

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held by remote video conference on Wednesday 4th May 2021 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr. R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs H Fisher, A. Harrison, L Howard, R Mason, K Presland and J Shepherd. The Clerk, Mr R Wilkin was present.

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

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr I Gowler, J Welcher, Cllr D Connor (District and County Councillor) and Cllr M Davis (District Councillor)

3. Appointment of Chairman:-

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

4. Appointment of Vice-Chairman:-

Cllr. Mason took the chair for this item and proposed that Cllr. Gower be reappointed Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr. Fisher 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, Shepherd and Harrison
Benwick Road Cemetery:	Cllrs. Mason, Welcher, Harrison and Fisher
Planning:	Cllrs. Gowler, Shepherd, Fisher and Presland
Clock:	Cllrs. Mason and Shepherd
Village Maintenance:	Cllrs. Hufton, Mason and Presland
Flag:	Cllr. Welcher
Website:	Cllrs. Harrison, Howard and Gowler

Representatives:

Burnthouse Wind Farm Fund Cllr. Hufton
Ransonmoor Wind Farm Fund Cllr. Harrison
Neighbourhood Watch & Speed Watch Cllr Harrison

6. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were announced.

7. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2021 were approved.
Following the meeting, the Chair would sign the minutes and forward them to the Clerk.

8. Updates and matters arising:-

No updates were reported

9. Police Matters: -

a) Members noted the minutes of the Police / Parish representatives meeting from 30th April 2021. The next meeting was planned for 3rd June 2021.

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

- a) No reports were given.

11. Highway Issues: -

- a) Updates on items previously raised:
 - 1. An appropriate “No Through Road” sign still needs fixing to the entrance of Turf End Lane
 - 2. BT needs to be chased to remove the old telephone box on the High Street
- b) Members raised the following new items:
 - 1. The footpath from Beech Avenue towards the pond in Wimblington Road is in a bad condition.
 - 2. Delivery vans are using the grass verges along Wimblington Road to either park on or drive on when making deliveries.
 - 3. A quantity of rubbish needs removing from where it was dumped in Hospital Road

12. Pedestrian Crossing Public Consultation:-

The Chair advised members that a number of consultation forms had been completed which showed an overwhelming support for the project and the Parish Council will now continue with its discussions with the CCC Highways Department. A number of residents took the opportunity to make additional comments to make the crossing safer. These included, no parking lines either side of the crossing, railings along the side of the footpath and the retention of the “lollipop person”. With regard to this final observation, members had already agreed to press the County Council to retain this service and, if necessary, would cover the costs to ensure that it remained.

13. Planning:-

a) New Applications:-

- i F/YR21/0355/F Erect a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at Sundown Floods Ferry Road Doddington
Members voted to support the application.
- ii. F/YR21/0404/F Amendments to window and door arrangements to front elevations of existing dwelling at 55 High Street Doddington.
Members voted to support the application with the added comment that the material used for the window frames should be wooded rather than UPVC.

b) Other Planning Issues:-

- i. Members reported two instances where building activity had taken place which was not covered by any planning permission. The instances related to the construction of a roadway from Hospital Road into the adjoining property and involved the grubbing out of part of the significant hedgerow. The second instance is the arrival of a static caravan on the ground of land to the south west of a property in Newgate Street.
It was agreed that the Planning Departments Enforcement Officer investigates these matters.
- ii. The Clerk reported receipt today of a request from a local architect regarding the possible creation of a Country Park and asking for the Parish Councils comments on the suggestion. As there had not been any time for members to consider the matter it was agreed that this be discussed at a future meeting of the Council.

14. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) Further to the report at the last meeting that the remaining external doors should be replaced, the Clerk advised receipt of an estimate from GLP Installations, the company that replaced an earlier door, had been received in the sum of £1,485 plus vat. It was unanimously agreed that the quotation be accepted.
- b) Further to the discussions at the last meeting on the creation of a Doddington Junior Football Club, the Chair advised members that a zoom meeting had taken place between herself, the Clerk, the secretary of BAFC and the two local residents who wished to start up the club. Members were informed that the organisers had spoken to the Football Association and sort their advice on creating a new club. BAFC confirmed that they had no problem in part of the field being used by Doddington Juniors including giving them access to use the Pavilion toilets. The Clerk advised that the existing rental agreement between the Parish Council and BAFC would need revising to take into account the changes. Members supported the points raised for inclusion in a revised draft licence agreement for signing by all three parties.
- c) The Clerk reported that Sovereign Support had carried out a safety inspection on the skate park equipment and pronounced a clean report.

15. 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. 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 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.

16. Street Lighting:-

a) Orders would be placed with Cable Test to repair the 4 faulty lights identified in the recent survey plus removing the two lights on the clock tower and fixing 3 uplighters.

17. Village Maintenance:-

a) The Chair advised members that she had asked two local builders to inspect the Bier House and give an assessment of its condition.

b) Members expressed their pleasure at the appearance of the War Memorial now that it had been cleaned and the damaged step repaired. This complimented various comments made by residents.

c) Following the work done by GLP Installations in replacing the damaged bus shelter, members considered a quotation from the company to replace and fit new shelters in place of the two old wooden shelters at a cost of £9,144 plus vat. The quotation did not include the cost of removing the old shelters but members considered that they could organise this in house with possible assistance from residents.

d) Cllr Mason confirmed that he had shown “Matty” the list of street items that needed refreshing.

18. Website and Communications:-

Since the last meeting, the Chair, Vice Chair, Cllrs Harrison and Howard and the Clerk had attended two zoom meetings with representatives from two software companies. Both companies gave a presentation of the work that they could do to provide a new website for the Council that was predominately easy to update, was secure and gave value for money. At the full meeting, the sub group favoured the presentation of Narkedesign. Cllr Mason, proposed and Cllr Fisher seconded awarding the contract to Narkedesign. This was unanimously agreed by the members. Costs were £349 for design, £150 per annum for hosting which included free email, free support and unlimited training. These was a migration contingency charge of £150.

19. Future Meetings of the Parish Council:-

The Chair updated members on the current situation regarding the holding of “face to face” meetings. Members agreed that the next Council meeting should take place on June 17th 2021 at the Pavilion, Benwick Road.

20. Financial Items:-

a) Payments:

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

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec	100.00
E. Mason & Son	Grass cutting - cemetery	36.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	769.18
HMR&C	Income Tax	192.30
BHIB	Insurance premium	3,447.01

21. Any other Business:-

Cllr Harrison gave a vote of thanks to the work that the Chair had done during the past year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

