

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, L Jolley, R Leonard, R Mason, I McNulty, J Shepherd, Cllr M Davis (FDC representative) and the Clerk, Roger Wilkin.

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs R Hopkins, J Welcher and Cllr D Connor (FDC and CCC Representative)

3. Declaration of Interests:- Cllr Mason declared an interest in a planning application to be heard later in the meeting.

4. Minutes: -The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th March 2024 were approved following an alteration in item 9a(iv) where the word "Dartmore" should read Dykemoor.

5. Updates and matters arising:-

- a) Cllr Fisher updated members on the increasing numbers of visitors to the "Community Living Room". It had been confirmed that the yearend balance still available from the 2023/24 grant can be carried forward into 2024/2025 with no budget allocation restriction.
- b) Annual Parish Assembly. The Clerk had obtained examples of multi-use games areas that would be displayed at the meeting in order to seek residents views. Cllr Hopkins had confirmed that she would present a short DNPG report.
- c) D-Day 80th Commemoration. Two flags had been ordered and received, one was with Cllr Welcher for flying on the village flagpole on 6th June and the second, which was shown to the meeting, would be given to the primary school as they had a year that was researching the event. It was agreed that the "Tommy" memorial would be set up on the Clock Tower.

6 Police Matters:

- a) The Chair reported on the recent meeting of the Police & Councillor meeting. Increased patrols are taking place in the villages and a few parking tickets had been issued for bad parking outside the primary school. Members reported that there had been incidents of break-ins to vans.

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

- a) No matters were raised from FDC or CCC.

8. Fens Reservoir Project:-

- a) Cllrs Mason and Shepherd reported on their attendance at a recent meeting of the Fens Community Group. Cllr David Connor had been appointed chair of the group. The next public consultation was scheduled to take place in May/June 2024.

9. Highway Issues: -

- a) The following maintenance items were raised:
 - i. Parts of Benwick Road were breaking up.
 - ii. A road name sign for Childs Lane had broken from its post and was propped against a garden wall.

- iii. There are broken or loose covers at the following locations:
 - a) Broken drain cover near the Bier House and outside 43 New Street
 - b) Loose water covers need attention outside the doctors surgery and outside 35 and 39 New Street
 - iii. The grass verges in the village have not yet been given their first cut of the season.
- b) LHI 2023/2024. The Clerk reported that he had been attempting to contact the CCC Highway engineer to clarify when works will be starting and the apparent need for a road closure order to be made.
- c) LHI 2024/2025. The Clerk informed members that CCC had provided a feasibility assessment which has been costed at significantly higher than was envisaged. Again, attempts to contact the CCC Highway engineer to discuss some amendments to the submission had been unsuccessful. However, CCC have now arranged for a Panel meeting to take place on 24th April when we will have an opportunity to discuss in detail our initial submission and possibly reducing the length of footway to be resurfaced.
- d) The Clerk informed members that our application to reduce the speed limit on Ingles Lane to 20mph had been submitted and acknowledged. We are awaiting further decisions from CCC.
- e) MVAS units. Members were advised that all three of the new MVAS units have been installed throughout the village roads. Downloads will follow in due course.

10. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR24/0210/F Erect 1 x dwelling (two storey 5 bed) and formation of new access including alterations to drive at 29 Wimblington Road at land southwest of 27A Wimblington Road Doddington
Members lodged an objection to this application on the grounds that it was contrary to LP12 in that it would have an adverse effect on the character and appearance of the area and was of a scale and in a location that was not in keeping with the current street scene.
- ii. F/YR24/0244/F Erect a front porch and changes to front single storey roof to pitch roof, conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation and erect a rear single storey extension to existing dwelling at 7 Newgate Street Doddington
Cllr Mason declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote.
Members supported this application.
- iii. F/YR24/0114/RM Revised Proposals to amend the design of the north-west elevation for plot 1 at 32 Wimblington Road Doddington.
Members expressed their disappointment that the proposed alterations to the original proposal were minor additions, being an additional single pain window on the first floor and the construction of a small porch over the back door. These additions, in the Parish Council view, made no improvement to the street scene from Wimblington Road. Comment was also made that illumination from the front of the building on the woodland and pond area to the west of the development may have an effect on pond life such as newts.

b) Other planning matters:

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

ii. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. The Clerk reported that the End of Year Grant Report had been finalised and the unspent balance had been refunded to Groundwork UK. The Clerk suggested that DNPG prepare a budget for 2024/25 in anticipation of grant monies being available and/or this will provide the Parish Council with an idea of any drawings that they may be called upon to pay in the interim. The Parish Council went through the Local Green Spaces report and asked for comments from members on the sites listed or if other sites should be identified.

11. Doddington Scout Group:

a) Trusteeship Issue. The Clerk reported that he was still waiting a reply from the local Scout Group.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) The Clerk advised members that JC Gardens & Landscaping had this week commenced work on constructing the two concrete slabs for the new picnic seating facilities.

b) The Clerk advised members that when EG Electrical Services were wiring in the new defibrillator they had identified several defects in the wiring system. An estimate had been provided showing costings for individual works. Members agreed to accept the quotation to provide an external light near the main entrance and replace the damaged distribution board switch at a cost of £290 plus VAT. Other works, to undertake a full electrical report and provide a “Last Man Out” switch were deferred until enquiries were made on obtaining a safety assessment on the building.

c) Members agreed to seek a meeting with Michael Carter of Sports & Play Consulting to see if his company would be able to provide advice and assistance in identifying various facilities that can be installed on the Ground. In the meantime, posters of MUGA facilities would be obtained for display at the Annual Parish Assembly to seek resident’s views.

d) Cllr Shepherd confirmed that he was due to meet up with Brian Elmore to ensure that all fixings on the skate park equipment were in place and secure.

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) The Clerk updated members on the completion of the administrative paperwork including posting all forms and associated information of the Council’ website. Members confirmed their agreement that the cemetery can now become operational.

c) A question had arisen that, due to the prolonged periods of rain, some areas on the gravel roadway had shown signs of sinking. Cllr Mason would check and in addition ensure that the pedestrian gate into the cemetery was unlocked. He would also arrange for the jet washing of the pathways and concrete foundation channels.

14. Street Lighting:-

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

15. Village Maintenance:-

a) Cllr Mason advised the meeting that John Palmer had started preliminary work on replacing the rotten wood on the roof and providing a solution on stopping water entering the inside of the Bier House.

- b) The Clerk advised members that the new defibrillators had been wired in and Cllr Leonard confirmed that both defibs had been commissioned and recorded onto the National Database.
- c) Members agreed to arrange for the refurbishment of the village public seats and also agreed that an arrangement be set up at Delfland Nurseries for authorised people to obtain suitable flowers for planting at agreed sites in the village.

16. Website and Communications:-

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

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	433.12
Npower Commercial	Clock Tower electricity	19.61
CAPALC	Annual membership	717.48
CAPALC	Training fees	50.00
JC Gardens & Landscaping	Grass cutting Abbey Rec & Cemetery	450.00
JC Gardens & Landscaping	Laying concrete pads at Abbey Rec	1,100.00
SS Groundworks	Internal water pipework at cemetery	650.00
Newton Newton Flag Co	D-D Flag for Parish Council	28.80
Newton Newton Flag Co	D-D Flag for Primary School	28.80
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	894.65
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	223.91

The following sum has been paid out from the Community Living Room Grant

Jenny Holding	Refreshments – April 2024	50.00
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The following sum are being paid out from the Neighbourhood Plan Grant

Groundwork UK	Refund of grant balance as at 31 st March 2024	1,815.78
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- b) 2023/2024 Year End report. The Clerk had circulated his briefing note together with a draft copy of the financial years receipts & payments account. He explained that this was subject to internal audit and following that exercise the annual AGAR returns would be authorised by members and then forwarded to the External Auditors. Members noted their agreement with the unaudited accounts. Members, at the request of the Clerk, authorised him to open deposit accounts with Lloyds Bank Ltd.

18. Correspondence:-

The Clerk updated members on arrangement that had been made to acquire a free portrait of King Charles 111 which would be hung in the Church Rooms.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

