

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

1. Open Forum: - One member of the public was present to view proceedings.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs K Presland, 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 10th November 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) An online update meeting to discuss action relating to the Doddington Hub was scheduled for 2nd December 2021 but as neither the Chair nor Vice Chair was able to attend due to other commitments, the Clerk agreed to obtain minutes for circulation to the members.

b) The Chair had bought the Age UK proposed scheme for creating a local coordinator to provide assistance to residents who had difficulty in visiting shops, medical appointments and similar activities back to the members. Wimblington PC had considered joining in on such a scheme but the pandemic had prevented any further action taking place. As Wimblington had set up its own Good Neighbour Scheme and Doddington had set up an informal assistance scheme, members agreed to take no further action at this time.

6. General Administration Items – Revised Committee membership:-

Street Lighting:	Cllrs. Jolley and McNulty
Charity:	Cllrs. Hufton and Welcher
Risk Assessment:	All councillors
Abbey Recreation Field:	Cllrs Shepherd, Mason and Leonard
Benwick Road Cemetery:	Cllrs. Mason, Welcher and Fisher
Planning:	Cllrs. Fisher, Shepherd, McNulty and Presland
Clock:	Cllrs. Mason and Shepherd
Village Maintenance:	Cllrs. Hufton, Fisher and Mason
Flag:	Cllr. Welcher
Website:	Cllrs. Jolly and Leonard
MVAS System:	Cllr Shepherd

Representatives:

Burnthouse Wind Farm Fund: Cllr. Hufton

Ransonmoor Wind Farm Fund: Cllr. Shepherd

7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee:-

- a) Provision of a beacon:- Members agreed to defer further discussions on the provision of a beacon to next month's meeting.
- b) Tree planting:-Members agreed, in support of The Queens Green Canopy, to plant a tree near the village sign and possibly a further tree near the skate park. They also agreed that, following the W.I. kind offer to plant a tree in the Benwick Road Cemetery that they preferred that a rowan tree be provided. Cllr Hilton agreed to liaise with the W.I. over this matter. With regard to Fenland DC's offer to arrange for tree planting or hedging to be planted in rural parishes, members would wait on FDC suggesting areas suitable for planting.
- c) It was agreed that contact would be made to all village organisations asking what arrangements they may be organising in 2022 to celebrate the Jubilee.

8. Police Matters: -

- a) Members noted the previously circulated minutes of the Police / Parish representatives meeting held on 1st December 2021.

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

- a) Members considered The Local Government Boundary Commission review of ward boundaries for Fenland DC which had briefly been discussed at the last meeting. Members noted that there was a suggestion that the wards of Doddington and Wimblington should merge with Benwick and Christchurch with a corresponding increase in District Council members from the existing two seats to three seats. Responses needed to be lodged with the Boundary Commission by 10th January 2022. Members considered that the current arrangement for Doddington and Wimblington with each parish retaining one member on Fenland DC was the ideal solution. If necessary, Benwick could be added with possibly an additional member seat on Fenland DC but there is no logical reason to add Christchurch to the mix. Christchurch is located to the far east of Wimblington and road links are poor. Christchurch has closer links with Elm.

10. Highway Issues: -

- a) The following minor items required attention by either the DC or CCC:-
 - i. Trees in Ingles Lane need cutting back and road signs advising that Ingles Lane is not suitable for HGV's
 - ii. A pot hole opposite the fish bar needs filling
 - iii. A drain cover near 8/10 New Street has sunk
 - iv. The post on the Church parking area that was broken has been removed but needs replacing.
- b) The latest results from the MVAS system on traffic flow along Benwick Road showed that the majority of traffic was travelling well below the 40 mph speed limit.
- c) An approach will be made to CCC to revisit the costing for traffic calming options to be made along the village end of Benwick Road.

11. Pedestrian Crossing - Survey Works:-

Members were advised that CCC had received the TOPO survey that would be used in the design of the scheme by the CCC signals team. The speed survey is due to take place from 6th to 12th January 2022.

12. Planning:-

a) Withdrawal of planning application:-

Members were advised that application F/YR21/1162/VOC Variation of condition 02 to enable amendment to approved plans of planning approval F/YR19/0295/RM (plot 2 only), land north of Cathedral View Turf Fen Lane Doddington had been withdrawn.

b) New applications:-

i. F/YR21/1269/F Creation of 2 dwellings by conversion of existing pumping station to 1 x 2 storey 4 bed dwelling and conversion of workshop to 1 single storey dwelling at Pumping station west of Morleys Farm House Forty Foot Bank Ramsey.

Members voted to support the application

ii. F/YR21/1297/F Erect storage and workspace building for equestrian use (retrospective) at Land east of 10 Primrose Hill Doddington

Members voted against the application as they were still of the opinion that the mobile home and side extension is an unnecessary and unwarranted extension to the original use of the land. Members noted that previous applications to seek this permission were refused by FDC in 2016 and 2021

iii. F/YR21/1366/TRCA Works to 6 yew trees and 1 holly tree within a Conservation Area at 11 Benwick Road Doddington

Members voted to support the application

c) Other Planning Matters:

i. Update on Nature Reserve, Primrose Hill Doddington

The Chair advised members that a very productive site meeting with the CCC Biodiversity Manager has taken place. Numerous points arose including traffic safety and access, location and fencing of a public car park, improvements to the footpath along Primrose Hill, the need for a financial endowment to assist in future maintenance costs plus a number of planning issues that would need to be covered by any application. Members confirmed their interest to support the concept of a Nature Reserve / Country Park and suggested that a further meeting should take place with the agent and owners.

13. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) The meeting was advised that investigations into repairs to the fencing at the back of the skate park was to take place

14. Benwick Road Cemetery:-

a) 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 Metalcrafts 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.

b) The meeting was informed that 22 replacement yew hedging trees were required. Members approved the purchase and planting.

15. Street Lighting:-

- a) Members were advised that repairs were required to street lamp FPC17 on Newgate Street and FPC3A opposite the Sports Area Benwick Road
- b) The Chair reported that the FDC's Conservation Officer suggested that Victorian Style Lanterns would be appropriate for the lighting of The Clock Tower
- c) The Clerk reported receipt of a request from the engineers working on the development at 63-77 Newgate Street asking if the Parish Council considered that additional street lighting should be installed near the development. It had not been requested as part of CCC Highways requirements during the planning process. The PC considered that there was sufficient lighting from columns on the other side of the road.

16. Village Maintenance:-

- a) Confirmation had been received from the owners of The Three Tuns and the shop near to Elmores' yard that they had no objection to a defibrillator being installed on the wall of their property. Members confirmed their agreement to the estimated cost of £2,636 plus VAT from Defibshop.
- b) The Clerk updated members on the quotations that FDC had received for the repairs to the Church Walls. The cost of repairs, approaching £30,000, was too high and FDC were proposing to revise the specification and ask the company that had submitted the lowest quote to provide a new quotation. FDC had confirmed that Parish Council would not be allowed to contact a local builder to refix any dislodged coping stones back onto the wall in order to prevent any further damage to the walls.

17. Website and Communications:-

Members were advised that a new Parish Council Facebook Page was now up and running along side the new website.

18. Financial Items:-

a) The Clerk reported that a member of the public had sustained a fall causing bruising to her face. It was alleged that the accident had occurred due to a badly lit road. The Clerk had discussed the matter with the Councils Insurance Company who were not taking any action on the matter.

b) The Clerk had circulated a paper on the status of maintenance issues and project costs as a prelude to the preparation of fixing the 2022-2023 precept in January 2022. Members made various comments on areas to be included in the next financial year.

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	210.31
E Mason & Son	General maintenance	282.00
J O Cutteridge	Grass cutting	4,080.00
Cable Test Ltd	Lighting repairs	589.84
Swarco Traffic Ltd	Maintenance MVAS equipment	381.60
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	748.80
HMR&C	Income Tax	187.20

19. Any Other Business:-

Members agreed to hold its Annual Dinner towards the end of February 2022 and asked the Clerk to make suitable arrangements.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

