

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, R Hopkins, L Jolley, R Leonard, R Mason, J Welcher and the Clerk, Roger Wilkin.

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

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

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

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th February 2024 were approved following an alteration in item 5a where the words "provide assistance to the needy" were replaced by the words "stop food waste" and signed by the Chair.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

- a) Cllr Fisher updated members on the increasing numbers of visitors to the "Community Living Room". Two new volunteers had joined the group. The idea of arranging a food bank was being dropped for the time being. The balance available on the current grant that was received from Cambs Acre can be carried forward into 2024/2025.
- b) Possible closure of Manea Fire Station. The Clerk informed members that Manea PC were holding an Open Event Evening to encourage more residents to volunteer in becoming an on-call fireman.
- c) Coronation Commemorative Planters. Cllrs Shepherd, Mason and Fisher would arrange to move the four planters into the cemetery and onto the land near the Bier House. Delfland had confirmed that they had plenty of "spent" compost that could be used to fill the planters.
- d) Annual Parish Assembly. The Clerk confirmed that this meeting would take place on 16th April 2024 and that agendas would be posted on the Council website and facebook page. Copies would also be fixed to the public noticeboards. Members agreed that the agenda would include the meeting being given an update on progress over the Neighbourhood Plan and suggestions for the expansion of additional facilities such as a multi use games area on the Abbey Recreation Ground.

6 Police Matters: -

- a) The Chair advised that no meeting would be taking place in March 2024 and the next meeting was scheduled for 9th April.

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

- a) No matters were raised from FDC or CCC.
- b) The Clerk referred to a survey that was being organised by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority on "Having your say on electric vehicles and charging points". Copies of the notification would be circulated to all members.

8. Fens Reservoir Project:-

- a) The Clerk reported that the Fens Reservoir Team had provided an update on the site walkovers / surveys which included carrying out industry approved badger territory mapping.

9. Highway Issues: -

- a) The following maintenance items were raised:
 - i. Parts of Benwick Road were breaking up
 - ii. There are pot holes that need attention at the following locations:
 - a) Hospital Road near its junction with Benwick Road
 - b) Outside the Care Home entrance on roadway into the Hospital
 - c) Outside 3 New Street
 - iii. There are broken or loose covers at the following locations:
 - a) Broken drain cover near the Bier House
 - b) Loose water cover outside the doctors surgery
 - c) Drain cover outside 43 New Street needs attention
 - iv. Dykemore Drove North needs resurfacing but it is possible that as this is not an adopted track it may not be attended to by Highways or FDC
- b) LHI 2023/2024. The Clerk reported that he had been informed that CCC may require Benwick Road to be closed for 3 to 4 weeks whilst they undertake the resurfacing of the footpath. Members suggested that a site meeting takes place to ascertain why this may be necessary.
- c) LHI 2024/2025. The Clerk informed members that CCC will be undertaking a feasibility assessment of the work and will be in contact in due course.
- d) The Clerk advised members on the conditions for applying for roads to be made the subject of a 20mph speed limit. Members suggested various arguments that could be made to support an application to reduce traffic speed along Ingles Lane which the Clerk would use to complete an application.

10. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR24/1046/F Erect 1 dwelling (single storey 3 bed) and detached summerhouse on land Northwest of 11 Church Lane Doddington
Members noted that this application was for an amended scheme where the two storey dwelling was now a single storey bungalow which would be in line with the terms of a covenant lodged on the land. Members supported the revised application.
- ii. F/YR24/0169/O Erect 1 dwelling (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at 41-453 Newgate Street Doddington.
Cllr Mason declared an interest in the application and took no part in the discussion or vote. Members expressed concern that the application represented background development which could be against policies in the local plan.
- iii. F/YR24/0186/TRCA Fell 1 cedar tree within a conservation area at 55 New Street Doddington.
Members supported the application.

b) Other planning matters:

- i. F/YR23/0995/O Outline planning application with all matters reserved to erect up to 3 dwellings involving the formation of an access on land east of 1 Wimblington Road Doddington.
Members noted that this application had received planning permission at the FDC Planning Committee on 6th March 2024. That decision was made despite an objection being lodged by the Parish Council on several grounds including access. Members considered that the FDC decision was made prematurely in that an adjoining application number F/YR23/0914/F for the construction of 9 dwellings on land north of 3 Wimblington Road Doddington was still in the pending consideration status despite there being issues over access being lodged by CCC Highways. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to FDC expressing concern that there appeared to be inconsistency in action being taken by planning.

ii. Planning Appeal against FDC's decision to refuse planning permission on application F/YR22/0345/F for the erection of a pair of semi-detached 3 bed dwellings and a detached 4 bed dwelling with associated works on land west of 27-35 New Street Doddington.

The appeal was dismissed.

iii. FDC Local Plan. No further information had been received from the District Council.

iv. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. The DNPG have provided comments to Cambs Acre on the Draft Housing Needs Survey. A second Local Green Spaces report is being circulated. Work has started in preparing the year end financial statement on the grant monies received.

11. Doddington Scout Group:

a) Trusteeship Issue. The Clerk reported that the local Scout Group were still waiting a reply from the Scout Association Trust.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) The Clerk advised members that JC Gardens & Landscaping had quoted £1,100 to construct two concrete slabs for the two new picnic seating facilities. The quotation also included the fixing of the seating onto the slabs. Work could take place in April 2024. Members confirmed their acceptance of the quotation. The Clerk and the Vice Chair had visited the recreation ground and confirmed the positioning for each slab.

b) The Clerk had discussed with the two football club managers the long-term options for their use of the football pitches. They have confirmed that they can operate on one large pitch come the start of the 2024 winter season and therefore they have been offered the use of the football pitch that runs from the Pavilion towards the skate park. This will then leave the rest of the Recreation Ground free for additional equipment being constructed in that area.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

a) There are now only a few minor actions outstanding:

1. A combination lock needs to be purchased to secure the main gates which in turn required some minor repairs to correct a bent rod.
2. Replanting of some hedging saplings is required.
3. Arrangements would be made to source a suitable noticeboard that could be fixed near the cemetery entrance.

b) Following discussions with Anglia Water and one of their approved contractors, quotations had been circulated to members via a "round robin" for the provision of a water supply from the roadway to the boundary and then internal pipework plus a standpipe in the cemetery. Members approved quotations from Anglia Water of £2,430 plus vat for pipework plus £1,340 plus vat for the road closure order; they also approved a quotation from S&S Groundworks of £650 for the internal pipework and standpipe. The internal work will be completed by month end and Anglia Water will undertake their work on 28th to 30th May 2024.

c) Administrative Matters:

1. Members reaffirmed their decision not to have a separate area for children's graves.
2. Funeral Directors would be required to arrange for graves to be dug and the gravedigger would be required to remove all surplus soil once an interment had been completed.
3. Burial spaces can be reserved, and members noted that if there was a heavy take up of applications then they may need to schedule the laying out of additional rows. It was also agreed that reserved spaces would not be allowed on the front row of the lawned area or the cremation area.
4. It is anticipated that the cemetery will become operational in April 2024.

14. Street Lighting:-

a) The Clerk reported that all streetlights in the village appear to be working.

15. Village Maintenance:-

a) The Clerk reported that arrangements would be made to meet a representative from UKPN to receive a key for access into the substation grounds so that various works can take place to the Bier House. Cllr Mason advised that the contractor who was prepared to undertake the repairs to the Bier House was currently on holiday.

b) The Clerk confirmed that members had previously approved a quotation of £600 plus vat from EG Electrical Services to wire in the two new defibrillates. Work was planned to take place on 18th March 2024.

16. Website and Communications:-

Routine updates were being made to the website and face book page including creating a new page for the cemetery.

17. Financial Items:-

a) Payments:

It was agreed that on-line BACs transfers be made for the following items:-

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking	100.00
Npower Commercial	Street lighting electricity	420.84
EonNext	Abbey Pavilion electricity	24.88
JC Gardens & Landscaping	Grass cutting Abbey Rec & Cemetery	450.00
Andy Muskett Ltd	Street Lighting repairs	205.44
Recreation Committee	Recycling credits	139.87
Realise Futures	2 new picnic table sets	1,094.62
Fenland District Council	Uncontested Election costs May 2023	391.08
Cambridgeshire CC	LHI – crossing outside Primary School	45,784.55
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	925.65
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	223.91
EG Electrical Services	Wiring in 2 defibrillators	720.00

The following items had been paid out from the Community Living Room Grant

Jenny Holding	Refreshments	50.00
St. Marys Church	Room Hire February & March 2024	270.00

The following sums are being charged to the Neighbourhood Plan Grant

Viking Ltd	Stationery	131.06
St. Marys Church	Room Hire Nov 2023 to March 2024	150.00
Cambs Acre	Consultancy Fee (Local Green Spaces)	525.00

18. Correspondence:-

80th Anniversary of the D-Day landing on 6th June. Whilst no specific village activity was known to being organised it was agreed that a D-Day Flag of Peace be purchased at a cost of £28.80 inc vat and for it to be flown on 6th June for a week.

19. Any Other Business:-

It was reported that no bus timetables were being displayed on the village bus stops. It was agreed to follow this matter up with the service providers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

