

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

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

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

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

Planning: Cllrs Shepherd, Fisher, McNulty & Hopkins

Street Lighting: Cllr Jolley & McNulty

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

Village Maintenance: Cllrs Fisher, Mason & Hufton

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

Risk Assessment: All

Flag: Cllr Welcher

Clock: Cllrs Mason, Shepherd & McNulty

Website & Facebook Page: Cllr Jolley & Leonard

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 the 10th April 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

8. Matters arising from previous minutes:-

a) Community Living Room. Cllr Fisher updated members on the increasing number of visitors to the Friday sessions and that they now had 6 volunteers. It was confirmed that the 2024/25 grant had been received from Cambridgeshire ACRE with no budget allocation restriction. Cllr Fisher also informed the meeting that the recently purchased fridge had been wired in and was available for use by any group using the Church Rooms.

b) Annual Parish Assembly. The Chair reported that the turnout from the village was very low and members needed to rethink what changes to the meeting format should be considered for next year. She reported that her annual report to the meeting had been published in full in the current issue of the Doddington Diary. No matters raised needed to be actioned by the Parish Council.

- c) Portrait of King Charles 111. The Clerk reported that the free portrait of the King had been received and was now displayed in the Church Rooms.
- d) Commemorative Planters. The four Commemorative Planters had been relocated in their final position and had been partially filled with compost. It was agreed that an olive tree valued up to £100 each and surrounded by lavender shrubs should be planted in the two planters in the cemetery. The Chair thanked Cllrs Fisher, Mason and Shepherd for their work in repositioning and filling the planters. The Chair was finalising arrangements with Delfland Nursery for the provision of plants that would be used in various sites around the village.

9. Police Matters:

- a) The Chair had circulated the minutes from the last meeting of the Police & Councillor meeting. It was noted that a few parking tickets had been issued where inconsiderate parking was occurring near the local primary school. It was reported that an incident of fly tipping had recently occurred on the private drive of a residential property, but this had been quickly removed by FDC.

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

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

11. Highway Issues: -

- a) The following maintenance items were raised:
 - i. The potholes in Ingles Lane were getting very bad.
 - ii. Primrose Hill from the pond corner towards the village on the left-hand side had broken up and showed signs of sinking.
 - iii. There was a blocked drain outside 34 Benwick Road
 - iv. On 40-foot bank, near Spring Brow the road has sunk either side of a raised pipe
- b) LHI 2023/2024. The Clerk reported that he was still 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. Members indicated that there were several community events planned in the village during July and August and that the earliest date when any RCO could be considered was September 2024.
- c) LHI 2024/2025. Members were informed that the case for an LHI grant towards the resurfacing of the footway on the northern side of the High Street had been presented by the Clerk. Official notification of our submission was awaited but we understand that we have been successful in securing £25,000 towards the works. The Clerk was thanked for his excellent work in preparing the presentation.
- d) Following staff changes at idverde, the contractors who undertook the cutting of the grass verges, the Clerk had met with the Regional Operations Director to ascertain their future intentions for cutting Doddington's grass verges. Agreement had been reached that the grass verges would be cut during the last week of each month and a purchase order would be issued covering monthly cuts at a cost of £748 plus vat. This represented a 10% increase on the existing arrangement. Members noted and agreed the arrangements.
- e) The Clerk reported that CCC are proposing reducing the 60mph speed limit on Puddock Road to 30mph and 40 mph. This would cover the road from its junction with 40 Foot Bank towards Ramsey Hollow. Members noted the position.
- f) MVAS units. The Chair reported that she had received a request from Mr. Ian Hewitt to undertake some statistical presentation of the data from the units. Members decided that the current data was adequate for their information, but also agreed that the data would not be uploaded onto the website. Members thanked Mr. Hewitt for his interest.

12. Fens Reservoir Project:-

a) The Clerk reported that the next public consultation was scheduled to start on 30th May 2024. Both the Chair and the Clerk would be attending meetings going forward.

13. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

i. F/YR24/0288/VOC Variation of condition 8 (list of approved drawings) relating to planning permission F/YR21/0037/F (Conversion of barn to a dwelling involving erection of glass link extension and raising roof heights) to enable the replacement of part of front elevation at Barn 1 at Postmill Farm Benwick Road Doddington.

Members agreed that no comment was needed.

ii. F/YR24/0328/F Installation of self-illuminated Prescription Dispenser, CCTV and lighting at East Cambs & Fenland Primary Car Trust Surgery 11D Benwick Road
Members supported the application

iii. F/YR24/0338/F Erect a dwelling (2 storey 4 bed) involving demolition of existing dwelling at Black Bungalow Forty Foot Bank Ramsey.

Members supported the applicant's comments made in the agents Design & Access Statement that they would be "happy to rebuild the existing bungalow as before the fire as you would do with normal fire damage or destroyed property." Members felt that the suggestion to build a two-storey house on the footprint would be detrimental to the appearance of the landscape.

b) Other planning matters:

i. A resident had approached the Vice Chair enquiring if the replacement windows installed at 2 Ingles Lane, a listed building, were in accordance with the approved planning permission. Members agreed to refer the matter to FDC Planning for the attention of the Conservation Officer.

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

iii. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. The Clerk reported that The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities has confirmed that support for groups preparing neighbourhood plans will continue during 2024/2025 and that the facility for making grant applications may be available later in the month.

14. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) The Clerk advised members that EG Electrical Services would be undertaking the works to provide an external light near the main entrance and replace the damaged distribution board as agreed at the last meeting on 14th June 2024. Arrangements are in hand for a Fire Safety Inspection to be undertaken by Bridges Fire & Safety.

b) Following the meeting with Michael Carter of Sports & Play Consulting on 25th April to discuss the expansion for sports facilities on the recreation ground it was felt that several smaller facilities may be more useful than a MUGA and that advice should be sought from FDC and Sports England and that a consultation exercise with residents should take place.

15. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

a) The Clerk reported that suitable letters had been sent to all local funeral directors advising them that the cemetery was now operational, and all appropriate forms and notices had been uploaded onto the website.

b) Anglia Waters work to connect a water supply into the cemetery is scheduled to take place at the end of the month.

16. Street Lighting:-

a) Cllr Mason reported that some of the lanterns on the Clock Tower needed attention. It was agreed to ask EG Electrical Services to investigate.

17. Village Maintenance:-

- a) Cllr Mason advised the meeting that works to drain the floor of the Bier House had been completed but works to replace the rotten roof wood and install guttering was still outstanding.
- b) It was agreed to install a noticeboard, similar to those in the remaining bus shelters, in the Primrose Hill bus shelter.

18. Website and Communications:-

Routine updates were being made to the website and face book page. A request had been received to provide a link to the website from an external organisation, but members considered that opening the website to organisations outside of the village would create a precedent and therefore declined the offer.

19. Annual Appraisal of the Clerk & RFO to the Parish Council:-

Members undertook the annual performance review of the Clerk and resolved to increase his salary to point 36 on the National Scale with effect from 1st April 2024. He was thanked for his excellent work during the year.

20. Financial Items:-

- a) Following the decision made at the last meeting, the Clerk reported that he had opened two deposit accounts; one was an instant access account and the second was a 32day notice account.
- b) Year End Accounts for 2023/2024:
 - i. Internal Audit report. The Chair read out the report prepared by the internal auditor which members noted.
 - ii. Certification of AGAR Annual Governance Statement. Each of the 8 statements were individually approved by the members following which the Chair and Clerk certified the approval.
 - iii. Certification of AGAR Accounting Statements. The Clerk, as the Councils RFO, had signed the return which was approved by the meeting and authorised by the Chair. Following the advice received from CAPALC, the value of fixed assets was restated for 2022/23 to show that the asset values were now based on original cost rather than current insurance valuation.
 - iv. Notice of Public Rights of Inspection. The Clerk advised that the dates for public inspection had been fixed as between 3rd June and 12th July 2024.

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	387.73
Eon Next	Abbey Pavilion electricity	45.92
Idverde	Grass cutting verges April 24	816.00
JC Gardens & Landscaping	Grass cutting Abbey Rec & Cemetery	450.00
Narked Ltd	Web Site Hosting	225.00
Clear Ins Management Ltd	Annual Insurance Premium	4,287.34
I J Cooper	Internal Audit Fee	140.00
Wimblington PC	Citizens Advice Service	162.69
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & expenses	981.69
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	223.91

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

