

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 8th June 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, R Hopkins, R Leonard, R Mason, I McNulty and J Shepherd. The Clerk Roger Wilkin was present.

1. Open Forum: - No resident was present

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

3. Declaration of Interests:- The Chair declared an interest in a planning matter that would be heard later in the meeting.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Local Government Boundary Commission on Electoral Arrangements for Fenland DC. Members were advised that Fenland DC had submitted its own observations on the proposals made by the LGBC in that they wished to see that the electoral arrangement for Doddington and Wimblington should remain unaltered.

b) Matters arising from the Annual Assembly held on 18th May:

- i. Pot hole at junction of Wood Street/High Street
- ii. Is it possible to get double yellow lines of about 20 metres on both side of Wood Street at its junction with High Street
- iii. A private hedge is overhanging Wood Street, causing an obstruction.
- iv. The handrail on the bridge along the footpath at the side of Postmill Farm needs repairing
- v. Comments were made on the need to improve the Village Pond on Wimblington Road. The Chair advised the meeting on action and monitoring that the Parish Council were taking.

c) Queens Platinum Jubilee. The Chair expressed her pleasure at the support that residents showed in attending the lighting of the beacon on the Thursday evening and the family picnic on the Friday afternoon. She thanked everyone who assisted in the organisation of the events. Members agreed to give some thought to using the beacon as a village planter and it was agreed that Cllr Hilton should research the purchase of an additional tree for planting under the Queens Green Canopy scheme; a budget of £400 was suggested. The Chair advised members that the commemorative plaque to cover the planting had been received.

6. Police Matters: -

a) The Chair advised members that the June 2022 Police/Parish representatives meeting was taking place this evening and that she would circulate the minutes as soon as she receives them. This was noted by members.

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

- a) No reports were received from our representatives on FDC and CCC.
- b) The Clerk had circulated copies of a CCC consultation on proposals to relocate and upgrade the March Household Recycling Centre. Details had been posted on the PC website and facebook page.

8. Highway Issues: -

- a) Update on previous issues:
 - Cllr Connor had advised that the dip in the road surface near Thickers Farm Benwick Road was due to be corrected by CCC within the next 3 months
- b) Members raised the following new items in addition to the items raised at the Annual Assembly:
 - i. Pot holes near The Three Tuns were getting worse.
 - ii. An overhanging tree on Primrose Hill needs cutting back by CCC.
- c) Local Highway Improvements:
 - i. 2020/2021 Doddington High Street footway resurfacing. The Clerk reported on an answer that he had received from CCC that it would be necessary to resurface that area of footway that currently was in a “good” condition once they had realigned the kerbing

9. Pedestrian Crossing:-

- a) Members were advised that the construction of the puffin crossing would not take place in the school summer holidays as was hoped but it was possible that it may take place during the October half term.

10. Planning:-

a) Updates on previous planning applications:-

- i. Enforcement Case ENF/097/21/UW Land South West of 3 Newgate Street
The FDC Enforcement Officer had advised that as the approved development was currently taking place it is unlikely that they would consider that a breach was taking place at the present time but if there was evidence that the caravan was being occupied once the dwelling had been completed then they would reinvestigate.
- ii. 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
Further revised proposals had been received but members concluded they do not appear to appease the vast number of objections that the original application had generated.
- iii. F/YR21/1370/F Erect 1 dwelling (2 storey 4 bed) involving the removal of existing residential caravan and the retrospective siting of a container at Elm Farm Hospital Road Doddington.
Members were informed that FDC Planning had refused the application. The Parish Council plus neighbours had supported the application.

b) New applications:-

i. F/YR21/1386/F Erect 16 single storey dwellings north of 43-53 High Street Doddington. This was a revised proposal and consisted of a number of amended plans and letters not previously put on public access.

The Chair declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion or vote. The Vice Chair took the meeting for this item.

Members considered the revised proposals for this extension to the Juniper Close development, and concluded that nothing has been presented that mitigated our original objection to this development. Members noted the change of location of the attenuation basin to a site close to the protected windmill and felt that the excavations necessary in providing the basin and its subsequent filling with water creates a distinct risk of undermining the foundations of the windmill.

Members also took the opportunity to voice their concerns over the unfinished state of the roadway and paths of Juniper Close and the condition of the attenuation basin that had been constructed for that development

ii. F/YR22/0584/F Erect a 2 storey rear extension at 14 High Street Doddington.

Members supported the concept of this application but felt that the design of the windows in the extension was out of proportion to those of the main house.

iii. F/YR22/0598/F Erect 2 single storey 3 bed semi-detached dwellings involving demolition of existing buildings at land north west of 11 Church Lane Doddington.

Members supported the application

c) FDC Local Plan:-

Members were advised that the timetable for the publication of the new FDC Local Plan was June/July 2022 but that Parish Councils would be given time to comment on the document once it was published.

d) Neighbourhood Plan:-

The Chair advised that an initial meeting of the Group had taken place on 6th June and advised members that Cambs ACRE would be available to support the work. Grant money was available to help pay for any costs incurred. Publicity would be arranged to encourage more volunteers to join the group.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) Benwick Athletic Football Club. The Clerk advised members that a meeting had taken place with BAFC to discuss their request to fence one pitch, install 2 dug outs and amend the internal layout of the pavilion to provide additional shower facilities and an internal storage facility. The Clerk had informed the Club that the recreation ground was classified as a public open space which may preclude fencing in a pitch. As there are a number of clauses affecting the use of the land on the Land Registry records he was prepared to seek the advice from the Councils solicitors on whether their plans can legally be considered but asked that the Club to prepare a site plan which could be sent to the solicitors showing the positioning of the proposed fences and the type of fencing being proposed.

He informed the meeting that as no response had yet been received from the club he was not prepared to prepare a request to the solicitor. Members supported this arrangement.

b) Doddington Junior Football Club. Following the recent “round robin” vote by members to pay for a new set of goal posts at a cost of £1,012 including VAT from MH Goals Ltd, a pro-forma invoice had been received for authorisation later in the meeting.

12. 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. 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.

c) The WI had requested permission to plant an additional tree in the cemetery which was agreed. In addition members agreed that some minor clipping can take place on the hedging at the front of the cemetery. The Chair will advise the WI that they may plant an additional Rowan Tree at the Cemetery and Cllr. Fisher volunteered to clip back the yew hedging

13. Street Lighting:-

- a) The Clerk advised members that the Victorian Lanterns for the Clock Tower had been delivered and arrangements for their installation had been discussed with EG Electrical Services.
- b) Cabletest Ltd had confirmed that the fixing of the two replacement lighting columns for Wood Street and New Street would be taking place between 9th and 14th June 2022. In addition, it will be necessary to ask Cabletest Ltd to recheck the situation regarding the three lights in Wimblington Road as UKPN have confirmed that they have repaired the power supply but the lights are still not working.

14. 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.
- b) Members agreed to consider installing noticeboards within each bus shelter and Cllr McNulty agreed to ascertain what size noticeboard would be suitable.

15. Website, Communications and Training:-

The Chair advised members that she was proposing contacting Swarco to ascertain what training arrangements they provide for the MVAS equipment.

16. Financial Items:-

- a) Internal Audit Report. The Chair read out to the meeting the Internal Audit report that covered the financial year 2021/2022. Members were pleased to note that the internal auditor had raised no issues over the Council's financial affairs.
- b) The Clerk advised that now that the Internal audit had taken place he was in a position to submit the AGAR returns to the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP:
 - i. Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk read out the 9 internal control statements that members needed to verify. It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Fisher that all controls were in place and this was unanimously approved by the meeting.
 - ii. Accounting Statements. It was proposed by Cllr McNulty, seconded by Cllr Leonard and unanimously approved that the Financial Statements be adopted.
- c) 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	507.00
Npower Commercial	Street Lighting electricity	259.47
CAPALC Ltd	Training course fee	30.00
I Cooper	Internal audit fee	140.00
MH Goals Ltd	Goal posts for recreation ground	1,012.20
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary	764.19
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	191.05
The Three Tuns	Hire singer for QPJ event	100.00
R Leonard	Spray paint for skatepark ramps	25.09

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

