

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 9th March 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. The Clerk Roger Wilkin was also present.

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

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

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2022 were approved and signed by the Vice-Chair.

5. Administrative Matters:-

a) The Clerk formally advised the meeting that the current councillor vacancy would be filled by co-option and an appropriate notice to this effect had been posted. Residents interested in applying for the position had until 14th March to submit their application.

b) Members were advised that the Annual Parish Council meeting would be held on 11th May. In addition, it was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly would be held on 18th May, possibly in the Methodist Hall, and arrangements for the format of the meeting would be agreed at the next meeting.

6. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Doddington Hub. The Chair reported that she had received no further update on the progress towards forming a Doddington Hub, but that The Church Rooms had been booked for an open public meeting on April 20th to gauge opinion on the project.

7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee:-

a) Provision of a beacon:- The Chair reported that she had received an estimate of £250 to construct a metal frame to hold an oil drum. It was agreed to seek a lower cost.

b) Tree planting:- Members agreed that a Japanese Acer tree was the preferred species of tree that the Parish Council would be planting. Actual variety would be decided after further discussion.

c) Community events:

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

ii Family picnic at the Pavilion on the Friday. Enquiries would be made to book a band

iii. Church services on the Sunday afternoon

8. Police Matters: -

a) The minutes of the March 2022 Police/Parish representatives meeting had been circulated and noted by members. The Chair reported that there appeared to be an increase in “hate” crime against people who may have a Russian connection.

b) It was reported that there had been a number of thefts from vans which the police were investigating.

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

a) The Clerk advised members that FDC had published their annual grass cutting programme which was planned to run from mid March to November. Throughout the cutting season, grass was being scheduled for cutting twice per month. Five roads within Doddington plus the Churchyard will benefit from this arrangement.

10. Highway Issues: -

a) The meeting was advised that CCC had no funds available for routine maintenance on roads until the start of the new financial year on 1st April 2022.

b) The MVAS unit had received a maintenance inspection and a clean report had been issued by SWARCO.

11. Pedestrian Crossing:-

a) The Chair reported that the required surveys had taken place but CCC had not, as yet, provided a date when the design work will commence.

b) The Chair reported that CCC had been asked to ensure that the “Lollypop Lady” would be retained for a period of time following the completion of the crossing.

12. Planning:-

a) New applications:-

i. F/YR22/0149/VOC Variation of condition 1 (list of approved plans), relating to planning approval F/YR18/0738/RM (Reserved Matters application relating to the detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR15/0077/O for the erection of 10 x 2 storey 5 bed dwellings with garages) – alterations to highway works at land east of Askham House 13 Benwick Road Doddington

Members supported the application

ii. F/YR22/0175/F Erect 1 x dwelling (3 storey 6/7 bed) at land west of 3 May Meadows Doddington

Members supported the application and agreed to mention the need for the promised footpath to be constructed

iii. F/YR22/0196/F Erect 1 dwelling (2 storey 4 bed) involving demolition of existing dwelling at Post Mill Farm Benwick Road Doddington

Members supported the application

iv. F/YR22/0235/F Erect a single storey extension (infill between existing double garage and dwelling) at 9C Benwick Road Doddington

Members supported the application but noted that while the agents Design, Access & Heritage Statement made a number of statements regarding the Conservation Area and Heritage buildings it failed to specifically mention that 11 Benwick Road, which is next door to the application property, is listed in the Village Conservation Report as a "Building of Local Interest".

b) Other Planning Matters:

i. The Chair reported that Fenland DC were holding a zoom meeting on 17th March that was covering the progress on the production of the new Fenland Local Plan.

13. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) Cllr Shepherd advised that arrangements were in hand to remove the quantity of graffiti that had appeared on the skate park equipment.

14. Benwick Road Cemetery:-

- a) A meeting of the Cemetery Committee took place on site on 21st April 2021. Subsequent meetings have updated or revised the outstanding items (shown in bold) 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 through 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.

- b) Members were advised that the surplus gravel that had originally been removed from the car parking area was not available to lay on the existing grasscrete roadway. Members agreed to request FDC Construction to source suitable gravel and to spread it over the roadway.

15. Street Lighting:-

a) The Clerk reported that he had submitted a revised Certificate of Proposed Lawfulness, covering the fixing of lanterns to the Clock Tower, to FDC Planning. The revised application had been validated on 24th February and a target date of 7th April given for its determination.

16. Village Maintenance:-

a) The two new defibrillators have now been delivered and installation will be taking place.
b) The Chair reported that, having received permission for a bus shelter to be installed on land that abuts Primrose Hill, she was awaiting a quotation for extending the concrete slab and building and erecting the shelter. Members were informed that The Council would pursue a grant for these works from Burnt House Farm Windfarm Fund, but that the Burnt House Panel would not sit until September.

17. Website and Communications:-

The Chair commented that the appearance and content of the website and face book page was excellent and thanked Cllrs Howard and Leonard for their work.

18. Financial Items:-

a) The Clerk advised members an application to amend the Parish Councils current bank account mandate, in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting, had been submitted to the bank.

b) Payments:

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

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec	100.00
CAPALC	Annual subscription	657.83
Cable Test Ltd	Street lighting repairs	471.14
R Hufton	Reimbursement on Church brown bin charge	38.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary, backpay + expenses	933.80
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	233.38

19. Correspondence:-

Members agreed to take no action on the Military Covenant item deferred from last months meeting

20. Any Other Business:-

Cllr Fisher asked members for any ideas that they may have covering the subject, "What do we want the Church to do for the village". The Chair asked members to give some thought to the request and to pass any ideas direct to Cllr Fisher.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

