

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 12th June 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

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

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

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

3. Declaration of Interests:- Cllrs. Fisher and 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 8th May 2024 were approved following an alteration on item 11a(iv) that Spring Brow should read Swing Brow. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

5. Resignation from the Council:- The Clerk reported that Cllr R Leonard had resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments. Members received the resignation with regret as he was a valued member of the team. The Clerk outlined the procedure for the filling of the vacancy in that there would a period when 10 residents may require the FDC Returning Officer to fill the vacancy by arranging a formal election. If that request was not made, then the Parish Council would fill the vacancy by co-option.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes:-

a) As Cllr. McNulty was absent from last months meeting he was asked if there were any alterations to the proposed allocation of Committee membership that he would like to make. He requested to become a member of the Cemetery Committee which was noted.

b) Community Living Room. Cllr Fisher updated members on the increasing number of visitors to the Friday sessions and that during May they had 79 residents making use of the facilities. They had also received a visit from staff at Cambridgeshire ACRE and an additional grant had been approved. Arrangements had been made for six of the volunteers to attend a Food Hygiene training course and they were proposing purchasing a microwave and new kettle.

c) Commemorative Planters. It was agreed to purchase a supply of compost to finalise the filling of the planters. Cllr Fisher informed the meeting that he had located two suitable olive trees for the planters in the cemetery and Cllr McNulty offered to transport them from the nursery to the cemetery.

7. Police Matters:

a) The minutes from the last meeting of the Police & Councillor meeting had been circulated. Complaints had been received regarding inconsiderate parking near the local primary school and in Manor Estate. The police have been requested to increase their visits to the school area during drop off and pick up times. A suggestion was made at the meeting that we could use a future LHI to have yellow lines painted outside of the school. The police had also been informed of instances of drug use in Hospital Road.

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

a) No matters were raised from FDC.

b) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority – Bus Routes:

Within the region, the Combined Authority are working on improving 30 bus services but at the present time no changes are planned for the three bus services in the village. However, a new Demand Responsive Transport trial is planned to improve coverage in rural communities which could include Doddington. Details of the trial may follow later in the year.

A subsequent review of the bus stops that the website www.busstops.org show as being located in the village was undertaken and it was found that in many cases no physical bus stop post exists, and information on those bus stops that are in existence have incorrect sign information, broken or missing timetable boards and no current physical timetable displayed. These points were raised with the Combined Authority through their webinar site, and a reply is awaited. Investigations will continue as to how we can go about improving the signage at the bus stops and will arrange for copy timetables to be uploaded onto our web site.

9. Highway Issues: -

a) The following maintenance items were raised:

- i. The condition of Benwick Road is getting very bad
- ii. The hedge in Ingles Lane needs cutting back by the owner
- iii. Trees and bushes along the boundary of Doddington Hall in Church Lane need cutting back
- iv. The footpath from the side of the Village Hall (circular walk) is very overgrown
- v. The footpaths around the Circular Walk and through The Manor are very overgrown
- vi. A grate in the grass verge outside 5 Newgate Street had become detached and leaves access to a dangerous hole
- vii. The hedge opposite Askham Row needs cutting back
- viii. The hedge along Wimblington Road from opposite Beech Ave towards Witchford Close is very overgrown and is encroaching onto the footpath..

b) LHI 2023/2024. CCC has agreed to reschedule the proposed road closure order to a date in September 2024.

c) LHI 2024/2025. The official notification regarding our submission for improvement works to the north side of High Street is still awaited.

d) Members expressed their disappointment on the quality of the work that idverde had undertaken over the cutting of the grass verges during May. The Clerk will take the matter up with the company.

e) Cambridgeshire CC have revised their decision over the management of weeds and will now carry out planned chemical weed treatment twice a year (as a minimum) within the built-up area in villages and towns inside the 40mph limits or below. The first treatments will commence during the week beginning 24th June and the programme will be published in due course. The second treatment will be undertaken in October.

10. Fens Reservoir Project:-

a) The Clerk, Chair and Cllr Mason had attended a recent webinar organised by the Fens Reservoir Team in which an update on progress in the design of the project had been outlined. The public consultation exercise is now taking place and comments will be received until 9th August 2024. An open session is scheduled to take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 15th June 2024.

11. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

i. F/YR24/0392/F Erect a boundary wall with railings and brick pier lighting and hard surfacing at The Church Rooms New Street Doddington.

Cllrs Fisher and Mason both declared an interest as both are members of the Parochial Church Council and took no part in the vote.

Members supported the application.

ii. F/YR24/0400/F Insertion of dormer roof extension including raising roof height of garage and single-storey element (to enable loft conversion for the creation of additional living accommodation) to existing dwelling at 1 May Meadows Doddington.

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had been approached by the owner who was enquiring about action that he could take following receipt of an objection from his neighbour. The advice given was for the owner to ask his architect to submit a Design & Access statement to FDC that could set out his reasons for submitting the planning application. Members noted the approach.

Members supported the application.

iii. F/YR24/0329/F Retention of 16 monitoring boreholes (retrospective) at land north of Chatteris, north of A142 and east of A141 Isle of Ely Way.

This application covered the land for the proposed Fens Reservoir. Members agreed to raise no objections to the application.

b) Other planning matters:

i. Following on from the matter raised at the last meeting regarding the windows at 2 Ingles Lane, FDC Planning confirmed that this had now been referred to the conservation officer and the enforcement team.

ii. FDC Local Plan. Members were advised that FDC had appointed a new Policy Manager whose duties will involve working on the Emerging Local Plan.

iii. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. The Chair of the DNPG, Cllr Hopkins, advised the meeting that the group were now drafting up the first version of the Neighbourhood Plan which would be brought to the Parish Council for discussion. The application for a 2024/2025 grant had been submitted to Locality for £6,690 which had subsequently been amended to £5,507 as our contingency element of £1,183 had been disallowed. The amended claim is due to be considered by the Locality Panel on 19th June 2024.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) A Fire Risk Inspection had been undertaken by Bridges Fire & Safety which showed that several matters required attention:

- Fire doors require combined intumescent strips fitted. This would be referred to GLP Installations,
- The emergency lighting system should be tested, PAT testing should be undertaken on the kitchen appliances, a lightning protection system has not been provided for the building and the CCTV column may attract lightning. These electrical matters will be discussed with EG Electrical Services when they undertake the agreed miscellaneous electrical repairs on 14th June 2024,
- Policy wording is needed for hirers using the pavilion on the safe use of personal electrical equipment. Hiring or leasing agreements should show the safety responsibilities of hirers and fire safety documentation should be available in the Pavilion. These management arrangements will be implemented,
- The fire extinguisher servicing is due on 23rd August 2024.

- b) Members agreed that the quotations received from EG Electrical Services for the testing of the electrical wiring at a cost of £510 plus vat and the installation of the “Last Man Out” switch at a cost of £1,350 plus vat be accepted.
- c) It was agreed that confirmation be obtained from FDC that the section 106 monies earmarked for leisure and recreational facilities in Doddington were still available to be used to help finance several additional facilities on the grounds. In addition, Sport England’s advice be obtained to ensure that there would be no issue on using the surplus football pitches for these additional facilities.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

- a) The water supply into the cemetery is now completed.

14. Street Lighting:-

- a) There are no known streetlighting faults and the works to identify the lighting issue on the Clock Tower is in hand.

15. Village Maintenance:-

- a) Works to finalise the replacement of the rotten roof wood and installation of guttering was in hand.
- b) The broken bench in the High Street bus shelter had been repaired by a resident at no cost to the Parish Council.
- c) The Chair had spoken to Elgoods Brewery who had agreed to contact the new tenant of The George to ask that he sweeps the pavement of gravel and stones that encroach from their car park.
- d) The Clerk has taken on the temporary role of defibrillator contact with the National Circuit and had been advised that new pads are required in the unit at the Village Hall which he was ordering.
- e) It was reported that the rose bushes around the War Memorial had been killed by weed killer sprayed by the FDC contractors. Cllr Davis kindly agreed to take the matter up with FDC.

16. Website and Communications:-

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

17. Financial Items:-

- a) Financial Regulations. Following a revision to the Model Financial Regulation by NALC, the Clerk and the Chair, had updated the Parish Council’s policy and a copy had been circulated to all members which was now approved. The updated policy will be uploaded on the council’s website.

b) 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	360.60
Idverde	Grass cutting verges April 24	897.60
Clear Ins Management Ltd	Cyber package insurance premium	405.25
Bridges Fire & Security	Fire Risk Assessment Abbey Pavilion	210.00
CPRE	Annual Membership	36.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary & back pay	1,090.33
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	272.59

The following payments had been made from the Community Room grant since the last Parish Council meeting:

Parish Church	Hire of Church Rooms	270.00
Parish Church	Electrical work	50.00
The Three Tuns	Supply of sugar bags	21.17
High Speed Training	Training course – Food Hygiene	144.00
J Holding	Refreshments	50.00

18. Correspondence:-

The Chair announced that at the recent AGM of the Doddington Street Pride Group, a new Chair and Secretary had been appointed.

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