

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 13th August 2025 at 7.00 pm.**

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

1. Open Forum: - One resident was present who was interested in a planning application that would be considered later in the meeting.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs H Fisher, R Mason, D Slade
J Welcher, D Connor (FDC Representative) and M Fisher (CCC Representative).

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

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2025: - Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr McNulty seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th July 2025 be approved. 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.

6. Administrative Matters:-

The Chair advised members that detailed business plans on the three proposed options were being developed for submission to the Government by 28th November 2025. The timetable for the transition is that Ministers will make a final determination during 2026. Legislation will follow with elections for the shadow authorities taking place during 2027 in preparation for the new authorities to go live from 1st April 2028. Parish and Town Councils will continue to operate as they do now although it is possible that some powers and duties may devolve down to them.

7. Police Matters:-

a) No meetings between the Police and PC representatives have taken place.
b) It was reported that the recently appointed new sergeant had left and a replacement is still to be found.
c) It was reported that 25 people had been charged following the hare coursing investigation across Cambridgeshire.

8. Fenland DC, CCC and other external organisations: -

a) No matters of interest were reported.

9. Highway Issues: -

a) CCC had confirmed that rights of way footpaths are scheduled to be cut twice a year, once in May and again in August. They also pointed out that parishes are welcome to arrange additional cuts but these would have to be funded locally. Members agreed to review the condition of the circular walk at the next meeting when all footpaths should have received the CCC second cut.
b) Members commented that some of the maintenance issues raised over the last few months were still outstanding. The clerk would chase these up.

- c) MVAS system. The Chair reported that Cllr. Slade had produced a summary of data from April to June 2025 which could be used to support an application to reduce the speed limits from Wimblington Road and Primrose Hill of traffic coming into the village.
- d) The Clerk reported that later this year, CCC Highways will be switching to a new highways asset management system called Aurora which should be a better tool to plan, prioritise and report on highway issues.
- e) The Clerk reported that JC Gardens & Landscaping had provided a quotation for cutting back the grass, cut and trim the hedges and trees that were adjacent and overhanging the pathway from Wood Street to Cedar Avenue. A one-off charge of £450 was quoted plus a monthly fee of £80 to keep the grass area tidy if growth indicates that the area needs attention. It was proposed by Cllr McNulty, seconded by Cllr Hopkins and agreed by the meeting to accept the quotes.
- f) CCC had circulated an Expression of Interest survey covering the 2026/27 LHI application round. Members agreed to indicate their interest in making an application for LHI funding in 2026/27 and would consider possible schemes at the next meeting.

10. Fens Reservoir Project: -

- a) No dates had been received from Manea Parish Council on a possible group meeting of local Parish Councils affected by the reservoir project.

11. Planning: -

a) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR25/0537/F Erect a hay store with roller shutters, plant room, solar PV panels and concrete apron, stable, 1.5m high (max) weld mesh fence, 1.2m high (max) post and rail and 1.2m (max) slatted boundary fence (part-retrospective) at land south of Swan Cottage, Benwick Road accessed from Dykemoor Drove Doddington. Members objected to this application on the grounds that enforcement action should have been taken on the erection of the hay barn which has no planning permission and is now being used for non-agricultural purposes. It is also suggested that the building line of the fencing passes over a water main and underground telephone cables.

- ii. F/YR25/0538/F Erect 3 x piggery buildings involving demolition of 14 x existing buildings and formation of attenuation pond at Coneywood South Farm, Coneywood Road Doddington.

Members supported the application.

- iii. F/YR25/0545/VOC Variation of conditions 3 (hedge). 6 (boundary treatments) and 7 (list of approved drawings) of planning permission F/YR23/0404/RM (which was a Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline application F/YR22/0017/O to erect 2 x dwellings and the formation of an access) revised plans referenced in conditions 3 and 6 and changes to dwellings (condition 7) on land east of 6B Primrose Hill Doddington.

Members supported the application.

- iv. F/YR25/0551/RM Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping (for 1 x plot only) pursuant to planning permission F/YR23/0070/O to erect 1 x dwelling involving the demolition of stables and hay store on land east of The Hollies Hospital Road Doddington. Members suggested that the submission of the application was premature as there has been no decision over the required improvements to Hospital Road or the tract giving access to the development. A clear decision over dates when road improvements are likely to start and be completed and recorded before any development of the 5 plots can be considered.

v. F/YR25/0560/F Erect a detached building for dog grooming, training and agility at Ivydene Beezing Fen Drove Chatteris.

Members supported the application.

vi. F/YR25/0558/CERTP Certificate of lawfulness (proposed). Erect a detached garden room/office at Happy Anywhere Farm Forty Foot Bank Ramsey.

There is no requirement for FDC to circulate this application for consultation by the Parish Council. The Parish Council supported the application.

vii. F/YR25/3081/COND Details reserved by condition 02 (Landscaping), 03 (Foul and Surface water Drainage), 04 (Levels), 05 (Tree Protection), 06 (Amphibians), 08 (Construction Management Plan CMP), 09 (Construction Environmental Management Plan CEMP Biodiversity), 10 (Materials), 11 (Bat and Bird Boxes and Mammal Movement), 12 (Badger Survey), 13 (Refuse Collection Strategy), and 14 (Street Maintenance) of planning permission F/YR23/0914/F (Erect 9 x dwellings involving the formation of a new access and demolition of existing outbuildings and alterations to 3 Wimblington Road including single-storey extensions to south and west elevations, extension to roof to create a first floor and erect a garage on land north of 3 Wimblington Road Doddington).

There is no requirement for FDC to circulate this application for consultation by the Parish Council but the Parish Council have recorded with the enforcement team that works appear to have been taking place on a Sunday and distressed kestrel's have been reported emerging from the site. This would be contrary to the Construction Management Plan.

b) Other planning matters:

- i. Members noted the latest copy of the Planning Monitoring Spreadsheet.
- ii. FDC Local Plan. No further information has been circulated.
- iii. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. No further information at this stage.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground: -

a) Grass cutting for Abbey Rec and Benwick Road Cemetery. Members expressed their pleasure over the quality and professional work that the contractor, appointed at the last meeting, was giving to the cutting of the grass at the recreation ground and the cemetery. It was proposed by Cllr Shepherd, seconded by Cllr McNaulty that the temporary arrangements be extended to 31st March 2026, and we would negotiate any change in the cutting programme and fees in March 2026. The proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

b) Quotations for undertaking works to various trees around the boundary of the recreation ground had been sought from three professional tree surgeons. Details of the two quotations received were outlined to the members and Cllr Jolley proposed with Cllr Shepherd seconding that the contract be awarded to B Jupp Horticultural Contractors for a total cost of £550 plus vat. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

c) Provision of additional recreational equipment on site. Following the discussions at the last meeting, the Clerk informed the meeting that two further quotations had been obtained for supplying a zip wire and a conical rope climbing facility. Members agreed to place a decision on installing these items on hold until further details could be obtained on costs of installing a small MUGA.

d) Members were advised that the annual Fire Risk Assessment on the Pavilion was due. Bridges Fire & Safety, the company that undertook last years assessment were prepared to repeat the assessment at a cost of £175 plus vat, the same cost as last year. Members agreed that arrangements be made with Bridges Fire & Safety to undertake the assessment.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

- a) Grass cutting. See above (item 12a).
- b) Members were advised that the cut-off switch on the water tap had developed a fault. The Clerk had obtained a quotation to replace the faulty tap, add a spur link to a second tap that could have a hose pipe attached to it and to secure that tap inside a lockable box at a total cost of £105 plus the cost of materials for the box. Members approved the work arranged by the clerk.
- c) The Clerk advised the meeting that the first interment at the cemetery would be taking place later in the month.

14. Street Lighting: -

The Clerk advised the meeting on action taken following a streetlight being damaged during a motor accident. The driver of the vehicle concerned had been contacted and advised that he would be held liable for the costs involved in replacing the damaged column. The meeting noted and approved the action taken by the Clerk.

15. Village Maintenance: -

16. Website and Communications: -

Due to time constraints, the Chair informed the meeting that action under the above two items would be deferred to the next meeting.

17. Financial Items: -

- a) External Audit Report on the 2024/25 accounts. The Clerk reported that the external audit on the Parish Council's accounts had been completed. The report showed that sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR return had been completed in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to their attention that they wish to draw to the attention of the Parish Council. Members noted the report.

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
Eon Next	Electricity Pavilion July 2025	35.36
Kings Farming Ltd	Abbey & Cemetery grass cutting June/July	1,200.00
GLP Installations	Construction of bus shelter for Benwick Road	7,382.40
Andy Muskett Ltd	Inspection of damaged streetlight	192.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit fee	504.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary Aug 2025	1,011.92
HMRC	Income Tax on Clerks salary	246.48

Payments made from the Community Living Room Grant

St Mary's Church	Room Hire June 2025	120.00
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18. Correspondence: -

The Macmillan Village Agent from Cambridge ACRE had been in contact seeking the assistance of the Parish Council in raising the awareness of cancer and to explain the support that they can offer. It was agreed that a copy of their leaflet can be placed on the Councils website and facebook page. Their offer to attend a meeting would be passed to the Community Living Room.

19. Any Other Business:-

Cllr Hopkins asked if the question of missing Meridian Markers can be placed on next months agenda which was agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm