

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hopkins, J Jolley and J Welcher. Cllr M Fisher (CCC Representative).
and the Clerk, Roger Wilkin were present.

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, R Mason, I McNulty, J Shepherd, D Slade, Cllrs M Davis (FDC representative) and D Connor (FDC Representative).

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, members present voted that Cllr Welcher should take the chair for the meeting.

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

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2025: - Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr Jolley seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th August 2025 be approved. These were agreed 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 Clerk advised members that Cambs CC was promoting their preferred option, known as Option A, for the future of Local Government administration in the county. Option A specifically proposes creating two new unitary councils, one geographically covering the North (built around the footprints of Huntingdonshire, Fenland and Peterborough City) and one covering the South (built around the footprints of East and South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City). Two further options, known as Options B and C, have been developed that would still create two new unitary councils but with a different combination of the districts. All 7 councils in the area are expected to work together in the best interests of the whole area to develop and submit proposals by 28th November 2025 to the Government.

7. Police Matters:-

a) No meetings between the Police and PC representatives have taken place.

b) It was reported that a new Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Simon Megicks, had been appointed and would be taking up his job on 29th September.

c) It was reported that a recent knife incident was being handled by the police but there were reports that a drug dealer had reappeared in the village.

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

Cllr Fisher (CCC representative) asked if the notifications that he was sending through to the Clerk were being duplicated by County departments circulating the same information. The Clerk advised that he occasionally received duplicate notifications but that he would rather deal with duplications than risk missing out on useful information.

9. Highway Issues: -

- a) Despite CCC claiming that rights of way footpaths were scheduled to be cut twice a year, once in May and again in August, there had been no sign of any cutting taking place last month and agreed that Jared be asked to provide a quotation to cut back the grass along the circular walk.
- b) MVAS system. No current statistics were currently available.
- c) The Clerk reported that the new CCC highways asset management system called Aurora was due to go live on 22nd September.
- d) The cutting back of the grass and trimming of the hedges and trees that were adjacent and overhanging the pathway from Wood Street to Cedar Avenue have been completed.
- e) CCC had commenced investigation work into the reconstruction and resurfacing of Forty Foot Bank. One lane is closed with temporary traffic lights and they expect the road to fully repaired in the winter.
- f) CCC had circulated a draft “Intends Notice” for proposed Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders covering a number of roads in Fenland for possible surface treatment. The Order covers the period 1st October 2025 to 31st March 2027 to allow flexibility on when detailed dates can be fixed. Two roads in Doddington are on the list: Childs Lane and Manor Estate.
- g) Following the “Expression of Interest” survey covering the 2026/27 LHI application round reported at the last meeting, members agreed to put forward the resurfacing of the footpaths from Burdett Close to Sutton Way when the formal application forms are circulated in November.

10. Fens Reservoir Project: -

- a) The Clerk reported that the Regulators have announced that the formal application to create the reservoir needs to be submitted by March 2027. Fixing the planning date within the timeline has not affected the proposed construction start date.

11. Planning: -

a) Revised proposal to a previous application:

- i. F/YR25/0491/RM Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR23/0995/O to erect 3 dwellings involving the formation of a new access at land east of 1 Wimblington Road.

Members initially objected to the Reserved Matters application on the grounds that the location of the three properties showed that the gardens faced Wimblington Road rather than the front of the properties facing Wimblington Road. FDC Planners, in correspondence with the agent, also raised this objection and the revised proposal takes these comments into account and are now proposing reversing the siting of the dwellings. Members supported this revised application.

b) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR25/0598/RM Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (plot 7 only) pursuant to outline application F/YR23/0070/O (erect up to 5 dwellings including highway works (outline application with all matters reserved) including demolition of stables and haystore) at land East of The Hollies Hospital Road Doddington.

Members fully supported the comments made by CCC Highways that objections should be lodged against the reserved matters applications for plots 7 and 9 pending a comprehensive application being agreed for the improvements to Hospital Road and the track giving access to the 5 dwellings. In addition, the Parish Council considered that the responsibility for providing the highway improvement plans and the resultant costs of providing these improvements rested with the land owner and not the prospective purchasers of the 5 plots. The Parish Council noted that condition 5 of the approved outline planning application stated that "The approved highway improvement works shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed details in full

prior to the first occupation of the development", and that in its opinion, it is premature to consider granting planning permission for plots 7 and 9 at this stage. The Parish Council suggested that consideration should be given for these two reserved matters applications to be withdrawn or amended to show no reference regarding responsibility for access that affects improvements to Hospital Road and the track to the development.

ii. F/YR25/0616/F Partial demolition of existing dwelling and new two storey and single storey extensions to the side and rear including internal works at 22 Newgate Street Doddington

Members supported the application.

iii. F/YR25/0625/TRCA Works to a Eucalyptus tree within a conservation area at 41 High Street Doddington.

Members supported the application.

c) 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. Cllr Hopkins advised that following comments being received from FDC Planners, all updates to the draft plan had been completed and a further meeting of the Group was being arranged.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground: -

a) The Clerk advised the meeting that following the awarding of a contract to undertake works to various trees around the boundary of the recreation ground, a start date had been agreed of 10th October 2025.

In addition, a resident, whose property abuts the boundary of the recreation ground, had requested works be undertaken to cut back the trees that were overhanging his land. As the trees in question were not mentioned in the tree survey that an additional quotation be obtained to rectify the issue.

b) Provision of additional recreational equipment on site. The meeting was informed that a meeting was being arranged with a supplier of MUGA's to gauge the costs of installing a small MUGA.

c) Fire Risk Assessment on the Pavilion. The Clerk circulated a summary of the findings in the recent Assessment together with estimates to correct the deficiencies. The meeting considered that additional estimates be obtained in two areas and the overall position reviewed at the next meeting when additional members should be in attendance to consider the cost implications.

d) The Connections Bus Project. A resident had suggested that a Connections Youth Bus to be sited within the Abbey Rec car park on a weekly basis for a school term. The Project is a registered charity that provides youth work services across Cambridgeshire. The costs are around £340 for a 2 hour session once a week per school term, which could be financed by grants. It was agreed in principle to support the idea subject to no costs falling on the Parish Council and clarification being obtained over the grant position.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

a) The first interment at the cemetery had taken place and as rows allocated for interments and burial of ashes were being named after trees and flowers, arrangements need to take place to securely fix the name plaques at the start of each row.

b) Members were advised that the repairs and extension to the water supply were due to take place by month end.

14. Street Lighting: -

The Clerk advised the meeting that as no direct response had been received from the driver of the car that damaged one of the Parish owned streetlights that he was passing the file to our insurance company for them to seek redress.

15. Village Maintenance: -

- a) New bus shelter in Benwick Road. The location of the bus shelter still needs to be finalised.
- b) Telephone Box (book swop). Arrangements for its installation need to be finalised.
- c) Replacement public seats throughout the village. Outline estimates had been obtained from three companies and it was agreed to investigate if any discounts were available for bulk orders. It was also agreed to review the overall position at the next meeting when additional members should be in attendance to consider the cost implications.
- d) It was reported that graffiti had appeared inside the Wimblington Road bus shelter and enquiries should be made on the easiest way to remove it.
- e) An enquiry had been received from a company offering discount on replacement defibrillator pads and batteries but a check on the status of our existing equipment showed that all consumables were within their time limit. It was also agreed that, at this stage, no further defibrillators were required in the village.
- f) It was agreed that a decision on the missing Meridian Markers should be discussed at next month's meeting.

16. Website and Communications: -

It was reported that there had been a temporary loss of the Parish Council's website which was resolved by the website administrator and his team.

17. Financial Items: -

- a) The Clerk reported that, in accordance with earlier agreements from members, the Councils NatWest Bank current and deposit accounts had been closed and the balance transferred to the Councils Lloyds Bank current account.

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 Business Solutions	Street lighting power March to July 2025	1,237.79
Npower Business Solutions	Clock Tower power 2024-2025	20.55
Eon Next	Electricity Pavilion August 2025	34.83
JC Gardens & Landscaping	Walkway Wood St to Cedar Ave	450.00
Anglia Water	Water charge Cemetery March – May 2025	22.97
Andy Muskett Ltd	Replacement of damaged streetlight	921.60
Bridges Fire & Safety	Fire Risk Assessment Abbey Pavilion	210.00
Narked Ltd	Domain Registrations	104.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary Sep 2025 + petty cash	1,026.92
HMRC	Income Tax on Clerks salary	246.48

Payments made from the Community Living Room Grant

St Mary's Church	Room Hire August 2025	120.00
J Holding	Refreshments and new fan	100.00

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm