

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton, (Chair), H Fisher, R Hopkins, L Jolley, R Leonard, R Mason, and J Welcher. Cllr M Davis (FDC representative) and the Clerk, Roger Wilkin, were present.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair paid tribute to the 40 years of service that Cllr John Welcher had given to the Parish Council and the village. A selection of cakes and drinks were available and members gave their thanks to John and toasted his remaining on the Council.

Open Forum: - No residents were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs. I McNulty and J Shepherd. Apologies were also received from Cllr D Connor (FDC and CCC Representative)

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2023 were approved and then signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

a) Anglia Water Fens Reservoir Project. The Clerk informed members that the project team would shortly be commencing ground investigation works and non-intrusive surveys in order to gather information about the ecology, landscape, heritage and ground conditions. The land owner's permissions had been sought.

6. Coronation of King Charles 111:-

Following the decision made at the last meeting, pricing figures from Plaswood had been circulated and member's options collated. Members indicated a preference for black planters with a red and blue trim and agreed to purchase 4 planters. Each planter would have a Coronation white emblem disk fixed to them. The cost per planter was £620 plus vat. Delivery would be charged at £92. The Clerk confirmed that an official order had been issued to Plaswood and a pro forma invoice had now been received that would be authorised later in the meeting.

7. Police Matters: -

a) The minutes of the June Police and Councillors Forum had been circulated. The Chair reported that she had advised the police that scramble bikes were being ridden in fields behind Wood Street and were causing a nuisance to neighbours.

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

a) Fenland Dog Control Order. The existing control order allows FDC to take enforcement action against people who breach dog control regulations expires in October 2023. The regulations include failing to clear up dog fouling and failing to keep a dog on a lead in specified areas. Doddington has one specific area listed which is the closed churchyard at St Marys Church. FDC are proposing renewing the regulations in their current format.

9. Highway Issues: -

- a) The following maintenance items were raised:
 - i. Pot holes in Hospital Road
 - ii. Trees encroaching Ingles Lane / Church Lane need cutting back
 - iii. Trees in the Churchyard need attention by FDC
 - iv. Hospital Road hedge near new dog bin needs cutting back
 - v. Hedge along Benwick Road by Doddington Court needs cutting back
 - vi. The trees on the walkway between Wood Street and Cedar Avenue, where residents parking is available needs cutting back
- b) The Clerk had presented the Parish Councils claim for an LHI contribution from CCC towards the resurfacing of the Benwick Road footpath on 17th May 2023 and we were awaiting the CCC's formal response. The Chair thanked the Clerk for his splendid work on the submission for this application.
- c) Moveable speed warning signs. Since members considered the purchase of two moveable battery MVAS, it had been ascertained that Swarco's solar powered units also had moveable arrangements. Members agreed to purchase three solar powered units at a cost of £2,993 plus vat each.
- d) The Clerk informed the meeting that Wimblington PC had reported that the speed watch equipment that is jointly owned by both parish councils had developed a fault which was being investigated. The Chair and Clerk were being kept informed of progress. In due course Doddington would be paying 50% of the repair costs. In addition, Wimblington had advised that as the equipment was included within their asset register, the equipment was automatically included on their global insurance policy. They had undertaken a costing of the speed watch element but as the charge was less than £4 they would not seek a 50% reimbursement from Doddington.

10. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR23/0404/RM Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to outline permission F/YR22/0017/O to erect 2 dwellings and the formation of an access at land east of 6B Primrose Hill Doddington Members agreed to support the principal of development on this site but considered that the development should be restricted to a single bungalow in order that it is in line with neighbouring buildings.
- ii. F/YR23/0421/TRCA Fell 1 cherry tree and works to 5 lime trees within a conservation area at 2 Church Lane Doddington Members agreed to support the application.
- iii. F/YR23/0424/TRTPO Works to 4 lime trees covered by TPO 11/1969 at land west of 2 Church Lane Doddington Members agreed to support the application.
- iv. F/YR23/0425/TRCA Works to 3 poplar trees within a conservation area at 2 Church Lane 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 stated that they were still very unhappy over the unresolved question of the lack of a footway along Hospital Road and reported that there had recently been an incident when a lady had to step back to allow traffic to pass and she had fallen over injuring her face.

b) Other planning application updates:

i. F/YR22/0396/RM Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to outline permission F/YR18/0024/O to erect 13 dwellings at land north and east of 1-3 Wimblington Road Doddington

Following the announcement at the last meeting that the above application had been withdrawn, the Clerk had ascertained that due to the period of time for reserved matters to be considered had now expired that the outline application was no longer valid and any future development on this land would require a fresh outline application.

ii. F/YR21/1072/FDL Erection of 47 units on land east of Bevills Close Doddington
This application was refused by FDC in November 2022. An appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate but this has still not been recorded on the FDC planning portal

c) FDC Draft Local Plan and Doddington Neighbourhood Plan:-

i. FDC had published a report listing the key issues raised on the proposed new Draft Local Plan. The timetable for the publication of the new Local Plan was likely to be delayed for possibly a year.

ii. The Parish Council meet with the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group on 24th May and received a presentation on the results of the village survey. Three practical items came out from the meeting:

a. The Parish Council would look into improving the luminescence of the village street lights

b. Future public meetings to consider progress on the plan should not only be held in the daytime but also repeated during an evening in order that more people could attend

c. A safe vault within the Parish Council website would be created and password protected where reports and data from the DNPG would be stored and could be revisited for future use.

iii. The Chair of the DNPG, Cllr. Hopkins, thanked the Parish Council for their financial offer and also advised the meeting that the next area that the group would be reviewing was Green Spaces within the village.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) Skate Park. Brian Elmore will be repairing the side panels of the damaged ramps for a cost of £165 plus VAT

b) Pavilion repairs. One of the pavilion doors had a faulty lock which meant that the door could not be made secure. This has been rectified. In addition the new shutter box has been fitted and the bollard in the car park has been repaired.

c) Benwick Athletic Football Club have advised the Parish Council that due to a reduction in membership they cannot afford the costs of using the Abbey ground and were seeking a new venue for future training and playing of matches.

12. 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.

Members considered options for the upgrading of the internal roadway. The main area that needs attention is where the grasscrete has been laid. These units have not achieved their potential and need uplifting. It was suggested that the Youth Offenders Payback scheme could probably help. However, information received stated that CCC no longer operate this facility and it was therefore agreed to approach the Doddington Scout group to see if that was a task that they would be interested in undertaking. When the grasscrete had been cleared, FDC Construction would be asked to quote for clearing the topsoil and sand, spraying the area with a strong weed killer, laying a weed suppressant membrane and topping the area with shingle.

13. Street Lighting:-

- a) The Clerk had spoken to Mr Jamie Berry, Operational Director at Cable Test, who had advised that it may be possible to increase the luminosity of our existing lights by re-programming the drivers to remove any pre-set dimming feature. This could make the LED's brighter, but may reduce the life of the units. They could also undertake a survey of our current lighting to ascertain where additional lighting may be placed. As the re-programming of the lights had to be done manually to each unit, it was agreed to request a quotation for this work and at the same time undertake an electrical testing and cleaning of each unit.
- b) Members were provided with an update on the allegation that a lamp post installed in 2018 was causing damage to a resident's outhouse. Cllr McNulty had found on Google Maps photographic evidence that cracking was in evidence on that outhouse in 2009. The Clerk had also asked Electrical Testing if they still had photos of the installation work that they carried out in 2018.

14. Village Maintenance:-

- a) The Clerk informed members that the concrete base for the new bus shelter on Primrose Hill had been laid and the shelter should be erected shortly.
- b) Members were advised that the first cut of grass verges had taken place but some areas had been missed. This matter would be taken up with idVerde.
- c) Street Pride have reported that they clean the bus shelter in High Street but, because of the state of littering, especially of food waste, have requested that suitable notices be fixed inside the shelter asking the public to use the nearby litter bins instead of leaving their rubbish inside the shelters. Members agreed with the request, and asked that quotations be obtained for the signage, by the Street Pride Group.

15. Website and Communications:-

Routine updates were being made to the website and face book page. Cllr. Jolley was arranging a training session with the Chair of the DNPG on using the new page recently set up for the Group and on providing a secure vault for data collected on the Neighbourhood Plan.

16. Financial Items:-

a) The Clerk advised members on the progress of the updates to the mandates on the Council's bank accounts and suggested that as the additional signatures had been set up on the NatWest Deposit Account that a test transfer should take place moving some funds from that account to the Cheque Account. Members agreed with that suggestion.

b) 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	528.53
Alan Mason	Grass/hedge cutting	135.00
LPS Shutter Doors Ltd	New roller shutter box & lock to carpark post	780.00
CPRE	Annual subscription	36.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	878.04
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	213.51
Dodd Village & Sports	Contribution to Coronation celebrations	648.30

17. Correspondence:-

NALC are proposing organising an on-line event on "Making the Planning System work for Local Councils" on 22nd November. Members agreed that the Chair and Clerk could attend.

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

