

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, R Hopkins, R Mason, I McNulty and D Slade. 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 Cllrs L Jolley, J Shepherd, J Welcher and Cllr D Connor (FDC and CCC Representative)

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

4. Minutes: - Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr McNulty seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2024 be approved subject to a small alteration in item 5a that the financial figure of £294 be amended to £280. These were agreed by the members which were then signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes:-

- a) Community Living Room. Members were advised that the weekly Friday sessions were very popular with a steady number of visitors attending. Blackfield Creatives are still providing sessions and a local Fire Officer has been invited to give advice. Arrangements are in hand to purchase a projector and air fryer. There is to be a change in future funding with Cadent becoming involved through Cambs ACRE.
- b) The meeting was informed that no progress had taken place on the copying of the old minute books into a digital format. Members agreed to appoint a replacement company to undertake the work.

6. Administrative Items:-

- a) Members considered adopting updated versions to the following Parish Council Policies: Equity and Diversity Policy and Freedom of Information Policy, both proposed and seconded by Cllrs Hopkins and Fisher which were unanimously agreed by the members. Arrangements would be made to upload the approved policy documents onto the Council's website. The draft Code of Conduct Policy was withdrawn for further review which Cllr Slade agreed to assist in.

7. Police Matters:

Members noted the minutes from the last meeting of the Police and Councillor committee.

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

- a) No matters were received from FDC or CCC
- b) The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority had published the slides from the recent meeting on the bus franchising consultation and would also be organising a further meeting.

9. Highway Issues: -

- a) The following works were reported as needing attention:
 - i. A resident in Holly Drive has asked if the hedges on the Abbey Rec boundary with Holly Drive can be cut back. Members agreed to ask Jarad to repeat the cut that he did at the beginning of the year.
 - ii The Chair had spoken to the owner of 35 High Street regarding their lavender bushes that are encroaching over the footway.
 - iii. The drop kerb into the Church yard needs attention to make it lower in order that wheelchair users can gain access easier.
- b) LHI 2023/2024. CCC have verbally advised that the works to resurface the footway in Benwick Road are now scheduled to start after Christmas and in addition have offered the Parish Council an additional £20k funding for footway resurfacing.
- c) LHI 2025/2026. CCC had advised that the application window for that years schemes has now opened until 10th January 2025. Members suggested that white or yellow lines together with footway resurfacing in Wood Street may be a possible scheme. A final decision will be made at the December PC meeting.
- d) Grass cutting. The Chair was chasing for a resolution on the refund of costs incurred in cutting the village Circular Walk.
- e) The Clerk advised members that the second round of chemical weed treatment in the village was due to start today.
- f) The Chair announced that the on site MVAS training had been arranged for 20th November 2024.

10. Fens Reservoir Project:-

- a) The Fens Reservoir Team were preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment as part of the pre planning application requirements.

11. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR24/0828VOC Variation of condition 16 (list of approved plans) relating to planning approval F/YR23/0539/O (erect up to 4 dwellings involving the demolition of existing dwelling etc) relating to changes to layout of plots 2,3 and 4 roadway and trees at 32 Wimblington Road Doddington.
Members agreed to fully support the various objections raised by residents living in Witchford Close and Woodford Close on the change of layout that will result in the properties being intrusively overlooked by plot 4.
- ii. F/YR24/0870/CERTLU Certificate of Lawfulness (existing), change of use of land siting 1 x residential caravan (for more than 10 years) at Elm Farm, Hospital Road Doddington.
FDC had requested the Parish Councils assistance in documenting the history of the site. Members were unable to add any further information to the significant supply of data that the agent had supplied.

b) Other planning matters:

- i. Members noted the latest copy of the Planning Monitoring Spreadsheet.
- ii. FDC Local Plan. No further information had been received from FDC
- iii. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. Meetings between the Parish Council and the DNPG had been scheduled for 27th November and 3rd December to consider the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- iv. Wimblington & Stonea Neighbourhood Plan. Wimblington PC have published their draft Neighbourhood Plan that had been sent out for public consultation.

Members were very pleased to note that Wimblington was pressing that no coalition with Doddington should be allowed.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) Refurbishment of the Pavilion, status position on current works:

Updates on approved works:

1. Internal decorations.

Following the awarding of this contract to Odd Job Ben Handyman, a provisional start date was given as 18th November 2024 and works would take approximately 3 weeks.

2. Replace kitchen units and boxing in the area under the main changing room cubicles.

Two quotations had been received,

Odd Job Ben Handyman £2,100

Jax Property Maintenance £1,870

Cllr. McNulty proposed and Cllr. Fisher seconded that the quotation from Odd Job Ben Handyman be awarded the contract as he could undertake the works at the same time as he was undertaking the internal decorations and Jax Property had only quoted for the kitchen works. This was unanimously agreed by the members.

3. Replace the internal flooring.

A second quotation had been submitted after the last meeting when members had agreed to award the contract to Contract Flooring Services at £2,597 plus VAT. The second quotation was from Goddens Flooring at a cost of £2,782 plus VAT.

Cllr. McNulty proposed and Cllr. Hopkins seconded that the contract be awarded to Contract Flooring Services. This was unanimously agreed by the members. These works would not start until after the internal decorations and the kitchen and boxing work had finished.

4. Replace and relay the external paving slabs.

These works started on 4th November and were completed on 8th November 2024.

b) Outside Gym Equipment.

Fresh Air Fitness had visited the outside gym site and had turned the disabled item of equipment 90 degrees which ensured that the equipment was now on a flat surface rather than being on a slight slope. There was no charge to the Parish Council for this work. A quotation had been received from JC Gardens & Landscaping to extend the outside paving slabs to surround this piece of equipment at a cost of £1,250 thereby making access for wheelchair users safer.

Cllr. Mason proposed and Cllr. Hopkins seconded that the quotation be accepted. This was unanimously agreed by the members. The Clerk advised that this costing can be charged to the gym installation costs rather than the pavilion refurbishment.

c) Additional recreational facilities.

Members agreed to consider the installation of further recreational equipment and, since work on the refurbishment of the pavilion was likely to be finished before Christmas, that the Council considers marketing the facilities for the community and sports clubs by hosting an open day and creating a brochure.

d) Sovereign safety inspection on the skate park.

The recent safety inspection showed that the bottom edge of one of the slopes was lifting and that Cllr. Shepherd would take the matter up with Brian.

e) Junior Football Team.

The Clerk reported that he had received notice from the manager of the Doddington Junior Football team that they would no longer require the use of the small football pitch going forward. The members were sorry to lose the club and wished them well.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council were being pursued for an alleged water supply payment and he was seeking clarification over its validity.

14. Street Lighting:-

It was reported that the bracket of light FPC25 on Primrose Hill was hanging down in a dangerous fashion. The matter had been referred to our contractor.

15. Village Maintenance: -

a) The Chair was chasing the directors of the local management committee of Crossway Wood & Pond for a meeting. Cllr Davis declared an interest as she was related to one of the directors of the management committee.

16. Website and Communications:-

Routine updates were taking place to the Council's website.

17. Financial Items:-

a) The Clerk reminded members that preliminary work on the budget and precept requirements for 2025/2026 would commence at the December meeting and asked members to consider what provisions should be made for capital projects.

b) Payments:

It was agreed that on-line BACs transfers be made on the schedule prepared by the Clerk and certified by two authorised bank mandate members of the Parish Council:-

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking	100.00
Npower Commercial Gas Ltd	Street lighting electricity	388.16
Eon Next	Abbey Pavilion electricity	31.56
JC Gardens & Landscaping	Grass cutting Cemetery & Abbey Rec	1,950.00
Sovereign Design Play	Compliance maintenance	478.80
Fenland DC	CCTV monitoring service	3,000.00
Cambs ACRE	Membership 2024/25	65.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary	960.54
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	240.14
Currys Business	New PC & printer	987.55

The following payments have been made since the last meeting from the Community Room grant:

J Holding	Refreshments	50.00
Church	Hire Church rooms	390.00

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

