

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

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

1. Open Forum: - Two residents were present to view proceedings.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr McNulty, Cllr Davis (FDC representative) and Cllr Connor (FDC and CCC representative).

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

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2022 were approved following one alteration in para 14b to delete the word “defibrillators” and substitute it with “MVAS system”. The amended minutes were then signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Community Payback and Queens Green Canopy: Members received an update on the procedures that were necessary in making an application for a pack of trees. The Council needed to register under the “I Dig Trees” organisation and the application form required us to confirm that the trees would only be planted on community land; no planting on private land was allowed. Planting would be undertaken by The Conservation Volunteers who consisted of local volunteers plus offenders working on Community Service, hence the involvement of the Government Justice System. Members discussed the situation but decided not to proceed with the offer.

b) Update on bus services in Doddington: Further to the announcement that Stagecoach East were withdrawing a number of bus services which included two services serving Doddington. Service 39 will no longer visit the village while service V2 will be replaced by Dews Coaches who will run a Monday to Friday service. As services will still travel along Primrose Hill, members agreed to authorise the construction of a bus shelter and concrete base at the Primrose Hill bus stop. Members had previously obtained a quotation from GLP Installations, the company that had previously supplied the new wooden shelters in the village, for a new shelter and the laying of a concrete base at a cost of £8,352 plus vat.

c) New Fenland Reservoir. The Chair reported on the community event held in the Village Hall on 3rd November when a large number of residents met some of the team who were responsible for the proposed new reservoir that would be built to the east of the A141 opposite Doddington and to the north of Chatteris. Members agreed to consider what comments to make on the current public consultation exercise at the next meeting.

d) Citizen Advice Beaux: Wimblington Parish Council have an arrangement that a representative from the CAB will visit the village on a monthly basis to provide advice to residents. This facility is now being offered to Doddington residents with effect from December. These sessions take place on the first Wednesday of every month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Wimblington Parish Hall. The facility would be announced in the Council’s website and facebook page.

6. Police Matters: -

a) It was reported that residents were making comments on social media regarding potential incidents but these were not subsequently reported to the police. Members agreed that every encouragement should be used to ask residents to involve the police rather than making comments with no follow up.

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

a) No report was received from FDC or CCC.
b) The Chair reported on a very useful meeting that she and the Clerk had with the Scout Group Leader on the trusteeship issue of the Scout Hall. It was agreed to support a suggestion that the National Association of the Scout Movement become the trustee in place of the Parish Council but that as the PC owns the land and the building that a possible landlord / tenant agreement be prepared. The Scout Group Leader agreed to report back once she had discussed matters with her committee and the National Association.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Various issues:
i. The condition of the road from Alderman Child's Bridge towards Doddington, and parts of Benwick Road from Fields End Corner to the River Bank, where the sides of the road are falling away are becoming extremely dangerous for traffic. It was reported that HGV's are no longer using the Forty Foot Bank because of its condition, and are therefore coming through the village.
ii. A number of roads in the village have large quantities of weeds growing along the gutters. The village roads could benefit from the area being cleared by road sweepers.
iii. There is a blocked manhole on Manor Estate
iv. The Turf End Lane road sign had been turned round and needed refixing.

b) Local Highway Improvements:
i. The works under the 2021/202 LHI consisting of the resurfacing of High Street from Ingles Lane towards the Clock Tower had been completed.
ii. Members agreed that our submission for funds to be awarded under the 2023/2024 LHI should be cover improvements to the footpath from the Askham complex towards Hospital Road.

c) Road Closure Order affecting Benwick Road:

Despite objections being raised on the provisional order to close Benwick Road from its junction with Hospital Road for 45m west for the period 28th November to 3rd December the order had been confirmed. Members agreed to post suitable notices on the Council's web site and Facebook page.

9. Pedestrian Crossing:-

a) The Chair advised members that no further update had been received from CCC regarding its construction that is scheduled for February 2023. However, the Chair had been in conversation with the County Council Road Safety Officer who had advised that the costs of maintaining a crossing patrol would need to be paid by the Parish Council. The approximate cost would be £5.5k per year.

10. Planning:-

a) Update on existing planning applications:

- i. F/YR21/1072/FDL Erect 47 dwellings with associated works, land east of Bevills Close. Refused by FDC Planning Committee
- ii. F/YR22/0828/F Erect a 2 storey 3 bed dwelling on land SW of 27A Wimblington Road. Withdrawn before it was considered by FDC Planning Committee
- iii. F/YR22/0345/F Erect 3 dwellings, a 2.1 m high wall and widen existing access involving the demolition of outbuildings and front boundary brick piers within a conservation area, land west of 27-35 New Street. Referred to FDC Planning Committee with officer recommendation to refuse the application.

b) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR22/1127/F Erect a single storey detached rear garden room and canopy to rear of existing dwelling at 37 New Street Doddington
Members agreed to support the application
- ii. F/YR22/1142/TRTPO Works to 2 oak trees covered by TPO 09/2010 at 6 The Oaks Doddington
Members agreed to support the application
- iii. F/YR22/1149/F Erect 3 dwellings (2 storey 4 bed) and the formation of an access at land east of Highland View Benwick Road Doddington
Members objected to the application on the grounds of traffic speed along Benwick Road outside of the site. As the proposal is to construct 4 bed units it is not unreasonable to assume that each unit could have 3 or 4 cars and therefore traffic movements between the site and Benwick Road could be significant. Members made the point that a smaller development with fewer bedrooms may be more acceptable.
- iv. F/YR22/1243/PIP Residential development of up to 3 dwellings at land north of 8-10 Askham Row accessed from Hospital Road
Members objected to the application on the grounds that the site provides an important gap between Hospital Road and the footpath adjacent to the Askham Care facility, the development would significantly affect the character and visual amenity of the area. In addition a significant amount of trees and hedges along Hospital Road would be destroyed giving an adverse impact upon the character of the area. The proposed development would lead to unsafe highway and access conditions onto Hospital Road.
- v. F/YR22/1245/TRCA Fell 1 sycamore tree within conservation area at 40A Benwick Road
Members agreed to support the application.

c) FDC Local Plan and Doddington Neighbourhood Plan:-

The Chair advised members that the Parish Councils submission on the FDC Draft Local Plan had been presented to FDC by the submission date of 19th October 2022.

Cllr Hopkins, Chair of the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan advised members that Camb ACRE had met with the group and had suggested that a Housing Needs Assessment was needed as soon as possible to assist the group in pressing forward with its review. However as funding may not become available in time, members agreed that the PC should finance this work. A ceiling of £4k was set for this work.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) Benwick Athletic Football Club. The Clerk advised members that BAFC had increased the payment of the monthly rent but he was awaiting the signed copy of the revised lease. A second 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. Items in bold have been completed:

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.

The existing grasscrete roadway was to be covered in gravel to match the car park area.

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.

13. Street Lighting:-

- a) The Victorian style lanterns had been installed on the Clock Tower and the Chair recorded a vote of thanks to Ellis Green of EG Electrical and Cllrs Mason and Shepherd for an excellent job. Members agreed to make further improvements to the clock tower lighting by having lighting fixed behind the clock faces that will illuminate the hands and numbers, Estimated cost £500 plus VAT.
- b) Cabletest Ltd have been asked to provide a quotation for the cleaning of all lighting bulbs with the works taking place during the next financial year. The Clerk gave an update on current street lighting faults.

14. Village Maintenance:-

- a) The Clerk reported on his arrangements for obtaining suitable noticeboards for installation in the village bus shelters. Unfortunately the noticeboards approved at the last meeting would not be suitable as they were not waterproof. Waterproof boards, external size 1050mm x 1012mm, internal pinnable area 915mm x 920mm, from Wonderwall Products Ltd would cost £232.00 plus vat each. Members agree to purchase 4 noticeboards.

15. Financial Items:-

- a) Future banking arrangements. The Clerk advised the meeting that initial application forms had been prepared for the transfer of the Council's bank account to Lloyds Bank Ltd
- b) The Clerk reported that the National Association of Local Councils had received notification that the Local Government Association had reached an agreement on the new pay scales for 2022/23 which are to be implemented from 1st April 2022. The Clerk advised the meeting on how this will affect his pay scale. Members approved the increase.

c) 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	256.14
E Mason & Son	Hedge & grass cutting various sites	924.00
J O Cutteridge	Cutting of grass verges	4,896.00
EGE Services Ltd	Installation of lanterns on Clock Tower	930.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses inc back pay	1,128.96
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	274.25
Cambs ACRE	Neighbourhood Plan support	500.00

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

