

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held by remote video conference on Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr. R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs H Fisher, I Gowler, A. Harrison, L Howard, R Mason, K Presland and J Shepherd. Cllr M Davis (District Councillor) was present as was the Clerk Mr R Wilkin.

At the start of the meeting a minutes silence was observed following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Members noted that the flag was being flown at half-mast in accordance with National advice.

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

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

3. Declaration of Interests:- Cllr I Gowler declared an interest in two planning items that were to be considered later in the meeting.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2021 were approved. Following the meeting, the Chair would sign the minutes and forward them to the Clerk.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) The Clerk advised members that Benwick Parish Council had agreed to permit Doddington residents to hire allotment pitches. A new clerk was due to be appointed for Benwick PC and he would provide a suitable notice that we could post onto our website. The notice would also be circulated to the editor of Doddington Diary and the Horticultural Society.

6. Police Matters: -

a) Members noted the minutes of the Police / Parish representatives meeting from 1st April 2021. The next meeting was planned for 30th April 2021.
b) Members reported on a break in at the haulage yard of H E Shepherd & Son.

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

a) No reports were given.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Updates on items previously raised:

1. The hedge along Ingles Lane had been cut back.

b) Members raised the following new items:

1. Pothole at High Street end of Ingles Lane

2. Path & Road outside No. 6 Walden Close needs attention

3. Outside No. 62 Benwick Road - series of potholes along white line in middle of road

4. Just before 40 sign and Delfland Nurseries (going towards Benwick) 6/8 inch drop off tarmac onto verge caused by lorry wheels going onto verge - extends some 20/30 feet

5. Where 30 limit sign is painted on road just past entrance to Beech Avenue - (going towards centre of village)

6. There is a sunken drain in Wood Street

7. Some of the Doddington Hall trees that overhang into Church Lane are obscuring the light from the street lamp and need cutting back

- c) The Clerk advised members that CCC has published their ranking of bids under the LHI 2021/22 scheme which shows that Doddington is placed 6th on a list of 15 applications.
- d) Members agreed to defer any consideration on the placing of yellow no parking markings in Wood Street until after the pedestrian crossing project moves forward.
- e) The Clerk reported that SWARCO had incorrectly published a maintenance report on the MVAS equipment but would, in due course, be requesting a date when an inspection could be arranged.

9. Pedestrian Crossing Public Consultation:-

The Chair advised members that the school had offered to circulate consultation voting forms to all parents with a return date of 21st April.

10. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

- i. F/YR21/0238/F Conversion of barn to form 1 dwelling (1 bed) at land north of 25 Wimblington Road Doddington
Cllr Gowler declared an interest. Members voted to support the application.
- ii. F/YR21/0255/F Erect a first floor side and single storey rear extensions; alterations to roof and insertion of 5 windows to enable loft conversion to living accommodation; removal of chimneys and replacement roof to detached outbuilding of existing dwelling including removal of conservatory at 7 Wimblington Road Doddington.
Cllr Gowler declared an interest. Members voted to support the application.
- iii. F/YR21/0262/F Conversion of existing building to a dwelling (2 storey 1 bed) at 45 High Street Doddington
Members acknowledged that there may be parking issues but voted to support the application.
- iv. F/YR21/0286/F Erect a 2 storey 3 bed dwelling involving demolition of existing dwelling at Old Swan Bungalow Benwick Road Doddington
Members voted to support the application.
- v. F/YR21/0353/VOC Variation of condition 4 (list of approved drawings) of planning approval F/YR/0892/RM (Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission (F/YR16/0655/O) for the erection of 1 dwelling (2 storey 4 bed and detached single garage) addition of a chimney stack and amendment to front boundary treatment at land south west of 3 Newgate Street Doddington
Members voted to support the variation but agreed to notify the FDC Enforcement Officer that a caravan was on site for which no planning permission had been granted.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) The Clerk informed members that he had received no further contact from Team Rubicon and was therefore unable to advise them as to the possible future of any event. He also informed members that while Wimblington PC had expressed a possible interest in joining in, they were concerned about the lack of information and the possible costs. Members agreed to take no further action.
- b) It was reported that further damage had taken place on one of the external doors and an inspection showed that the door would need replacing. It was agreed that all external doors should be replaced and that a quotation should be obtained.

- c) Members were informed that an approach had been made to the Parish Council from a resident who was keen to start a Doddington Junior Football Club. Initially he had been advised to approach the Recreation Committee as BAFC had a license with the PC for the use of Abbey Rec and the Pavilion. It transpired that there were no times available at the recreation field and the resident had approached BAFC directly to enquire if they would be agreeable to his new club using the Abbey field. BAFC had confirmed that they were agreeable to them using the facilities if the PC granted permission. Members indicated that they were keen to see a junior football team playing in the village and suggested that a tri-part meeting takes place to see if an acceptable agreement can be reached.
- d) The Clerk informed members that Sovereign Support were proposing carrying out a safety inspection on the skate park equipment in accordance with the agreement that we have with them during the week commencing 19th April 2021.

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.

b) Members agreed that a meeting of the Cemetery Committee should meet on site to review progress on the outstanding items. The Chair undertook to arrange a convenient date and time with all parties.

13. Street Lighting:-

a) The Chair thanked Cllrs A. Harrison and L Howard for undertaking a visual inspection of the street lights. The inspection showed that 4 lights were not working correctly.

14. Village Maintenance:-

a) The Chair thanked Cllr Mason for cleaning the white gates on the various roads into the village.

b) The Chair thanked the various members and their relatives for removing the brickwork from the damaged bus shelter at the junction of Benwick Road and High Street. She also expressed her pleasure at the new shelter that had been constructed in its place. She had also noted that the bus shelter had attracted numerous supportive comments from residents. The Chair undertook to make enquiries with the bus company asking if the existing status of this bus stop can be upgraded from "Request" to "Stop".

c) The Chair advised members that she was asking local builders to inspect the Bier House and give an assessment of its condition.

d) Since the last meeting, a number of comments had been made by residents on social media regarding the appearance of the War Memorial. An estimate for its cleaning had been received from IMI, a specialist company, in the sum of £1,475 plus additional costs for coating the surface and lime mortar to repair the step. Members had accepted the estimate and an official order had been placed with the company.

15. Website and Communications:-

The Chair expressed her concerns over the support that we were receiving from the company hosting the new web site and after a general discussion it was agreed that the PC should investigate an alternative supplier.

16. Future Meetings of the Parish Council:-

As the regulations that allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely is due to expire on 7th May 2021, the Parish Council needed to finalise its plans on reverting back to "face to face" meetings. National pressure was still being placed on the Government to extend these regulations but no decision had been made to date.

Members agreed that our Annual May Council Meeting due on 12th May 2021 be brought forward to Tuesday 4th May 2021 to enable it to take place under the zoom arrangements. The facilities in the Church Rooms are not large enough to accommodate social distancing meetings and enquiries are currently being made with other venues to secure an acceptable location.

17. Financial Items:-

a) Annual Accounts 2020-2021. The Clerk had circulated to members the year end accounts for 2020-2021. These showed an increase in reserves to £154,919 primarily due to a reduction in expenditure. Members approved the accounts as presented and they would now be forwarded to the Council's Internal Auditor for verification.

b) Members authorised the attendance of the Chair at the NALC conference on "Planning and Power"

c) Annual Performance Review of the Clerk to the Parish Council. The Clerk left the meeting for this item. Members discussed the Clerk's performance over the past year and resolved to increase his salary from point 30 to point 31 with effect from 1st April 2021

d) 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	192.83
GLP Installations	New bus shelter	5,486.40
GLP Installations	Repairs to Abbey Pavilion	600.00
CAPALC	Annual Subscription	639.33
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	733.42
HMR&C	Income Tax	182.10

18. Correspondence:-

a) Independent Remuneration Panel Review. Fenland DC had circulated a questionnaire asking Town and Parish Councils to provide information on whether they pay their Chair and/or Councillors any allowances. Members confirmed that no allowances are paid to Doddington's Chair or Councillors

b) The Clerk reminded members that VE Day was taking place on 8th May 2021 and members resolved to fly the flag and place "Tommy" on the Clock Tower.

19. Any other Business:-

a) No matters were raised

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

