

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7.00 pm.

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

1. Open Forum: - Two members of the public were present who raised a concern over the speed of traffic along Benwick Road. The Chair stated that the MVAS equipment would be set up to monitor the position and its findings would be reported to the police.

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

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Following on from last month's comment on lighting beacons to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Cllr Welcher advised that he was unable to find the metal scaffolding that had been used to support past beacons. Members to consider an alternative arrangement for lighting a beacon.

b) Members approved the attendance of the Chair and Vice Chair at a briefing by Cambs ACRE on The Queens Green Canopy which covers how to "Plant a tree for the Jubilee"

c) The Chair informed members that Cllr Shepherd had offered to become the Parish Council's appointed representative on the Ransonmoor Wind Farm Fund committee.

d) The Chair informed members that FDC were inviting tenders to repair the stone walls that surround St Marys Church. Tenders were due to be returned by 29th October 2021 with the intention of having an approved contractor on site in March 2022.

e) Members approved an estimate from C Webb Building Contractor, for the provision of a new wooded picket fence and gates at St Mary's Church in the sum of £1,350.

6. Police Matters: -

a) Members noted the previously circulated minutes of the Police / Parish representatives meeting held on 7th September 2021.

b) The Chair reported that FDC's Street Scene had appointed Dawn Rae who previously was a PCSO for the area. She has recently been involved in tracking fly tippers in Dykemoor Drove and conducting litter pick in the Walden Close park.

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

a) The Chair advised the meeting that, following information supplied by Cllr Davis that FDC were making funds available to construct new footpaths and/or cycle paths, she had supplied a list of possible sites in the parish that would benefit from new footpaths or cycle paths.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Following on from the speeding issue raised in the Open Forum, members agreed to request CCC to provide two additional poles in the village for fixing the MVAS unit.

b) It was reported that the telephone box had now been removed.

c) The Chair advised members that she had been approached by a resident over an issue of vehicles parking by the bus stop in the High Street making it difficult for residents signalling to the bus driver to stop. Members discussed the matter and concluded that CCC were unlikely to sanction yellow lines or bus stop markings.

d) The Chair advised the meeting that she had received a report that a footpath had been ploughed up but that she had spoken to the land owner about it.

e) The Chair advised the meeting that a dyke had been filled in causing flooding to flow onto the road. Cllr Connor was pursuing the issue.

9. Pedestrian Crossing - Survey Works:-

The Chair advised members that no date had been announced when the two surveys would take place. The Clerk advised members that our application for funding under the LHI arrangement had been acknowledged by CCC.

10. Planning:-

a) Planning Appeal Decision:-

Members were informed that the appeal that was lodged following FDC's refusal to grant planning permission on a two storey side and single storey rear extension at 53 Newgate Street (F/YR21/0123/F) had been dismissed by The Planning Inspectorate.

b) New applications:-

i. F/YR21/0947/F Erect 2 dwellings (2 storey 5bed) at Land east of 4 May Meadows Doddington

Members made no observation of the application but did stress that the footpath serving this development should be constructed.

ii. F/YR21/0949/F Erect a lawnmower store for the existing caravan park and a 1.8 metre high close board fence at Fields End Water Caravan Park Benwick Road Doddington.

Members were advised that FDC had already granted planning permission even though the Parish Council had requested an extension of time for them to consider the application.

iii. F/YR21/0985/F Erect 3 dwellings (single storey 1 bed) at land east of 2 Ingles Lane Doddington.

Members voted to oppose the application on the ground that the development will have a detrimental effect on the conservation area and the adjacent listed dwellings. In addition access to the proposed development would be via a very narrow track. Traffic movements during construction and cars from residents of the three proposed dwellings

will add to the already congested area. As there is no footway in Ingles Lane this increase in traffic will raise safety issues to other vehicles and pedestrians especially children walking to the primary school.

iv. F/YR21/1004/TRCA Fell 1 Sycamore Tree within a conservation area at 9 Harvest Close Doddington

Members were advised that FDC had already granted planning permission even though the Parish Council had requested an extension of time for them to consider the application.

v. F/YR21/1022/F Erect a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 35 Manor Estate Doddington

Members were advised that FDC had already granted planning permission even though the Parish Council had requested an extension of time for them to consider the application.

vi. F/YR21/1054/F Erect 2 storey/single storey rear extensions, first floor extension, porch to front and external rendering to existing dwelling at 25A Newgate Street Doddington

Members supported the application but commented that a 36ft static caravan had arrived on site but no mention of a static caravan was included within the planning application.

vii F/YR21/1072/FDC Erect 47 dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping involving demolition of existing building and garage to 44 Bevills Close at land east of Bevills Close and north of Eastmoor Lane Doddington.

Members were very strongly opposed to the application on a number of grounds:-

- the development is contra to Policy LP12 of the Fenland Local Plan 2014,
- the village roadways along Bevills Close, Eastalls Close, Church Lane and Ingles Lane are entirely inadequate for the increased amount of traffic,
- these roads are included in Doddington's Conservation Area and the Church and a number of dwellings are classified as Grade 11 listed buildings and would be subject to damage by vibrations,
- the service infrastructure is already at capacity,
- the Viability Assessment on the development questions the profitability of the scheme.

Members were making arrangements to hold a Public Meeting to fully assess local feeling towards the scheme.

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, a revised proposal had been submitted by the agent.

Members felt that as they had little knowledge of the providing a Country Park that they should seek independent advice before committing to a decision.

ii. Following the report made at the last meeting on a proposal to develop the site north of Wimblington Road, no further contact had been received from the agent.

iii. The Clerk reported that Cambridgeshire ACRE were offering a rural housing service and introduced the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership. Members noted the facility.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) The Clerk reported that a safety inspection had been carried out on the skate park equipment on 13th September 2021 and all items were found to be in a safe condition.

12. 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.

13. Street Lighting:-

a) Cabletest had confirmed that they were creating job orders to repair the faulty light outside number 7 Benwick Road and to remove the two lighting units on the Clock Tower. Members decided not to proceed with the installation of uplighters but to investigate whether 4 led lights should be fixed to the roof corners and that they should be of a design that complimented the Clock Tower.

14. Village Maintenance:-

- a) Members agreed not to proceed with a report on the condition of the Bier House.
- b) Although discussions are continuing with the car drivers insurance company following the damage caused to the oak plinths and chains around the Clock Tower members agreed to authorise the repair work.

- c) A request had been received to install a bus shelter at the Primrose Hill bus stop. Members agreed in principal with this providing that agreement is received from the land owner who is the Lord of the Manor. Assuming that this is forthcoming then a quotation should be obtained from GLP and a grant submission made to Burnt House Wind Farm.

15. Website and Communications:-

Updates to the new web site are continuing.

16. Financial Items:-

a) Half Yearly Financial Review. The Clerk had circulated a half yearly review of the Parish Councils finances which showed a very healthy position. He gave a report of variations and members noted the position.

b) Members approved the attendance of the Chair and Vice Chair at CALPAC's allotment training session at a cost of £120. In addition they agreed to support the Chatteris, Doddington, Benwick & Manea Community Car Scheme in the sum of £100

c) Payments:

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 electricity	203.11
E Mason & Son	Maintenance various sites	684.00
M Carpenter	Painting street furniture	830.00
GLP Installations	New security lock on pavilion door	187.20
J Shepherd	Purchase of tablet for MVAS data	199.95
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	808.00
HMR&C	Income Tax	187.20

17. Any Other Business:-

Remembrance Sunday. Members agreed that the Chair should lay the Parish Council's wreath at the service.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

