

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), L Jolley, R Hopkins, R Leonard, I McNulty, R Mason, J Shepherd and J Welcher. Cllr D Connor (District and County Councillor) and the Clerk Roger Wilkin were also present.

1. Open Forum: - Two members of the public were present who wished to address the Council on two planning matters.

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

3. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming year:-
Cllrs Hufton and Fisher were unanimously appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the forthcoming year.

4. Election of Committees and Parish Council liaison on related committees:-

Street Lighting: Cllr Jolley & McNulty

Planning: Cllrs Shepherd, Fisher, McNulty & Hopkins

Risk Assessment: All

Abbey Rec Ground & Skate park: Cllrs Shepherd, Mason & Leonard

Flag: Cllr Welcher

Clock: Cllrs Mason & Shepherd

Website: Cllr Jolley & Leonard

Village Maintenance: Cllrs Fisher, Mason & Hufton

Benwick Road Cemetery: Cllrs Mason, Welcher & Fisher

MVAS System: Cllr Shepherd, Jolley & Leonard

Parish Council liaison on related committees:

Burnthouse Farm Windfarm Fund: Cllr Hufton

Ransonmoor Community Fund: Cllr Shepherd

Eleemosynary Charity of Nicholas Spencer: Cllr Welcher

5. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made

6. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

7. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Local Government Boundary Commission on Electoral Arrangements for Fenland DC.

Members unanimously agreed to support a suggestion made by Christchurch Parish Council that that Parish Council does not become part of the new proposed ward on FDC along with Doddington PC, Wimblington PC and Benwick PC.

- b) Doddington Hub. The Chair reported she had been unable to attend the meetings on April 20th but understood that it was not particularly well supported.
- c) Repairs to the Church stone walls. The Chair reported that Fenland DC had earmarked £76,000 towards the repairs of the stone walls at the Church with a possible start date of July 2022. She thanked Cllr Connor for his work in securing this grant.
- d) The Chair reported difficulty in finding individuals or organisations that could provide training for the defibrillators. Cllr Connor agreed to make enquiries with Fenland DC.

8. Administrative Matters:-

- a) The Chair updated members on arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly being held on 18th May at that the Methodist Hall. Photographs depicting improvements within the village had been taken and would be on display. The WI were kindly providing light refreshments.

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee:-

- a) Provision of a beacon:- Brian Elmore has been provided with the oil drum in order to make the frame.
- b) Tree planting:- A suitable commemorative plaque to cover the planting has been purchased from Ward Signs at a cost of £90 plus VAT

10. Police Matters: -

- a) The May 2022 Police/Parish representatives report had been circulated and noted by members.
- b) The Clerk reported on correspondence with Crimestoppers who were seeking volunteers to join a volunteer committee for Fenland. The committee will support local authorities and law enforcement on safety and reducing crime within communities. Members agreed to display suitable notices and post information on its web and face book sites.

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

- a) Cllr Connor reported that FDC were proposing to provide circa £40K to upgrade the playground equipment at Abbey Recreation ground. Members asked if some of the new equipment can be specifically designed for disabled children.
- b) Cllr Connor reported that Anglian Water had attended to an incident in the Benwick Road area when a blocked sewer caused some associated flooding and odour problems. The blockage was removed by a jetting rig and Anglian Water was planning on using a CCTV system along the full stretch of the sewer to check on its integrity.

12. Highway Issues: -

- a) Update on previous issues:
 - Cllr Connor reported that the recent resurfacing on Cooks Green, Church Lane and Eastmore Road was to be inspected as a number of complaints had been received on its condition.
- b) Members raised the following new items:
 - i. Pot hole in Wimblington Road near the red tarmac area,
 - ii. The drop in the road surface of Benwick Road near Thickers Farm needs urgent attention as it is dangerous to lorries and vehicles towing trailers

c) Local Highway Improvements:

- i. 2020/2021 Doddington High Street footway resurfacing. The Clerk reported receipt of plans for the carrying out of kerb re-alignment and footway resurfacing from Ingles Lane to The George Inn. Members approved the drawings and noted the position on costings. Comment was made that the footway surface from Ingles Lane to the bus shelter appeared to be in a good condition.
- ii. 2022/2023 Puffin crossing outside of the school. The Clerk reported that CCC had approved our LHI application and we will be receiving the full £15K towards the cost.

13. Pedestrian Crossing:-

- a) No further updates had been received from CCC

14. Planning:-

a) New applications:-

- i. F/YR22/0345/F Erect 3 dwellings, a 2.1m high wall, widen existing access, demolition of outbuildings within a conservation area land west of 27-35 New street Doddington.
Objection on the following grounds:
 - a. The application is backland development and members have concerns that this will be detrimental to the character and appearance of the Doddington Conservation Area. The views from Benwick Road across the open fields towards the Church are likely to be adversely affected by the development. The two pillars at the entrance to the site are within the Conservation Area and appear to be constructed with the same brickwork as the adjacent properties and may well be as old as these properties are due to be demolished to widen the access.
 - b. Members have considerable safety concerns on the access to the site which is on a bend in New Street. Residents near this area often park their vehicles on the road thereby reducing road width and visibility.
 - c. Minimal parking arrangements appear to have been allowed within the development which will likely mean that parking will take place on the access roads. There appears to be no provision for footways to be provided thereby meaning that residents and visitors will be walking in the access roads.
 - d. Previous applications to develop the site have been refused and subsequent appeals dismissed.
- ii. F/YR22/0350/F Erect a single storey side/rear extension to existing dwelling 53 Newgate Street Doddington.
Application supported.
- iii. F/YR22/0423/RM Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (for 1 plot only) pursuant to outline permission F/YR20/0182/O to erect 1 dwelling at land south of Norbrowne Hospital Road Doddington.
Application supported.
- iv. F/YR22/0390/F Change of use of land to domestic purposes including erection of chicken run and formation of a pond (retrospective) land north of 5-7 Askham Row Benwick Road Doddington.
Objection on the following grounds:
 - a. The application is a retrospective application. However, during discussions, members reviewed the size and location of the chicken run and considered that it would be more appropriate if this item was located behind the applicants property rather than in its current position which is behind a neighbours' property.

v) F/YR21/1072/FDC Erect 47 dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping involving demolition of existing agricultural building and garage to 44 Bevills Close land east of Bevills Close and north of Eastmore Lane Doddington
Revised proposals received.

Objection raised on the following grounds:

a. Members considered the revised plans and concluded they do not appear to help the vast number of objections that the original application generated.

The analysis for both the site and access road shows very little clearance between passing vehicles and certainly does not address the issue of vehicles parked on the road which will make it impossible for large lorries to access the site meaning that the visibility and swept path are no longer valid. The new access to the site, past the flats 12-18 Bevill's Close means that those occupants will lose their existing parking area. The new access drawings also makes mention of 'minor amendments' to 44 Bevill's Close on one drawing, but a second drawing clearly shows it rebuilt in a completely different location. Demolishing 44 Bevill's Close and rebuilding in a new location, would surely further impact the viability of the development, which the developer already claims is marginal.

vi) F/YR22/0396/RM Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR18/0024/O to erect 13 dwellings at land north and east of 1-3 Wimblington Road Doddington.

Objection raised on the following grounds:

a. When the Parish Council considered the original outline application F/YR18/0024/O it registered its outline support for the sites development with the proviso that they would like the size of the dwellings to be aimed at the lower bed numbers ie 2/3 bedroom rather than 4/5 bedroom properties. The current application has been submitted by a different architect on behalf of a different applicant with 11 of the dwellings being 5/6 bedroom properties, each using the roof space to create two bedrooms. The drawings indicate that these dwellings could accommodate 8-10 people in each property. The Parish Council's contention is that the plot size of 1.121ha cannot comfortably accommodate units of this density.

b. The utilisation of the roof space for bedrooms with their associated window requirements will result in occupants looking over their neighbours property and gardens. This is especially noticeable with the three storey dwellings on plots 10,11,12 and 13 looking into the properties and gardens of Beech Avenue.

c. Many of the 5/6 bedroom units with 8 to 10 occupants are likely to have 4 or more vehicles which could result in a large number of cars being parked on the roadway thereby causing issues for other users.

b) Neighbourhood Plan:-

The Chair advised that as there had been a number of interested parties wishing to join the group that she would arrange an initial meeting of the group.

15. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) Skate Park – members were informed that the graffiti had been removed from the ramps.

b) Benwick Athletic Football Club. The Clerk advised members that a request had been received from BAFC for permission to fence one pitch and install 2 dug outs. They also asked if the pavilion can be increased in size to enable equipment to be stored securely and to provide larger changing facilities. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with BAFC to discuss matters.

c) Members were advised that the goal posts on the junior pitch were not fit for purpose and needed replacing. Doddington Junior Football Club were proposing applying for a grant from the Football Association and had sought the assistance of the Parish Council in securing 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 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. Works completed.
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) Whilst construction works had been completed there was an issue in obtaining gravel that matched the car park. Members agreed that different gravel be used and mixed into the current gravel. This was still to be sourced by FDC Construction.

17. Street Lighting:-

a) The Clerk advised that the Victorian Lanterns for the Clock Tower were due for delivery in June/July 2022

18. Village Maintenance:-

a) 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. Financial Items:-

a) Payments:

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

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec	100.00
E Mason & Sons	Grass / hedge cutting	240.00
FDC Civil Engineering)	Cemetery construction works	12,420.00
BHIB Ltd	Insurance premium	3,784.37
Narked Ltd	Web site	150.00
Ward & Co	Plaque for Queens Platinum Jubilee	108.00
Doddington Meth Church	Room hire (Assembly)	40.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses	822.19
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	191.05

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

