable Test Ltd	Street lighting repairs	224.03
Cambs CC	LHI contribution	5,000.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit fee	480.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses (2 months)	1,497.60
HMR&C	Income Tax (2months)	374.40

18. Correspondence:-

The Clerk advised members that Cambridgeshire ACRE's AGM was taking place on 29th September and in addition the Connection Bus Projects AGM was taking place on 26th October should anyone wish to attend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

