

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

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

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr R Hopkins. Apologies were also received from Cllr D Connor (FDC and CCC Representative) and Cllr M Davis (FDC representative)

3. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming year:-

Cllrs Hufton and Fisher were unanimously appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the forthcoming year.

4. Election of Committees:-

Street Lighting: Cllr Jolley & McNulty

Planning: Cllrs Shepherd, Fisher, McNulty & Hopkins

Risk Assessment: All

Abbey Rec Ground & Skate park: Cllrs Shepherd, Mason, Leonard & Hufton

Flag: Cllr Welcher

Clock: Cllrs Mason, Shepherd & McNulty

Website: Cllr Jolley & Leonard

Village Maintenance: Cllrs Fisher, Mason & Hufton

Benwick Road Cemetery: Cllrs Mason, Welcher, Fisher & Hufton

MVAS System: Cllr Shepherd, Jolley & Leonard

Defibrillators: Cllr Leonard

5. Election of Representatives on external bodies:-

Burnthouse Farm Windfarm Fund: Cllr Hufton

Ransonmoor Community Fund: Cllr Shepherd

Eleemosynary Charity of Nicholas Spencer: Cllr Welcher

Doddington Village Neighbourhood Group: Cllrs Hopkins, Fisher & Hufton

6. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made

7. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2023 were approved and then signed by the Chair.

8. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Scout Hall. The Chair and Clerk updated members on the recent meeting that had taken place with representative from the local Scout Group. The Scout Group wished the Parish Council to relinquish its role as trustees of the Group, amend the current Land Registry entry and pass the trusteeship to the Scout Association Trust Corporation. Following a general discussion members agreed to seek legal advice on the matter.

9. Coronation of King Charles 111:-

The Clerk advised members that he had been informed by Gordon Ellis & Co that they had made an error on the prices quoted for their wooden planters. The original quote of £697.68 plus vat per unit did not include the engraving and painting costs. With these charges included the price would raise to £926.60 plus vat per unit. The company offered to delete the delivery charge which would have been £200. The Clerk had asked the company what the cost would be if we only had the engraving and painting on one side; this would still cost £787.68 plus vat per unit. The Clerk advised the members that he had cancelled the order that he had placed pending a decision of the members.

The Chair reported that enquiries had been made with an alternative company and had approached Plaswood.eco, a company that specialises in reconstituted plastic that is very hard wearing. Members reported that the Recreation Committee had purchased some public seats made in this material and were very pleased with the effect.

The Clerk reported that the planter prices quoted in the Plaswood catalogue were likely to be considerable cheaper than Gordon Ellis. As the pricelist had only arrived two days before the PC meeting and it did not provide a price for planters of a similar size to the Gordon Ellis ones he had asked them for a specific quote.

Members agreed that they would not proceed with the Gordon Ellis planters but would await the pricing of the Plaswood items.

10. Police Matters: -

a) The monthly meeting of the Police and Councillors Forum had not taken place due to staffing amendments.

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

a) No reports were given from Fenland DC or CCC. The Chair reported that Cllrs Connor and Davis had both been re-elected in the recent election for Fenland DC. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to both members.

12. Highway Issues: -

a) The following maintenance items were raised:

- i. Pot holes in Hospital Road and edges of the road were also breaking away
- ii. Trees encroaching onto Ingles Lane / Church Lane need cutting back
- iii. Trees in the Old Churchyard need attention by FDC
- iv. The trees at Cedar Avenue end of the cut through need cutting back as they encroach onto the parking area at the bottom of the footpath from Wood Street to Abbey. Need to ascertain who they belong to.
- v. Harvest Close – hedging in a residents garden at the top of the close needs cutting back

b) The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council's claim for an LHI contribution from CCC towards the resurfacing of the Benwick Road footpath had been delayed and would now be heard on 17th May 2023.

c) The Chair confirmed that all works relating to the new puffin crossing had been completed and the crossing was now operational.

d) Moveable speed warning signs. Members considered the quotation from Swarco on upgrading the one machine that we have and agreed that we should purchase two moveable

battery MVAS units at a cost of £3,153 plus vat each plus two fixed solar powered units at a cost of £2,993 plus vat each.

e) Road Closure Orders: The Clerk reported that CCC were proposing making 12 RCO's over the next 18 months involving 12 separate roads to enable carriageway surface dressing treatments to take place. In one case, B1093 Doddington Road Benwick, the diversion will direct traffic through Doddington whilst that closure was in force.

One further RCO had been announced which will involve the closure of Doddington Road Chatteris between Forty Foot Bank and Dykemoor Drove from 6th to 10th June 2023 for full carriageway width patching. The diversion will be via the A141.

13. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

i. F/YR23/0303/F Erect 1 x replacement dwelling (2 storey 4 bedroom) involving the demolition of an existing detached 2 story dwelling and an outbuilding, the widening of an existing access and associated works at 29 Primrose Hill Doddington.

Members agreed to support the application

ii. F/YR23/0309/LB Works to a listed building involving replacement windows at 2 Ingles Lane Doddington.

Members agreed to support the application on condition that the material used for the construction of the double glazed windows are made of wood and built to the same style as the existing windows.

iii. F/YR23/0310/O Erect up to 3 dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at land South West of The Hollies Hospital Road Doddington.

The proposed development which is shown on the indicative proposed block plan is accessed from the west of Hospital Road and shows three additional access points from each of the three proposed plots onto Hospital Road. The proposed development would lead to unsafe highway and access conditions onto Hospital Road due to its narrow single tracked nature with a lack of any formal passing spaces, street lighting or footpaths.

Hospital Road also acts as an emergency access from the Hospital.

This site would be on open countryside for the purposes of applying planning policy and there is no overriding need for the development to take place given the District Council's housing land supply position. The application would have a detrimental effect on the character and visual amenity of the area. The application site includes a substantial amount of trees and hedges along Hospital Road. In order to provide vehicular access with associated visibility into the proposed development site, the vast majority of the trees and hedges would need to be removed which would have a significant adverse impact upon the character of the area.

iv. F/YR23/0324/F Erect a single storey rear extension and single storey garden room to existing dwelling involving demolition of conservatory at 21 High Street Doddington.

Members agreed to support the application.

v. F/YR23/0354/RM Reserved Matters application relating to details of matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline application F/YR21/1522/O to erect 1 dwelling plot 1 (2 storey 4 bed) and detached garage with office above at land south east of Norbrown Hospital Road Doddington.

Members agreed to support the application.

b) FDC Local Plan and Doddington Neighbourhood Plan:-

i. No further news had been received on the proposed new FDC Local Plan.

ii. The meeting was advised that the DNPG were awaiting a Housing Need Survey that was to be financed by a Housing Association.

- iii. The Chair informed the meeting that as the Government had not indicated what future plans and grants that may be available to assist in the financing of Neighbourhood Plans she invited the meeting to consider whether the Parish Council should make funds available. Following a general discussion it was agreed that a budget of £6,000 be made available (which would include the sums already expended by the Parish Council) subject to the Parish Council being in direct control of the ordering of goods and services and making payment to third parties.
- iv. It was agreed that the Parish Council would meet with the DNPG on 24th May to receive a presentation on the results of the village survey.

14. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) The Clerk reported that a quotation had been received from LPS Shutters in the sum of £650 plus vat for a new protective roller box and repairs to the damaged security post in the car park. Members agreed to accept the quotation.
- b) The Clerk reported that the Sovereign Compliance Inspection on the skate park equipment had taken place and had been given a good safety record. They did point out that some of the side panels to the ramps had been damaged and had quoted £1,232 to effect repairs. It was agreed to ask Brian Elmore to provide an alternative estimate.

15. 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. Cllr McNulty agreed to measure up the area to be covered
 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.

16. Street Lighting:-

The Clerk advised members that a resident in Newgate Street had contacted him and had made an allegation that a lamp post installed in 2018 was causing damage to his outhouse. The Clerk and Cllr McNulty were investigating the matter.

17. Village Maintenance:-

- a) The Clerk informed members that the contractor appointed to provide a new bus shelter on Primrose Hill had been experiencing problems with his sub contractor over the laying of the concrete base but this had been resolved and he hopes to be in apposition to start the erection work in a few weeks.

- b) Members reported that the installation of two new dog waste bins had been completed.
- c) Members considered two quotations that had been received for the cutting of grass verges within the village and agreed that a 12 month contract be awarded to idverde at a cost of £680 plus vat per cut. Costing of other miscellaneous works would take place as the need arose.
- d) Works to repair the post and chains around the Clock Tower were due to take place on 13th July 2023.

18. Website and Communications:-

Routine updates were being made to the website and face book page. Cllrs. Hopkins and Jolley agreed to meet to finalise details of a page on the website for the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group.

19. Financial Items:-

a) The Clerk advised members on the progress of the updates to the mandates on the Council's bank accounts:

i. NatWest Bank. The additional signatures on the Business Reserve Account have now been finalised.

ii. Lloyds Bank. The Bank have confirmed that all signatures have been received and arrangements to create the current account plus on-line facilities are underway.

b) Draft Year End Accounts for 2022-2023.

1. The Internal audit of the Councils accounts and financial affairs has taken place and his report was read to the members and noted by the Council.

2 The Council then approved the two AGAR returns which were signed by the Chair and Clerk,

3. The completed AGAR returns and internal audit return will now be submitted to the external auditors and published on our website together with the notice of the period for the exercise of public rights to inspect the Council's accounts.

c) Payments:

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

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking Abbey Rec	100.00
Sally Shortland	Refreshments for Annual Assembly	9.43
LPS Shutter Doors Ltd	Replacement cheque for roller shutter	216.00
BHIB Ltd	Annual insurance premiums	3,802.92
Narked Ltd	Web site	150.00
I Cooper	Internal Audit	140.00
WeDo Invoice Finance	Sovereign Inspection Contract	462.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	912.31
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	225.57

20. Any Other Business:-

It was reported that the putty around the Clock Tower clock faces needed the putty renewed and that the weather vane needed some restoration work.

21. The Council went into committee to consider an item of correspondence:-

Members had been circulated with an item of correspondence concerning the possible development of a parcel of land on the outskirts of the village. Members were aware that the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group were awaiting a Housing Need Survey and concluded that until the results of that survey were available they would not be in a position to comment on the proposal.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

