

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

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

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Fisher took the Chair for the meeting.

Open Forum: - No residents were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs. R Hufton (Chair) and R Leonard. Apologies were also received from Cllr M Davis (FDC representative)

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were made

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 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 setting up a Community Liaison Group from interested local community groups including Town and Parish Councils. Each council would be able to appoint two representatives to sit on the Liaison Group. The first meeting would take place in the autumn of 2023.

b) Scout Hall Trusteeship. The Clerk advised the meeting that he had written to Bowers seeking legal advice on the trusteeship and land registry issues.

6. Coronation of King Charles 111:-

The Clerk informed the meeting that the expected date for the delivery of 4 Coronation Planters from Plaswood was 26th July 2023.

7. Police Matters: -

a) The meeting was advised that the scheduled meeting of the July Police and Councillors Forum had been cancelled and the meeting rescheduled to the first week in August.

b) The Clerk informed the meeting that a CCTV Partner Liaison Meeting, organised by Peterborough City & Fenland DC, had taken place on 29th June 2023. Among the successes that were listed in the minutes was an incident captured on the CCTV unit in Abbey Rec where two vehicles were doing wheel spins in the car park. The CCTV team used the equipment to capture the registration information of the two vehicles and had provided the evidence to the police.

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

a) Members were informed that the two Fenland DC Councillors who represent the Doddington and Wimblington parishes held Chairmanships on two FDC Committees:

Cllr D Connor was Chair of FDC Planning Committee

Cllr M Davis was Chair of FDC Overview & Scrutiny Committee

b) Fenland DC had circulated a consultation document published by Greater Anglia regarding the possible closure or reduction of open times of railway station ticket offices. The specific proposal for March Station is to reduce staffing times from 07.00 – 17.30 Monday to Saturday to 07.00 – 14.00 Monday to Saturday.

9. Highway Issues: -

a) The following maintenance items were raised:

- i. Benwick Road. The road edging is breaking up from Hospital Road towards the village centre
- ii. Wood Street. There is a large pothole on the footway and the general surface condition of the footway needs attention.
- iii. Overgrown condition of footpaths. Cllr Connor has already this matter in hand and he advised that all footpaths are due to be cut by CCC within the next few weeks.

b) 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.

c) Cllr. Shepherd had circulated the latest MVAS statistics for Primrose Hill which showed a slight increase in the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit on that road.

d) Speed Watch Equipment. Wimblington PC had confirmed that repairs to the equipment had taken place and that they had paid for the repairs in full. As we own the equipment in conjunction with Wimblington PC, members agreed to reimburse Wimblington PC with 50% of the cost.

10. Planning:-

a) **New planning applications:**

- i. F/YR23/0500/F Erect 14 dwellings (2 single storey 2 bed and 12 single storey 3 bed) with associated garages, parking and landscaping, involving demolition of existing outbuildings at north of 43-53 High Street Doddington

Members objected to the above planning application on the following grounds:

- a) The previous application to develop this parcel of land was refused by FDC and the current application, for two fewer dwellings, appears to offer little regard to solving the issues raised at that time,
- b) The application abuts the Village Conservation Area and is in close proximity to the windmill, a grade 11 listed building and will result in the loss of an open meadow from the centre of the village,
- c) Construction work including possible pile driving is likely to cause serious damage to the windmill. The foundations to the windmill would be under possible threat by the excavation works necessary to build the attenuation basin being built adjacent to the windmill,
- d) The description of the development location is misleading. In order to reach the High Street one needs to travel up Juniper Close and down Wood Street a distance of approx. 1000 metres,
- e) The Biodiversity Net Gain Report shows that the development would result in a net loss of species and to overcome this an offer of £21,000 would be paid to the Whittlesey Nature Reserve,
- f) Doddington has a housing land supply of over 6 years and its housing threshold has already been exceeded with 196 unit committed against a requirement of 127 units.

ii. F/YR23/0527/F Erect a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 4 Burdett Close Doddington

Members recorded its support for the application

iii. F/YR23/0574/TRCA Works to 1 lime tree (T32) within a conservation area at 2 Church Lane

Members recorded its support for the application

iv. F/YR23/0576/TRCA Works to 1 lime tree (T7), 4 poplar trees (T14-T17), 1 hawthorn tree (T18) and fell 1 alder tree (T1) within a conservation area land west of 2 Church Lane

Members recorded its support for the application

v. F/YR23/0577/TRTPO Works to 7 lime trees (T1-T6 & T12) and 2 pine trees (T10 & T11) covered by TPO 11/1967 land west of 2 Church Lane

Members recorded its support for the application

vi. F/YR23/0539/O Erect up to 4 dwellings (outline application with matters considered in respect of access and layout) involving the demolition of the existing dwelling and storage units 32 Wimblington Road Doddington

Members objected to the application on the grounds that this is back land development

vii. F/YR23/0558/F Erect a first floor rear extension 32 High Street Doddington

Members recorded its support for the application

viii. F/YR23/0602/TRCA Works to 4 lime trees in a Conservation Area at St Marys Church, Church Lane Doddington

Members recorded its support for the application

b) Other planning application updates:

i. F/YR22/0310/O Erect up to 3 dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at land south west of The Hollies Hospital Road Doddington

The Clerk advised members that this application had been withdrawn by the agent before it was submitted to FDC Planning Committee for determination.

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 and members agreed that a formal response should be sent direct to the Planning Inspectorate reaffirming our strong objection to the proposed planning application.

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

i. No further information had been received from FDC on their proposed new Draft Local Plan.

ii. The Chair of the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group, Cllr Hopkins, addressed the meeting and thanked Cllr Jolley for her assistance in creating a safe vault within the Parish Council website where reports and data from the DNPG would be stored and could be revisited for future use. In addition, members were informed that the Group would be starting the “Green Spaces Exercise” but that the Housing Needs Survey was experiencing a delay. The Group was planning on holding a meeting with Cllrs Connor and Davis to update them on their work to date.

11. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

- a) Benwick Athletic Football Club have terminated the lease agreement to use the ground and pavilion. An inspection has been made and a number of internal repairs plus one cutting of the grass has been arranged by the Parish Council with costs being recharged to the football club.
- b) Members will be considering what arrangements can be arranged on the future use of the grounds and pavilion. The Doddington Junior Football Club have indicated that they would like a formal agreement with the Parish Council to continue using the facilities.

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.
 - 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 received an update on the upgrading of the internal roadway. The Doddington Scout group will undertake the lifting of the grasscrete units as part of a Community Exercise, shake them free of soil and stack them for possible use elsewhere. They would undertake the work during the summer school holidays. Members agreed to make a financial contribution to the Groups funds of between £300 and £500.

13. Street Lighting:-

- a) A request had been made to Cable Test to provide quotations for re-programming the drivers on each lighting unit to remove any pre-set dimming feature, undertake an electrical testing and cleaning of each unit and also undertake a survey of our current lighting locations to ascertain where additional lighting may be placed.
- b) Following the allegation that a lamp post installed in 2018 was causing damage to a resident's outhouse, the Clerk had provided photographic evidence to the resident that indicated that cracking on the outhouse wall was in evidence in 2009 plus addition photographs of the excavation works undertaken in 2018 together with a disclaimer from the electrical contractors. The Clerk had now received an indication from the resident that he may demolish his outhouse and widen his drive. In doing so he wants the street light moved. The Clerk had advised him on three alternative sites and if he indicated a preference the Clerk was prepared to seek a quotation of the work which would have to be paid for by the resident.

14. Village Maintenance:-

- a) The Clerk informed members that the new bus shelter on Primrose Hill had been installed.
- b) Members were advised that a request had been received for a bus shelter to be erected by the bus stop near the entrance to the hospital. The question of the ownership of the land where a bus shelter could be erected was to be investigate as was the feasibility of seeking funding.
- c) Discussions are to be held with idVerde on extending the cutting of verges to cover additional areas not shown on the original maps. In addition quotations would be sort for the cutting of other areas of grass eg the cemetery and Abbey Rec.
- d) The crab apple tree near the bus shelter on Policeman's Corner needs pruning.

15. Website and Communications:-

Routine updates were being made to the website and face book page.

16. Financial Items:-

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

- 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	219.38
Alan Mason	Grass/hedge cutting	505.00
GLP Installations	New bus shelter	10,058.40
Brian Elmore	Repairs to skate park ramp sides	192.00
Wimblington PC	Contribution to repairs to speed watch equipment	67.75
Fenland DC	Two new dog waste bins	399.36
CPRE	Annual subscription	36.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	889.05
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	213.51

17. Any Other Business:-

Members offered their thanks to the Sports & Carnival Committee for the excellent days entertainment.

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

