

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7.00 pm.

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

1. Open Forum: - No resident was present

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr R Mason, Cllr M Davis (District Councillor) and Cllr D Connor (District and County Councillor).

3. Declaration of Interests:- Cllr Fisher declared an interest in three planning applications that would be heard later in the meeting.

4. Administrative Matter:- Members agreed that the formal Council Meeting for August 2022 would not take place in accordance with previous year arrangements. A meeting to consider planning matters plus any other matter considered to be of significant importance would however take place.

5. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Queens Platinum Jubilee. It was considered that the beacon should be used as a village planter and sited in the area near the flag pole. Cllr. Shepherd agreed to investigate a base for it in place of the high stand. It was also agreed that an Acer tree should be planted near Policeman's Corner.

7. Police Matters: -

- a) The minutes of the June 2022 Police/Parish representatives meeting had been circulated and noted by the members.
- b) Members noted that incidents were being circulated around the village via facebook but these were not being reported to the police. The public should be made aware that the police will only take action on instances that are formally reported to them.
- c) Members were concerned at the increase in speed that is occurring on the A141 resulting in a number of traffic accidents. The Chair agreed to raise the issue at the next Police/Parish representatives meeting.

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

- a) No reports were received from our representatives on FDC and CCC.

9. Highway Issues: -

- a) Update on previous issues:
 - i. The road surface near Thickers Farm Benwick Road had been corrected by CCC
- b) Members raised the following new items:
 - i. Pot holes in Ingles Lane were getting worse.
 - ii. The hedge in Ingles Lane was blocking the new "Not suitable for HGV" road sign

- iii. The Wood Street footway was in a very bad condition
- iv. A quantity of bitumen had been left in Cedar Ave following works in the road
- c) Local Highway Improvements:
 - i. 2020/2021 Doddington High Street footway resurfacing. CCC had responded to the queries raised by the Parish Council and members were now happy to sign off the design work.

d) MVAS Training:

The Chair had previously advised members that Swarco, the suppliers of the equipment, had agreed to provide a training session on site covering the equipment's use and arrangements to download the data. The charge would be £329 plus VAT which had been agreed via a "round robin" from members. However, as it now appeared that an evening session would be necessary the charge would be £423 plus VAT. Members agreed the increased charge and authorised the Chair to finalise arrangements.

10. Pedestrian Crossing:-

- a) Members were advised that the construction of the puffin pedestrian crossing was possibly now being planned to take place during the October half term.

11. Planning:-

a) Revised application:-

- i. F/YR22/0345/F Erect 3 dwellings (2x2 storey 3 bed and 1x2 storey 4/5 bed), a 2.1m high wall and widen existing access involving the demolition and front boundary brick piers within a conservation area land west of 27-35 New Street Doddington.

Members considered the revised proposals for the development and concluded that nothing had been presented that mitigated our original objection to this development.

b) New applications:-

- i. F/YR22/0665/F Erect a conservatory to rear of existing dwelling at 2 Hermitage Gardens Doddington.

Cllr Fisher declared an interest as the application affected a property close to his property. Members supported the application.

- ii. F/YR22/0682/F Erect a single storey rear extension and first floor side extension including pitched roof to utility room and demolition of existing conservatory at 2A Newgate Street Doddington.

Members supported the application.

- iii. F/YR22/0698/F Erect a single storey front porch, formation of a new vehicular access (for garden access) to Hospital Road and erection of new 2.0m high fence and gates at 10 Askham Row Benwick Road Doddington.

Members objected to the application on the grounds that no planning application had been submitted when the "temporary" access from Hospital Road into the rear of the property was constructed. The creation of a 2.0m high fence along Hospital Road will have a detrimental visual appearance and the current tree line provides a natural habitat for wildlife that could be significantly damaged by the fence. Creating an access into Hospital Road near Benwick Road creates a potential traffic hazard and there is a potential drainage issue with the ditch being filled with hard core in an area that is prone to flooding in wet weather. The Council also asked if the Councils tree officer had been consulted over the current removal of trees and shrubs with additional damage if future works take place.

iv. F/YR22/0749/VOC Variation of condition 8 of planning permission F/YR21/1269/F to allow alterations to window/door arrangements and roof covering for dwelling A only at Pumping Station West of Morleys Farm House Forty Foot Bank Ramsey

Members supported the application.

v. F/YR22/0760/TRCA Works to 5 Yew trees (and reoccurring works every 3 years) within a conservation area at 50 Benwick Road Doddington

Cllr Fisher declared an interest as the application affected a property close to his property.

Members supported the application subject to the DC's Tree Officer giving an assurance that the designated works will not be exceeded.

vi. F/YR22/0774/TRCA Works to 3 Nootka Cypress trees within a conservation area at 50 Benwick Road Doddington

Cllr Fisher declared an interest as the application affected a property close to his property.

Members supported the application subject to the DC's Tree Officer giving an assurance that the designated works will not be exceeded.

vii. F/YR22/0765/F Erect a 2 storey rear extension involving raising the rear eaves height and the demolition of a single storey extension to existing dwelling at 41-43 Newgate Street Doddington

Members supported the application.

viii. F/YR22/0792/F Erect a single storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling at 5 Thistledown Doddington

Members supported the application.

ix. F/YR22/0812/PIP Residential development of up to 9 dwellings involving the formation of 2 new accesses (application for Permission in Principle) at land north of Primrose Hill Doddington

Members were dismayed that the agent had submitted this application whilst outgoing discussions over woodland surrounding the site, that had started last year, had not been concluded or agreed. As such members agreed to request the agent to withdraw the application

c) FDC Local Plan:-

Members were advised that various amendments to the new proposed FDC Local Plan had been made but no official notice had been published that the Local Plan was available for consultation.

d) Neighbourhood Plan:-

Cllr. Hopkins advised members that regular meetings of the Group were planned including inviting a representative from Cambs ACRE to advise on procedures. Grant money of up to £10,000 was available to help pay for any costs incurred. Publicity would be arranged to encourage more volunteers to join the group.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) Maintenance of the grounds, pavilion, skate park and playgrounds

The areas around the pavilion and the skate park needed strimming and clearing of weeds. Alan Mason would be asked to trim the areas and Cllr Leonard offered to spray the area with weed killer.

The Chair advised the meeting that the annual service of the fire extinguishers had taken place and the Clerk informed the meeting that the quarterly safety inspection by Sovereign would take place later this month.

The Chair advised the meeting that she had been advised by Cllr Connor that FDC were planning on refurbishing the main children's play area. They had recently repainted the equipment in the "toddlers" play area

b) Benwick Athletic Football Club. The Clerk informed members that he was still awaiting a response from the club on whether they would be providing information to him following their initial request to fence in one of the pitches and undertake some internal alterations. He also informed members that the annual licence would be due for renewal shortly which would necessitate some discussions with the club. The Chair commented on the untidy state of the interior of the Pavilion.

c) Doddington Junior Football Club. The Clerk informed the meeting that the new goal posts had been ordered.

13. 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) Cllr. Fisher had clipped back the yew hedging

14. Street Lighting:-

a) EG Electrical Services had provided a quotation for the removal of the existing lighting and installation of 4 Victorian style lanterns on the Clock Tower in the sum of £775 plus VAT.

Members unanimously accepted the quotation.

b) Cabletest Ltd were being pressed to finalise the fixing of the two replacement lighting columns for Wood Street and New Street and in addition revisit the faulty lights in Wimblington Road.

15. Village Maintenance:-

a) Members agreed to request GLP Installations to quote for supplying and fixing 5 noticeboards 4ft x3ft for use in each of the bus shelters.

b) Cllr Leonard reported that all defibrillators were now fully working and had been recorded on the National Register. The need to arrange a general training session on the of the defibs was still to be organised as the previous trainer was no longer available

16. Website and Communications:-

Cllr Hopkins asked if a new page can be added to the website to cover the Neighbourhood Plan which was agreed.

16. Financial Items:-

a) On line banking facility. The Clerk advised the meeting that the initial form to set up the on line banking facility had been submitted to the Council's bankers.

b) The Clerk informed the meeting on discussions that had taken place with Wimblington PC over the insurance of the speed watch equipment. The original policy had been taken out in the name of March Neighbourhood Watch with the premium costs being split between the two parishes. As this organisation had now ceased to exist it was necessary to arrange new cover. The suggestion was that Wimblington PC would add the speed watch equipment to their general policy with Doddington PC being noted as an interested party. Members supported this arrangement.

c) Payments:

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

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec	100.00
Npower Commercial	Street Lighting electricity	469.68
Cable Test Ltd	Street Lighting repairs	1,735.16
CPRE	Subscription	36.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	896.93
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	191.05
Swarco Traffic Ltd	MVAS training	507.60

d) Request for financial support from Magpas Air Ambulance. Members regretted that they were unable to make a contribution

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

