

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, L Howard, R Hopkins and R Leonard. The Clerk Roger Wilkin was also present.

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

2. Cllr Ruth Hopkins:- The Chair welcomed Cllr Hopkins, recently co-opted onto the Parish Council. The Clerk reported that the necessary Declarations of Office had been signed.

3. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs McNulty, Mason, Shepherd, Welcher and Cllr D Connor (District and County Councillor) and Cllr M Davis (District Councillor).

4. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made

5. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

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. Local Government Boundary Commission:-

The Chair advised members that the LGBC had published their draft recommendations for the new electoral arrangements for Fenland DC. Members were disappointed to note that the LGBC had not reviewed their provisional report to take account of the Parish Councils views.

8. Administrative Matters:-

a) The Chair advised members that the Annual Parish Assembly would be held on 18th May and that the Methodist Hall had been booked for the event. It was agreed that suitable photographs depicting improvements within the village should be displayed and that light refreshments would be provided.

b) The Clerk advised members on various training courses that CAPALC were holding. It was agreed that places be booked on the following courses:

Archiving and Retention 27th April: Clerk to attend – cost £30

Councillor Training 21st May: Ruth Hopkins to attend – cost £75

Planning Training 14th & 21st July: Chair to attend – cost £50

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee:-

a) Provision of a beacon:- It was agreed that Cllr Shepherd would liaise with Brian Elmore on the creation of a metal frame to hold an oil drum.

b) Tree planting:- It was agreed that Cllr Fisher would source a suitable Japanese Acer tree for later in the year and that he would also liaise with the WI on a flowering cherry tree that they

wished to plant. In addition a suitable commemorative plaque to cover the planting would be purchased from Ward Signs at a cost of £90 plus VAT

c) Community events:

- i. Thursday 2nd June – A food truck and a singer had been booked by The Three Tuns with beacon lighting at 9.15pm on land behind the pub.
- ii Family picnic (bring your own food) was planned at the Pavilion, Benwick Road on the Friday afternoon from 2 to 5pm. Enquiries would be made to book a band. FDC would be asked to provide a quantity of rubbish bins.
- iii. A Church Songs of Praise service was planned for the Sunday afternoon
- iv. Support was given for the WI to provide “yarn bombing” to the Clock Tower
- v. Official flags would be flown covering the extended bank holiday period.

10. Police Matters: -

- a) The April 2022 Police/Parish representatives report had been circulated and noted by members.

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

- a) As representatives from FDC and CCC were not available no items of interest were brought before the meeting.

12. Highway Issues: -

- a) Members raised the following new items:

- i. The roadways by the side of The Three Tuns and along Cooks Green both are in need of resurfacing
- ii. One of the 40mph signs along Benwick Road is badly rusted and needs replacing
- iii. There are a number of gullies within the village where earth is piled up and weeds are growing. Can the roadsweeper visit the village and clear these gullies.

- b) Members agreed to take no action on the request received from CCC that grass cutting should be suspended during May.

13. Pedestrian Crossing:-

- a) No further updates had been received from CCC

14. Planning:-

a) Planning Decisions:-

- i. F/YR21/1522/O Erect up to 2 dwellings at Land South East of Norbrown Hospital Road Doddington.

Members were advised that despite Parish Council representations and the recommendation of its officers, FDC's Planning Committee granted planning permission. Doddington PC recorded their great disappointment at the decision.

b) New applications:-

- i. F/YR22/0260/F Erect a first floor side and single storey rear extension (following removal of existing conservatory); removal of chimneys, replacement roof to outbuilding at 7 Wimblington Road Doddington
Members supported the application.

ii. F/YR22/0304/F Formation of a flat roof to enable garage conversion to additional living accommodation at 8 Wood Street Doddington
Members supported the application

c) Fenland Local Plan - update:

i. Fenland DC reported that the draft Local Plan will be published for public consultation in June/July 2022

d) Neighbourhood Plan:

i. Members agreed to the relaunching of a Neighbourhood Plan for Doddington and a number of councillors agreed to partake in the working party.

15. 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.
- b) The Clerk reported on a request that had been received from Doddington Junior Football Club that the goal posts on the pitch that they were using were no longer fit for purpose. The goal posts were owned by the Parish Council. Members agreed to seek the cost of replacing the goal posts and to explore, in conjunction with the Football Club, the possibility of seeking a grant from the Football Association to provide new posts.

16. 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 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 confirmed that FDC were charging double rates for internments from people outside of the area.**
8. Arrangements to inform the local undertakers would be made when we were in a position to become operational.
9. Arrangements would be made to source a suitable notice-board that could be fixed near the cemetery entrance.
10. **The Clerk was ordering the official cemetery record books and application forms.**
11. 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.

b) Members were advised that construction works would shortly be starting and that FDC Construction had agreed to source suitable gravel and to spread it over the roadway.

17. Street Lighting:-

- a) The Clerk reported that FDC Planning had granted a Certificate of Proposed Lawfulness, for the fixing of lanterns to the Clock Tower.
- b) The Clerk reported that Cable Test Ltd had provided quotations to supply two replacement street light columns and lanterns as follows:

FPC43 Wood Street	£1,068.44 plus VAT
FPC17 Newgate Street	£1,091.06 plus VAT

Members approved the quotations.

18. Village Maintenance:-

- a) The Chair reported that the two new defibrillators have now been delivered and the necessary box and electrical installation had taken place. Cllr Leonard was thanked by the Chair for the work that he had done in undertaking the fixing of the equipment. Cllr Leonard reported that some replacement parts were required as the existing items were now "out of date". Members agreed to place an appropriate order for the items. The Chair advised that she was sourcing the necessary training on using the equipment to take place.
- b) The Chair reported that a quotation for extending the concrete slab and building and erecting the shelter for the Primrose Hill bus stop was awaited in order to pursue a grant for these works from Burnt House Farm Windfarm Fund.

19. Website and Communications:-

The Clerk asked if Cllr Howard could arrange for a public email address to be supplied for Cllr Hopkins.

20. Financial Items:-

- a) The Clerk advised members that the amended Parish Councils current bank account mandate was now operational and he was now seeking agreement from the bank to extend the accounts for operation "online".
- b) The Clerk had circulated a copy to each member for the draft final accounts for 2021/2022 which members approved. The accounts and AGAR returns would now be submitted to the Internal Auditor for verification.

c) Payments:

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

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec	100.00
St Marys Church	Annual grant	1,500.00
A M Fisher Electrical	Electrical wiring to new defibrillators	120.00
Npower	Street lighting electricity Jan, Feb & March	912.62
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	769.19
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	191.05

d) Annual Appraisal of the Clerk to the Parish Council. Members expressed their satisfaction on the work that the Clerk had undertaken over the past year. At the request of the Clerk, members agreed to make no change to the Clerks salary.

21. Correspondence:-

The Clerk advised members that the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group had advised that a funded pond conservation project was available. The Chair and Cllr Hilton would ascertain if it may be possible to secure any funds for ponds within the village.

22. Any Other Business:-

Members agreed to consider a new date for the postponed Annual Council dinner at the next meeting.

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

