

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

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

1. Open Forum: - No resident was present

2. Apologies: - No apologies were received

3. Declaration of Interests:- Cllr Davis declared an interest in a planning application that would be heard later in the meeting.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meetings held on 13th July 2022 and 10th August 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Queens Green Canopy. The Clerk reported that the Government through a Community Payback arrangement were offering packs of trees for the community to plant in their area. It was agreed to finalise suitable arrangements at the next Parish Council meeting. Members were also advised that the period of time for tree planting to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee had now be extended to cover the period October 2022 and concluding in March 2023.

6. Police Matters: -

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

b) Members noted that there were an increasing number of incidents involving the riding of motor bikes on waste ground. The Chair agreed to raise the matter at the next representatives meeting.

c) The Chair reported that she had raised the increase of accidents on the A141 with CCC Safety and was informed that they were aware of the matter and were preparing a report on the probable reasons for the accidents and a copy would be provided once the investigation had concluded.

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

a) Cllr Connor reported that the CCC were considering proposals that allowed Parish Councils the right to nominate roads to be restricted to a 20mph speed limit.

b) The Chair reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission were proposing that the District Council electoral representation for Doddington and Wimblington would remain unchanged when the overall changers for the district becomes effective for the local elections in 2023.

c) The Clerk reported that nominations for the 2022 Pride in Fenland awards was now open with a closing date of 16th October. Cllr. Davis, declared an interest as she was a member of the award panel, and left the room whilst this was discussed. Members suggested a few possible nominations and agreed to finalise our submissions at the next Parish Council meeting.

d) The Clerk reported that Anglia Water were proposing building two new reservoirs in the East of England; one in the Fens and one in Lincolnshire. They will be launching a public consultation in the autumn when the preferred locations will be announced at that point in time.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Update on previous issues:

- i. There is a broken drain cover in Benwick Road near the flag pole which has now become a trip hazard.
- ii. The pot hole near The Tuns has become larger
- iii. The Wood Street footway to Sutton Way has become dangerous

b) Members raised the following new items:

- i. The roadway from Carters Bridge towards Dyke Moor has dropped on one side with the risk that vehicles can be thrown from the carriageway
- ii. There is a sharp dip in Primrose Hill that is a danger to traffic
- iii. The edge of Hospital Road needs building up be plannings
- iv. The footpath on Benwick Road from Askham towards the Village Hall is in a bad way that causes wheelchairs to tip. Nurses from Askham use the main road to push patients rather than keeping to the footpath. This in itself creates a danger.
- v. The road markings at the junction of Harvest Close and Ingles Lane need repainting.
- vi. One of the Hospital Road signs is missing.

c) Local Highway Improvements:

- i. Members were advised that CCC were making some changes to the LHI facility in advance of the 2023/2024 round of applications which were due to open on 31st October 2022. Members were asked to consider possible sites for discussion at next months meeting.

d) MVAS Training:

The Chair advised members that Swarco, the suppliers of the equipment, had agreed to provide a training session via the “Teams” facility on 19th October 2022. The charge would be £329 plus VAT which would be billed after the training session had taken place.

e) Community Gritting Scheme:

The Clerk informed members that CCC were again asking Parish Councils to provide volunteers to take part in the Community Gritting Scheme for the winter season 2022-2023. Members considered the matter and reaffirmed their previous decisions not to take part. It was noted that Wimblington PC had arranged for a number of salt bins to be strategically placed within their village, especially where there were rises in the roadway, and that residents or motorists were free to spread salt if they wished.

9. Pedestrian Crossing:-

a) The Chair advised members that the construction of the puffin pedestrian crossing was unlikely to take place until February 2023. The Clerk informed the meeting that, at the request of CCC, he had provided information on the location of the nearest street lights to the proposed crossing site.

10. Planning:-

a) New applications:-

- i. F/YR22/1003/LB Internal and external works to a listed building involving changes to door on south elevation to erect access gates (1.2m high max) and erect a 2 storey timber double garage involving demolition of existing garage at 2 Ingles Lane Doddington

Members supported the application with the caveat that should FDC approve the application that they include a clause in the approval that at no time in the future that the two storey garage is used as living accommodation.

ii. F/YR22/1004/F Erect access gates (1.2m high max) and erect a 2 storey timber double garage involving demolition of existing garage at 2 Ingles Lane Doddington

Members supported the application with the caveat that should FDC approve the application that they include a clause in the approval that at no time in the future that the two storey garage is used as living accommodation.

iii. F/YR22/1021/F Erect a single storey rear extension at 10 Witchford Close Doddington

Cllr Davis declared an interest and left the room whilst this application was discussed.

Members supported the application.

iv. F/YR22/1033/RM Reserved matters relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (plots 1 & 2 only) pursuant to outline permission F/YR19/0684/O to erect 2 dwellings, land east of 4A Primrose Hill Doddington

Members supported the application.

v. F/YR22/1059/F Erect an acoustic enclosure (to enclose an air handling unit) rear of the exchange at Telephone Exchange Childs Lane Doddington.

Members supported the application

b) FDC Local Plan and Doddington Neighbourhood Plan:-

Members agreed to consider these two items together as the FDC Draft Local Plan was now the subject of a local consultation which runs until 19th October 2022 and the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan had also reach a discussion stage where possible development sites were due to be considered. Members agreed with a suggestion that a sub group of the Chair, Vice Chair, Cllr Ruth Hopkins and the Clerk be instructed to prepare a report on the possible development sites and other items in the FDC Draft Local Plan that could have a direct effect on Doddington for presentation to the next PC meeting and Neighbourhood Plan meeting.

c) Land off Primrose Hill:-

Members discussed this matter in committee.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) General maintenance. The hedge on the boundary from the recreation ground and Holly Drive was badly overgrown and encroaching into the neighbouring properties. The Chair had spoken to Alan Mason and the work had been completed. The owner of the affected property had written a note of thanks for the excellent job that had been done.

b) Benwick Athletic Football Club. The football club had requested permission to carry out some internal alterations involving removing the counter and installing some storage cabinets. Members were in agreement with this providing the works did not involve any structural alterations which would require plans being prepared for possible building regulation approval as well as our agreement.

There was a suggestion that the roller security shutters were not functioning correctly. Cllrs Shepherd and Leonard were asked to check this out from inside the pavilion.

The Clerk advised members that the agreement with BAFC had expired and needed renewing. It was agreed that the rent should be increased from the existing £75 per month to £100 per month and in addition that the clauses concerning the requirement to keep the internal of the property in a good condition should be strengthened to indicate the consequences should this not take place.

c) Doddington Junior Football Club. The Clerk reported receipt of a note from DJFC thanking the Parish Council for providing new goal posts for their pitch.

d) Junior Play Area. The Clerk reminded members that during the summer break, Fenland DC had advised the Parish Council that they were proposing refurbishing the junior play area and had obtained three quotations for the work and were inviting the Parish Council to take part in the choice of contractor. A sub-committee had met with FDC and a preferred choice was made. A further meeting took place with FDC and a representative from Playdale, the preferred contractor. During these discussions members felt that the safety covering on the ground should be extended over a larger area. As FDC's budget would not cover this extra cost it was agreed that the Parish Council would finance the charge that would amount to £7,080.08 plus VAT. Playdale had advised that an estimated start date of 21st November 2022 had been set. The Clerk advised members that Playdale needed confirmation if any public services ran through the site and he had been provided with a link to "Linesearch before U dig". That organisation had forwarded the search request to Cadent Gas and UK Power Networks. Both service providers confirmed that none of their services ran through the play area.

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.** Arrangements were now being made to fix the disks to the plots.
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.

13. Street Lighting:-

a) Dates were being arranged with EG Electrical Services for the removal of the existing lighting and installation of 4 Victorian style lanterns on the Clock Tower.

b) Cabletest Ltd had confirmed that the replacement lighting column for Wood Street had been completed and that they applying for a fresh permit from CCC to carry out the New Street column. In addition they were pressing UKPN over the faulty lights in Wimblington Road.

c) The Clerk reported that Fenland DC’s insurance company had paid the full costs that the Parish Council had incurred in replacing the damaged street column caused by one of their vehicles colliding with it.

14. Village Maintenance:-

a) Bus shelter noticeboards were still being sourced.

b) The Chair was still organising a general training session on the use of the defibrillators.

c) Members were advised that in two separate incidents a post near the Clock Tower had been uprooted. In the first incident the car drivers insurance company had been in contact. A local builder had been contacted to provide an estimate and a price of £200 had been quoted which had been accepted. The local builder has been asked to assess the cost of the damage caused in the second incident. A suggestion had been raised that reflectors be fixed to all the posts. This was to be costed.

d) Members considered an estimate for the supply and installation of a new bus shelter and base at a cost of £8,352 plus VAT but decided to delay making a decision pending the outcome of possible cancellations of bus services within the village.

15. Website and Communications:-

The Clerk updated the meeting on arrangements made for changes to the domains that covered the old and current web sites. The Word Press domain that was used for the old web site has now been cancelled and the current web sites domain has been transferred to Narkedesign.

16. Financial Items:-

a) On line banking facility. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council’s bankers had rejected our initial application for an on line facility. The Chair said that the existing bankers had caused a number of issues during the exercises to update our mandates and set up on line facilities and suggested that we investigate transferring our bank accounts to another bank. Members concurred with this suggestion and directed the clerk to investigate options.

- b) The Clerk informed the meeting that following successful discussions with Wimblington PC, the insurance of the speed watch equipment had been agreed. The insurance will be included in Wimblington PC's insurance policy with Doddington PC noted as an interested party.
- c) Wimblington PC have an arrangement that a representative from the Citizen Advice Beaux visit the village on a monthly basis to provide advice to residents. They asked if Doddington would be interested if the arrangement was opened to Doddington's residents and the monthly fee of £70 was split on a 50/50 basis. Members supported the idea.
- d) The Chair informed the meeting that she had been approached by the Christmas Lights Committee who were enquiring if the Council would provide some financial support to possible costs that they may incur if residents started to ask for a contribution to any increase in their electricity bills when the Christmas lights are plugged into their private supply. Residents, in the main, have not asked for any contribution in the past and as it will be difficult to assess the extra electricity cost that the Christmas lights may create members declined to provide giving any assistance at the moment.
- e) Payments:
Members confirmed their agreement to the following cheques drawn during the summer break:

Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	50% deposit as per contract	4,248.05
Npower Commercial	Street Lighting electricity	448.71

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

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec (2 months)	200.00
E Mason & Sons	Grass & hedge cutting	336.00
Brian Elmore	Jubilee Beacon	300.00
C Webb	Repairs to post near Clock Tower	200.00
Narked Ltd	Web site domain	24.00
Cromwell Fire Ltd	Fire extinguisher maintenance	97.12
CAPALC	Training fees	125.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary (2 months)	1,528.38
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	382.10

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25pm.

