

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, R Hopkins, L Jolley, R Leonard, R Mason, I McNulty and J Welcher. Cllr D Connor (FDC and CCC Representative) and the Clerk Roger Wilkin were present.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a minutes silence was held in memory of Christine Curtis who had recently died. Mrs Curtis had been a long standing member of the Parish Council and held the position of Chair until she stepped down in 2015.

1. Open Forum: - No resident was present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr J Shepherd and Cllr M Davis (FDC representative)

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

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2022 were approved and then signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

- a) Queens Green Canopy: Members were advised that the Acer tree had been delivered and Cllr Fisher was arranging its planting.
- b) New Fenland Reservoir. The Clerk advised members that the Parish Council's observations on the phase one consultation exercise had been submitted and acknowledged by the reservoir project team.
- c) "Warm Hub" facility. Members were advised that an initial facility had been arranged and that two further dates were being fixed to gauge resident's interest in continuing with the arrangement.

6. Police Matters: -

- a) A Police and Councillors meeting was being arranged for later in the month and its minutes would be circulated in due course.
- b) It was reported that a quantity of Nitrous Oxide canisters had been found near the Abbey Recreation Ground car park. The Chair had reported this to the Police but would bring this to the attention of the next Police and Councillors meeting.

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

- a) Cllr Connor gave a brief report on the regeneration of March town centre that was due to start shortly.

b) The Clerk reported on the preliminary arrangements that Fenland DC were organising on the local District, Town and Parish elections that were due to take place on 4th May 2023. Legal advice had been issued by NALC that as 8th May 2023 will be an additional bank holiday to mark the coronation of HM King Charles 111, the date that members would now officially take office will be Tuesday 9th May. The Clerk suggested that to allow for the period of notice to call for the May meeting, that will also be our Annual Meeting, that this takes place on 17th May. Members agreed with this arrangement and also agreed that the Annual Assembly with residents be organised to take place during April 2023.

8. Highway Issues: -

a) Local Highway Improvement Application. The Clerk reminded members that their preferred highway scheme for improvement in 2023/2024 was the resurfacing, with improved kerbing, of the footway from the Askham Care Home Complex towards Hospital Road. He advised that the footway was approximately 185m in length and that each 50m of improvement would cost £30,000. As the scheme would be classified as a complex scheme a LHI grant of £25,000 would be available. Members agreed to submit an application for the first 50m resulting in the Parish Council contributing £5,000 into phase one. Assuming that our application for funding is granted, members also agreed to finance a further £30k so that the second 50m stretch could be repaired at the same time.

9. Pedestrian Crossing:-

a) Members were advised that due to delays with the CCC contractors obtaining the necessary parts for the traffic light aspect, the county council were delaying the start date for the works to the Easter school holiday period ie 3rd April 2023.

10. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

i. F/YR22/1389/F Erect a dwelling (2 storey 3 bed) land south west of 27A Wimblington Road Doddington.

Members opposed the application on the grounds that it represents an overdevelopment of a relatively small wedge shaped area of garden land which is inappropriate and would spoil the street scene.

b) FDC Local Plan and Doddington Neighbourhood Plan:-

No further news had been received on the proposed new FDC Local Plan. Cllr Hopkins, Chair of the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan advised members that a survey would be despatched to each household during February/March 2023

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) The Clerk informed the meeting that the Sovereign report on their safety inspection had now been received and showed that all items were in a good condition and gave a low risk assessment to users.

- b) The replacement motor for the roller security shutters and a new inner front door and frame to the Pavilion had been completed since the last meeting.
- c) Work on the refurbishment of the junior children's play area had been delayed due to exceptionally bad weather conditions but should be completed during January 2023. FDC were proposing holding an official opening once all works had been completed.
- d) The Clerk informed the meeting that all works on the FDC district wide CCTV system had been completed.

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.

b) The Chair reported that work had started in the numbering of plot numbers but there was an issue with the glue.

13. Street Lighting:-

a) The Clerk updated members on the position regarding outstanding repairs.

14. Village Maintenance:-

a) The Clerk reported that the 4 noticeboards to be installed in the bus shelters and approved at the last meeting had been delivered. Cllr McNulty in conjunction with Cllr Hopkins would be fixing them in place. It was agreed that the noticeboards would be used for community notices and any application for a posting to be fixed would be made to Cllr Hopkins.

b) Following the training session on the MVAS system, arrangements will take place on creating a trial to ensure that the downloading of data is working correctly.

c) The Chair advised the meeting that a training session on the use of the defibrillators was now being finalised. Cllr Leonard advised the meeting that one of the defibrillators had been removed from its box. It was possible that the ambulance system had used it and enquiries would be made.

15. Financial Items:-

a) The Clerk had circulated a briefing note to assist members in fixing its precept for 2023/2024. Following a general discussion Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr Mason seconded that the precept remained unchanged at £60,000. This was unanimously agreed by the members.

b) 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	210.21
Cable Test Ltd	Street lighting repairs	1,582.87
GLP Installations	Repairs to Abbey Pavilion	600.00
LPS Shutter Doors Ltd	Repairs to Abbey Pavilion	834.00
St Marys Church	Hire Church Rooms	380.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	870.57
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	201.45

16. Correspondence:-

The Clerk reported receipt of an email from a resident enquiring if there were facilities available where a family could create a memorial to a dearly departed member of their family. The Chair agreed to speak to the resident.

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

