

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, J Jolley, I McNulty, D Slade and J Welcher.
The Clerk, Roger Wilkin was present.

1. Open Forum: - A resident addressed members over a planning application that would be formally heard later in the meeting.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs R Mason, R Hopkins, J Shepherd.
Cllrs M Davis (FDC representative), D Connor (FDC Representative) and Cllr M Fisher (CCC Representative).

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

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2025: - Cllr Welcher proposed and Cllr Jolley seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September 2025 be approved. These were agreed and then signed by Cllr Welcher who had been appointed Chair for that meeting.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes: -

- a) Community Living Room. Members were advised that during September, 94 residents had been present on the weekly Friday sessions. An unexpected additional grant of £1,000 had been offered by Cambridgeshire ACRE.
- b) Crossway Wood. The Chair updated members on an exchange of correspondence that had taken place with the Management Cttee over seeking alterations to the Tree Preservation Order and potential surveys to confirm the absence of great crested newts in the pond. She had suggested that a further meeting needed to be arranged.
- c) Members were informed that a list of defibrillators and their locations would be posted in the Doddington Diary on an ad hoc basis. The Editor was thanked for her help in this.
- d) Overgrown path on Church Lane. The Chair has spoken with Cllr. Connor regarding this, and he will take up with Nick Munns at FDC. He has also offered to speak with the resident on whose land the trees causing the problem are situated.

6. Administrative Matters:-

- a) Parish Council Policies. The Clerk reminded members that over the last year or so they have been updating and formally adopting the Councils policies and as these usually need reviewing on an annual basis, the Councils Financial Reserves and Financial Risk Assessment are due for review. Members agreed that the Financial Reserves Policy be re-adopted in its current format. The Clerk circulated a copy of the Councils reserve position as at 30th September 2025.
Members agreed that the Financial Risk Assessment be re-adopted with one minor alteration that the reference to NatWest Bank in section 5 be removed following the closure of the Councils accounts with the bank. The Clerk circulated a copy of the bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2025.

b) Burnthouse Community Fund. The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, on behalf of Burnthouse were offering Parish Councils the opportunity to partake in a scheme to agree small onward grants to organisations within their area. A sum of £3,000 would be available for these onward grants. Members agreed to enter into an agreement with Cambridge Community Foundation who would provide advertising literature, application forms and guidelines for making grants. Cllrs McNulty and Slade were nominated to vet and receive applications.

7. Police Matters:-

- a) No meetings between the Police and PC representatives have taken place.
- b) It was reported that 24 people had or were due to appear in court following the county wide investigation into incidents of hare coursing and violent disorder that took place in January.

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

No reports were available.

9. Highway Issues: -

- a) General maintenance.
 - i. Hedges and overhanging trees in Church Lane and Ingles Lane need cutting back
 - ii. The lavender bush overhanging High Street needs cutting back
 - iii. The entrance to Brickmakers Arms Lane is full of potholes with the road surface breaking up
 - iv. Cllr Jolley proposed, Cllr Fisher seconded and members agreed that the quotation of £800 (same as last year) from Jarad to cut back the grass along the circular walk be accepted.
 - v. Members declined a request from CCC to take part in a Community Gritting Scheme for the winter season 2025-26.
- b) MVAS system. Cllr Slade circulated the current statistics obtained from the MVAS units.
- c) 2026/27 LHI application. Members revisited the area of footpath to be submitted when the formal application forms are circulated in November. Members considered that as the whole length of Wood Street to Sutton Way needed resurfacing that the first phase should be from the junction of Wood Street / High Street to Knights Close. As this would be classified as a complex scheme, we would ask CCC to provide £25,000. Members also agreed to suggest providing a £25,000 reserve in the next financial years precept, earmarked towards this scheme.

10. Fens Reservoir Project: -

- a) The phase three public consultation has started and finishes on 10th December 2025. In addition, a number of community events are being planned to include one being held in Doddington Village Hall on 14th November 2025.

11. Planning: -

a) Revised proposal to a previous application:

- i. F/YR25/0551/RM Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping pursuant to planning permission F/YR23/0070/O (erect up to 5 dwellings including highway works at land east of The Hollies Hospital Road Doddington).

Members noted that additional highway plans had been drawn up on the instruction of the landowner and if these were acceptable to County Highways then any approval to this application should restate that clause 5 of the outline permission is implemented with the highway and track improvements being completed before the first occupation of the development.

ii. F/YR25/0560/F Change of use of existing stables for domestic use and erection of a detached building for dog grooming, training and agility services at Ivydene, Beezling Fen Drove, Chatteris.

Members supported the application but made a comment that should planning permission be granted that a condition be included that states that the building will not at any time be used as a residential dwelling.

b) New planning applications:

i. F/YR25/0663/F Erect a detached single-storey annexe in association with existing dwelling at 3 Woodside Close Doddington.

Members supported the above application.

ii. F/YR25/0691/F Erect 1 self-build/custom build dwelling with garage, an extension to existing shed/workshop, and 2.0m high security fence and gates in association with existing business, and the formation of an access at Elm Farm Hospital Road Doddington.

Members supported the above application.

iii. F/YR25/0703/F Erect a commercial building and a 2.0m high (max height) boundary fence with associated parking area involving demolition of existing building at land south of The Quadrant Primrose Hill Doddington

Members supported the application but made a comment that should planning permission be granted that a condition be included that states that the building will not at any time be used for domestic use.

iv. F/YR25/0710/TRCA Fell 1 x apple tree within a Conservation Area at 2 Ingles Lane Doddington.

Members supported the above 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. Arrangements for the next group meeting were being made and then FDC will be advised on the dates for the Open Consultation and Open Days.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground: -

a) The Clerk advised the meeting that works to various trees around the boundary of the recreation ground including additional works to remove trees overhanging a neighbouring property had been completed.

b) Provision of additional recreational equipment on site. Members were informed on the likely costs of installing a MUGA within the grounds and concluded that, due to cost implications, this option be deferred for the foreseeable future, and we press ahead with the installation of an aerial runway (zip wire) and climbing cone. Proposed by Cllr McNulty, seconded by Cllr Slade that the quotation provided by Online Playgrounds for the supply and installation of these two items of equipment at an overall cost of £22,826 plus vat be accepted. This was approved by the meeting.

c) Fire Risk Assessment on the Pavilion. The Clerk informed the meeting that six estimates had been obtained from Bridges Fire & Security to correct the deficiencies identified in their Assessment. It was proposed by Cllr Welcher, seconded by Cllr Jolley that five estimates be accepted at a total cost of £1,129.98 plus vat but that the final estimate for a total installation of a fire alarm system including an automatic link to the fire brigade at a cost of £3,635 plus vat be deferred pending comments being obtained from the Council's insurance company. This was approved by the meeting.

d) The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been approached by a member of a football club who may be interested in using the junior football pitch as a backup to their existing arrangements. An initial site meeting had taken place and he was currently awaiting feedback from the club committee on whether to pursue discussions.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

a) Members were advised that the repairs and extension to the water supply had been completed.

14. Street Lighting: -

No new issues reported.

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. The Clerk reported back on the revised prices now being offered by companies on the bulk purchase of public seats. The most competitive price, from the three companies reported at the last meeting, was from Plaswood Sales. Two styles of bench were offered; a fully moulded black bench at a unit price of £274.76 plus vat and a sloper black bench with arms at a unit price of £365.50 plus vat. These prices were after a 10% discount had been applied to the moulded bench and 20% discount applied to the sloper bench. Following a discussion over numbers required, Cllr Welcher proposed and Cllr Fisher seconded that we purchase 4 black moulded and 5 black sloper benches at the discounted prices offered by Plaswood Sales. This was approved by the meeting.

d) Meridian Markers. As the bases of the existing wooden meridian markers had rotted, the markers had now been safely stored away. It was unclear when and by whom the original markers were installed but members were now being asked if the Parish Council should investigate replacing them with more permanent markers and to look into what funding/grants may be available to finance them. Members agreed that it would be a great loss if they were not replaced as the idea of having meridian markers in the village was a unique situation. Further investigation work was therefore agreed.

16. Website and Communications: -

No updates reported.

17. Financial Items: -

a) 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 August 2025	346.11
Eon Next	Electricity Pavilion September 2025	36.22
S & S Groundworks	Repairs etc to water tap in cemetery	105.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary Oct 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 Sept 2025	150.00
J Weaver	Refreshments	50.00

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm