

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

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

1. Open Forum: - One resident was present who asked a number of questions regarding the condition of Juniper Close, cancellation of bus services and the proposed reservoir.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr Leonard and Cllr Connor.

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Community Payback arrangement: Members considered the various packs of trees that were being offered under this arrangement and agreed to seek one pack of 50 trees listed in the Small Plot Pack.

b) The Chair reminded members that the closing date for making nominations for the 2022 Pride in Fenland awards 16th October. Members agreed that nominations suggested at the last meeting should be put forward.

c) The Chair reported that the public consultation period for the proposed building of a new reservoir in Fenland started today. The favoured site was to the east of the A141 opposite Doddington and to the north of Chatteris. Community events are planned to be held in Doddington, Chatteris, Wimblington and Manea during November 2022. The closing date for feedback to be provided is 21st December 2022

6. Police Matters: -

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

b) The Chair reported that an additional Police Constable for the area had been appointed who was being specifically tasked to liaise with the local schools.

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

a) Cllr Davis advised that there were no items to report from FDC.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Update on previous issues:

- i. The condition of Primrose Hill from Carters Bridge towards Dyke Moor has become very dangerous with dips and bumps causing traffic to drive on the wrong side of the road in order to avoid the hazards.

b) Local Highway Improvements:

Further details of the amendments on changes being proposed to the LHI facility have been received. The application window for the 2023/2024 round of applications is planned to open on 31st October 2022 and will close on 6th January 2023. Two separate process routes are now being proposed to differentiate between non-complex and complex schemes. The CCC contribution for non-complex schemes will be reduced from the existing £15,000 to £10,000 while complex schemes will have a maximum contribution increased to £25,000. Members suggested some possible schemes:

- i. Improve the footpath from the Askham complex towards Hospital Road
- ii. Provide double yellow lines in Wood Street near to its junction with High Street
- iii. Provide double yellow lines on the south side of High Street from Ingles Lane towards the Clock Tower

It was agreed to review the suggestions at our next meeting in line with the full regulations and application forms.

c) Withdrawal of bus services from Doddington:

The Clerk reported that Stagecoach East currently provide 5 bus services which make stops within Doddington and two of these, numbers 39 and V2, are among the 18 services that the bus company are proposing withdrawing. The Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has set in motion talks with bus operators with the aim of continuing as many of the bus routes as possible. Members noted the position.

d) Traffic Management Centre reports:

The Clerk reported that the TMC monitors the county's road network and reports any variations to the traffic flow. TMC are using a new web-based system to record details in both map and report formats and access to the system is available to local councillors.

e) Proposed closure of Benwick Road for installation of gas pipes:

Benwick Road is due to be closed from its junction with Hospital Road for 45m west for the period 28th November to 3rd December. Members noted the proposals but in view of the level of disruption that will occur especially for visitors to businesses, the medical centre and the hospital that a suitable response should be sent to CCC asking that traffic light controls should be used to ensure that limited access will continue.

9. Pedestrian Crossing:-

a) The Chair advised members that no update had been received from CCC on changes to the suggested construction date of February 2023 for the construction of the puffin pedestrian crossing outside of the primary school.

10. Planning:-

a) Update on existing planning applications:

i. F/YR21/1072/FDL Erect 47 dwellings with associated works on land east of Bevills Close and north of Eastmoor Lane Doddington.

Members were informed that this application was due to be considered by FDC Planning Committee on 19th October 2022 and the Chair was proposing speaking against the application.

ii. F/YR22/0828/F Erect a dwelling on land south west of 27A Wimblington Road Doddington. Members were informed that this application was due to be considered by FDC Planning Committee on 19th October 2022.

b) New applications:-

i. F/YR22/1104/F Erect a double detached garage (2 storey) and formation of a new access at The Hollies Hospital Road 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 should the two storey garage be used as living accommodation.

c) FDC Local Plan and Doddington Neighbourhood Plan:-

The Chair reminded members that the Parish Councils submission on the FDC Draft Local Plan was to be presented to FDC by the 19th October 2022. Accordingly, the Chair outlined the background to the Emerging Local Plan which included 8 potential development sites for the village. Members considered each of the 8 sites in order that the Chair can incorporate their views in the submission.

Cllr Mason declared an interest in one of the sites and took no part in the discussion on that site. Cllr Hopkins, Chair of the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan advised members that the group were getting close to producing a plan that would support a claim for funding to cover any costs that Cambridgeshire ACRE may charge for assisting the Group.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) Benwick Athletic Football Club. The Clerk advised members that he was awaiting a response from the secretary of the football club on the draft new lease agreement.

An inspection was to take place on the functionality of the roller security shutters.

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) A date of 4th November has been agreed with EG Electrical Services for the removal of the existing lighting on the Clock Tower and the installation of the 4 Victorian style lanterns.
- b) Cabletest Ltd have confirmed that the installation of the replacement lighting column in Newgate Street FPC17 will take place on 2nd November. In addition they were pressing UKPN over the faulty lights in Wimblington Road. The faulty lights FPC15 and FPC25 in New Street and Primrose Hill have been repaired although FPC13 in New Street has been diagnosed as a “dead service” and has been reported to UKPN.

14. Village Maintenance:-

- a) The Chair reported on her search for suitable noticeboards for installation in the village bus shelters. Members agreed to purchase four 90cm x 120cm noticeboards from Wonderwall Products Ltd at a cost £105 plus vat each. The Clerk to make arrangements.
Cllr Hopkins agreed to take responsibility on the updating and content of notices fixed to the noticeboards.
- b) The Chair had organised a zoom training session on the use of the MVAS system with SWARCO for 19th October at a cost of £329 plus vat.
- c) Members were provided with an update on the two separate incidents of posts near the Clock Tower being uprooted by vehicles. In the first incident repairs had now taken place and documentation sent to the car driver’s insurance company. In the second incident, CCC appeared to have repaired the damage without any contact being given to them from the Parish Council.
Costing of reflectors being fixed to all the posts was still to take place.
- 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 Chair thanked Cllrs Shepherd and McNulty for fixing the projector board to one of the walls in the Church Rooms. The Clerk would arrange testing the linkage of the projector to his laptop in order to check on the feasibility of planning application documents being displayed at meetings.

16. Financial Items:-

a) Future banking arrangements. The Clerk advised the meeting that Lloyds Bank Ltd would be able to provide a suitable banking service for the Council. They were already providing a service to a neighbouring Parish Council.

Members resolved that:

1. A current account be opened with Lloyds Bank Ltd with cheques being signed by any three of the following signatories: Cllrs R Hufton, H Fisher, J Shepherd, R Mason, J Welcher and R Wilkin (Clerk)
2. A deposit account to be opened with a mandate that states withdrawals can only be paid into the current account. No payments or withdrawals are to be made to third parties. Any one of the signatories in item 1 above are authorised to make transfers from the deposit account to the current account.
3. An on-line facility be opened that covers both the current account and deposit account. Any one of the following signatories from the current account is authorised to access the facility and make payments to third parties or transfer monies between the two bank accounts: Cllrs R Hufton, H Fisher, J Shepherd and R Wilkin (Clerk)

Resolutions 1, 2 and 3 above were proposed by Cllr. Mason and seconded by Cllr. Welcher and unanimously approved by the meeting.

b) External Audit Report for the year ended 31st March 2022. The Clerk reported that the External Audit Report for the year ended 31st March 2022 had been received with a note that assets purchased during the year (two defibrillators costing £2,500) had not been included in the overall value of Council owned assets. Members noted the report. The Clerk stated that he was undertaking a full review of the Councils asset register.

c) Half Year Financial Statement. The Clerk had circulated a half years statement on the Councils financial affairs which was noted by the members. The Chair thanked the Clerk for the presentation.

d) Payments:

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

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec	100.00
NPower Commercial Ltd	Street lighting electricity	232.28
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit fee	360.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	836.07
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	191.05

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

