

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton, R Hopkins, R Leonard, R Mason, J Shepherd and J Welcher. The Clerk Roger Wilkin was present. Cllr Fisher was initially absent but joined the meeting from item 10.

1. Open Forum: - No resident was present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs L Jolley and I McNulty. Apologies were also received from Cllr D Connor (FDC and CCC Representative) and Cllr M Davis (FDC representative).

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

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meetings held on 8th and 22nd February 2023 were approved and then signed by the Acting Chairs Cllrs Fisher and Welcher respectively.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) The Clerk advised members that the new County Council Adult Social Care Commissioner was unable to attend either the March or April Parish Council meeting. Members agreed that a sub group should meet up with the Commissioner on a convenient date to discuss matters that may be of common interest and to report back to the Council in due course.

b) Tree Planting: Arrangements are to be finalised for a joint planting of the PC's tree and the WI tree to commemorate the Queens Green Canopy.

6. Administrative Items:-

a) Annual Assembly. Members were advised that the Annual Assembly would be held in the Methodist Hall 18th April 2023. Invites were to be sent out to a number of local organisations asking them give an update on their future plans. Possible invites would also be issued to the Police and the Headmaster of the school asking if they could give a brief presentation.

b) Parish Council Elections. The Clerk advised members that the official Notice of Election would be published by FDC on 20th March and nominations for the Parish Council would be received by FDC from 21st March to 4th April 2023.

c) Training Course. Members agreed that the Clerk be authorised to attend a two session Cemetery Management and Compliance Course being organised by CAPALC.

7. Coronation of King Charles 111:-

Members were advised by Cllr Shepherd and the Clerk that as the Carnival Committee were proposing holding a village picnic on Monday 8th May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles 111 they would make all necessary arrangements and then seek reimbursement of costs from the Parish Council. Arrangements are in hand for bunting to be erected during the week prior to the coronation.

8. Police Matters: -

- a) The Police and Councillors monthly meetings were currently being deferred while personnel changes were taking place. However the monthly crime statistics would continue to be circulated.
- b) The Clerk reported that e-cops was launching a Neighbourhood Watch recruitment drive to increase the number of groups serving communities. Members noted the arrangement.

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

- a) No reports were available from Fenland DC or CCC.
- b) The Clerk advised members that CCC were launching an Easter Holiday Activities and Food Programme aimed at children up to 12 years of age. The programme which will cover a variety of activities in various locations throughout Fenland. Members agreed to advertise the scheme on the Councils website and Facebook page and post copies of the poster on the various noticeboards in the village.
- c) The Clerk advised members that FDC were launching community litter pick sessions in various location throughout Fenland and members thought that perhaps the Street Pride Group may be interested in arranging a session within the village.

10. Highway Issues: -

- a) The 40 foot bank road, from its junction with Doddington Road towards Ramsey was closed on 6th March for 14 days while emergency repair works are carried out
- b) The downloading of data from the MVAS system was now working correctly and the Chair was ascertaining the correct police contact who was to receive routine data reports.
- c) The County Council was launching a scheme to fund applications to reduce speed limits on roads that meet a specific criteria down to 20mph. Members agreed to consider if there were any suitable roads in the parish that could benefit from a lower speed limit and review the matter at the next meeting.
- d) The Clerk advised members that our contractor who was employed to cut the grass along the village roads had served notice that with immediate effect they would no longer be available to carry out village grass maintenance. It was agreed to seek information from adjoining parishes on who they employ to undertake this work.

11. Pedestrian Crossing:-

- a) Members were advised that CCC were carrying out a formal consultation with external bodies on the intention to construct the crossing outside the primary school but we had been informed that this exercise would not delay the start date for works to commence.
- b) CCC had advised that their traffic engineers had stated that audible warnings on the crossing are automatically timetabled to operate between 7am – 10pm and in addition the volume can be adjusted.

12. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR23/0152/F Erect a 2 bay car port to front of existing dwelling at The Meadows Benwick Road Doddington.
Members agreed to support the application

ii. F/YR23/0178/Erect a single storey link extension to existing building at Askham Court 13 Benwick Road Doddington.

Members agreed to support the application

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 the landscape report had been completed. The household survey was still open and arrangements were taking place to hold a public meeting in order to keep residents updated on progress.

13. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) The Clerk was still chasing the football club for a signed copy of the lease agreement.
- b) The Clerk reported that one of the roller shutters had jammed in the open position. The new motor that was recently installed appeared to be working correctly but the shutter had jumped from its runners. Members agreed to ask LPS Shutters to attend to the matter.

14. Benwick Road Cemetery:-

a) Following the completion of the major construction works the following minor actions are outstanding:

1. The existing grasscrete roadway was to be covered in gravel to match the car park area.
2. The water connection needs to be finalised 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. Replanting of some hedging saplings is required.
5. Numbering of plots and row names needs to be finalised.
6. Arrangements to inform the local undertakers would be made when we were in a position to become operational.
7. Arrangements would be made to source a suitable notice-board that could be fixed near the cemetery entrance.
8. 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.
9. Consideration to be given to create a new page on the Council website where Rules and Regulations, charges and official forms can be posted.

15. Street Lighting:-

- a) The Clerk advised members that we now had only one outstanding repair to a street light.
- b) Balfour Beatty had approached the Parish Council to enquire if they could undertake the routine maintenance of the Parish Councils street lights. The Clerk advised that they had provided a copy of their maintenance contract and he would undertake a comparison with charges that we currently incur and prepare a report for next month's meeting.

16. Village Maintenance:-

- a) Cllr Leonard confirmed that the supply of pads and batteries had been delivered and had been installed in the defibrillators.

- b) The Chair advised that she was awaiting a response from the Scout Group on the various security measures raised at the last meeting.
- c) The Clerk informed the meeting that following a request from a resident he had approached FDC on the feasibility of installing a dog waste bin at the junction of May Meadows and Turf Fen Lane. FDC had advised that the cost to supply and install would be £166.40 plus VAT and that they would add the clearance of the bin onto their collection route. Members agreed to the works and also suggested that a bin be provided near the top of Hospital Road, on the public footpath sign.
- d) Cllr Mason advised the meeting that the upgrading to the Coneywood pumping station was due to be completed by the end of the month which should see an end to the number of tanker lorries transporting waste to other sewer disposal sites.
- e) The Chair offered a vote of thanks to Cllrs Fisher and Leonard for the work and support that they had given in respect of the “Warm Hub” facility.

17. Website and Communications:-

Routine updates were being made to the website and facebook page.

18. Financial Items:-

a) Update on NatWest banking arrangements. The Clerk advised members that the application to update the mandate on the Parish Councils Business Reserve Account had been submitted to the bank.

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	176.81
E Mason & Son	Grass cutting – various sites	258.00
Cable Test Ltd	Street lighting repairs	91.20
J O Cutteridge	Grass cutting – verges	768.00
Doddington Village Hall	Hire charge – Neighbourhood Plan	120.00
R Hufton	Brown bin charge – Parish Church	39.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	810.79
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	201.45

19. Correspondence:-

The Clerk advised members that the Middle Level Commissioners were asking if any Parish Council was aware of any boats in their area that appeared to be abandoned or moored unlawfully.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.03pm.

