

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, L Howard, R Leonard, R Mason, I McNulty, J Shepherd and J Welcher. Cllr D Connor (District and County 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 M Davis (District Councillor).

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2022 were approved and signed by the Vice-Chair.

5. Resignation of Cllr K Presland:- The Chair formally advised the meeting that Karen Presland had tendered her resignation with immediate effect due to work commitments. The Clerk informed the meeting that FDC had been informed of the resignation and a notice had been posted giving residents until 23rd February to call for the vacancy to be filled by formal election.

6. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Doddington Hub. The Chair reported that she had attended a zoom meeting on 26th January where publicity matters were discussed. She was asked to book the Church Rooms to hold public meetings. April 20th had been booked but she had received no feedback from the Doddington Hub chair.

7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee:-

a) Provision of a beacon:- Members were informed that Brian Elmore would be providing a price for the construction of a metal frame to hold an oil drum. The national lighting of beacons was scheduled to take place at 9.15pm on 2nd June 2022.

b) Tree planting:- The Chair advised members that the Doddington Cub Group were looking at the possibility of planting a tree for the Jubilee. It was agreed to ascertain if other groups were wishing to plant a tree in which case perhaps a coordinated planting may take place.

c) Members were informed that the following events could be planned over the 4 day Jubilee celebrations:

i. Thursday 2nd June – A singer had been booked by The Three Tuns with beacon lighting at 9.15pm

ii Family picnic at the Pavilion on the Friday

iii. Church services on the Sunday afternoon

8. Police Matters: -

a) The minutes of the February 2022 Police / Parish representatives meeting had been circulated and noted by members.

b) It was reported that deer stalking with the use of crossbows had been seen in Floods Ferry Road. The Chair undertook to report the matter to the police.

- c) A silver coloured car is often parked on the corner of Ingles Lane causing traffic issues with vehicles trying to get by it. The Chair undertook to report the matter to the police.
- d) The problem with downloading data from the MVAS unit had been referred to SWARCO.

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

- a) Members were advised that The Local Government Boundary Commission and Fenland DC were holding a briefing on the electoral review of Fenland DC at which Parish representatives were invited. The zoom meeting will be taking place on 16th March 2022.

10. Highway Issues: -

- A pot hole is in the red tarmac area, near the 30mph sign, on Wimblington Road
- The road surface outside number 3 Cooks Green is breaking up
- The road surface of Benwick Road outside Thickens Farm has a deep dip in it that has become a danger to traffic especially lorries or vehicles towing trailers causing them to swing violently.
- A manhole cover outside 5 Newgate Street is broken
- Road signs, stating "Unsuitable for Large Vehicles", need to be erected to prevent large lorries from using Ingles Lane. A number of artic lorries have tried using this road causing traffic problems
- A "No Through" sign needs to be erected on Turf End Lane

11. Pedestrian Crossing:-

- a) The Chair advised members that the Clerk had presented the Parish Councils submission for a LHI grant towards the crossing on 2nd February 2022.

12. Planning:-

a) New applications:-

- i. F/YR21/1370/F Erect 1 x dwelling (2 storey 4 bed) involving removal of existing residential caravan and retrospective siting of a container at Elm Farm, Hospital Road Doddington
Members supported the application
- ii. F/YR21/1522/O Erect up to 2 dwellings outline application with all matters reserved) land south east of Norbrown, Hospital Road Doddington
Members objected to the application as this is backfilling and would be pushing development into outlying fields
- iii. F/YR22/0017/O Erect up to 2 x dwellings and the formation of an access (outline application with all matters reserved) at land east of 6B Primrose Hill, Doddington
Members supported the principal of the plot being developed but to provide a single dwelling of one storey only.
- iv. F/YR22/0032/F Erect a building for use as retail/café including drainage, parking and access at Megaplants, Hospital Road, Doddington
Members supported the application as this was a growing business. Members had concerns over the Hospital Road condition which had no footpaths or vehicle passing places.
- v. F/YR22/0070/F Erect an attached timber storage shed to existing building at 37-39 High Street, Doddington
Members supported the application

vi. F/YR22/0089/F Erect a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 43 Manor Estate, Doddington

Members supported the application

vii. F/YR22/0113/TRCA Fell 5 Fir trees and 1 Damson tree within a Conservation Area at Weavers Cottage, 4 Church Lane, Doddington

Members supported the application

viii. F/YR22/0156/F Erect a single storey rear extension involving raising the rear eaves height to existing dwelling at 41-43 Newgate Street, Doddington.

Members supported the application

b) Other Planning Matters:

i. Fenland DC had circulated a progress report on the production of the Fenland Local Plan. The draft plan will be sent out for public consultation during June/July 2022.

13. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) The meeting was advised that an inspection under the Sovereign Compliance Inspection Contract had taken place and although the condition of the equipment was graded low risk there was a quantity of graffiti. Cllr Shepherd offered to obtain a can of grey spray paint to cover the offending words and drawings.

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.**
A site meeting was to be organised with FDC Construction to agree works and costings. Order placed.
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.

15. Street Lighting:-

- a) The Clerk reported that the FDC Conservation Officer had no issues with the design or size of the Victorian style lanterns that will be fixed to the top four corners of the Clock Tower. An order had therefore been issued to Black Country Metalworks Ltd but the charge was being discounted from £249.99 each to £156.25 each. He advised members that as the lanterns were being made, delivery would be approximately 8 weeks. The Clerk also reported that a Certificate of Proposed Lawfulness had been submitted to FDC.
 - b) The Clerk provided an update on works taking place to repair a number of faulty lights.
- Matters of significant interest:

- i. Three lights in Wimblington Road have been re-reported to UKPN as they are showing low volts
 - ii. FPC17 Newgate Street. Column corroded and dangerous – new column and lighting required
- FPC43 Wood Street. Column clipped by FDC refuse lorry. Column found to be structurally damaged, column cut to a stump for safety. New complete column required. FDC advised that the parish council is holding them responsible for costs that we will incur.

16. Village Maintenance:-

- a) The two new defibrillators have now been delivered and a local electrician will be arranging installation at the agreed sites.
- b) The Clerk reported that the wooden fencing and gates at the Churchyard had been installed.
- c) The Chair reported that she had spoken to the Lord of the Manor and obtained his permission for a bus shelter to be installed on his land that abuts Primrose Hill.

17. Website and Communications:-

Members agreed to use the website email addresses where possible.

18. Financial Items:-

- a) The Clerk updated members on the status of the Parish Councils bank account mandate. Resolutions would need to be agreed covering three areas. Members agreed the following resolutions:
 - i. Current Account. Signatures for drawing cheques, any two of Cllrs Hufton, Fisher, Mason, Shepherd or Welcher plus the Clerk
 - ii. Deposit Account. Signatures to duplicate the current account. Withdrawals from deposit account can only be made into the current account; any one signature to sign.
 - iii. Online banking arrangement. Any one of Cllrs. Hufton, Fisher, Shepherd or the Clerk is authorised to make third party payments from current account and ability to transfer monies into the deposit account.

b) 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 /hedge cutting	360.00
WeDo Invoice Finance Ltd	Annual safety inspection (skate park)	462.00
GLP Installations	Fencing repairs rear of skate park	210.00
Black Country Metalworks	Lanterns – Clock Tower	750.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	753.80
HMR&C	Income Tax	187.20
A Harrison	Word Press	84.00
C Webb	Fencing repairs Church grounds	1,350.00

19. Correspondence:

Members agreed to defer to the next meeting any discussion on the Military Covenant

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