

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

1. Open Forum: - No members of the public were present but a representative from the March House children's home was due to be present but had sent her apologies. She had sent a summary of her presentation asking for ideas on how the home could provide supporting activities for the village. A number of suggestions were made by the Chair and members agreed to forward the Home's contact details to appropriate village organisations.

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

3. Declaration of Interests: - Cllr H Fisher declared an interest in a planning matter to be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2025: - Cllr Mason proposed and Cllr Slade seconded that the minutes be approved. These were agreed and were signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes: -

a) Community Living Room. Members were advised that during November, the weekly Friday sessions had accumulated in excess of 90 attendees. At one meeting, a local artist attended and encouraged the attendees to try their hand at painting. Members were informed that grants were available to supply air fryers and / or slow cookers to local residents. A Christmas lunch, for 40 people, is due to take place at The Three Tuns on 12th December 2025.

6. Administrative Matters:-

a) Parish Council Policies. Equity and Diversity Policy, Freedom of Information Policy, Dignity at Work Policy had been circulated for review. The Clerk suggested no alterations to the current wording of these policies was deemed necessary, but that in accordance with decisions made in previous meetings the next review would take place in two years time unless national or local circumstance dictate otherwise. Cllr Fisher proposed and Cllr Welcher seconded that the suggestions made be adopted. This was agreed by the members present.

b) The Chair reported that The Cambridgeshire Records Society had produced a 71 page booklet and a copy of the c1600 map of the Manor of Doddington that had been on display in March Museum. The booklet and map were available at a cost of £24 and members agreed to purchase a copy that would be stored in our archives.

7. Police Matters:-

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

b) The police were called to an incident involving a drunk who was exposing himself in public.

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

No specific matters had been received from FDC or CCC

9. Highway Issues: -

a) General maintenance.

- i. The overgrown footpath in Church Lane was again raised.
- ii. The surface of Wimblington Road at its junction with Brickmakers Arms Lane is breaking up.
- iii. After raining, water is lying in Benwick Road on the recently improved highway surface and not flowing into the gullies constructed under the improved footpath.
- iv. The surface of Benwick Road opposite the doctors surgery is breaking up.
- v. In the Pocket Park layby, the footpath around the layby is blocked by very overgrown vegetation.
- vi. There is a deep dip in the road surface of Primrose Hill in one of the gullies on the left-hand side when travelling towards Doddington.

b) MVAS system. Cllr Slade circulated the current statistics obtained from the MVAS units.

c) CCC's Delivery Transport Strategy. The Clerk updated members on a telephone conversation he had received from CCC Highways on the Doddington – March active travel and safety consultation. The various comments that the PC had made on the initial plans were restated and agreed by the CCC official. When asked when these improvements may be scheduled for implementation, the Clerk was advised that the intention was for the works to be included in the 2026/27 Capital Funded Highway Maintenance Scheme.

d) 2026/27 Capital Funded Highway Maintenance Scheme. Members were advised that an application to improve the footway condition on Wood Street from its junction with High Street to its junction with Juniper Close had been submitted to CCC. The Clerk advised members that applications for the 2026/27 LHI funding round opened yesterday and would close on 16th January 2026.

e) 20mph speed limitation applications. Members were advised that 2026/27 applications to impose 20mph limits would open in January 2026 and that all unsuccessful applications from the 2025/26 programme would automatically be included in that programme. Members considered whether they should extend their unsuccessful application that consisted of nominating specific roads to a full village application. Members agreed to retain their original specific road application and reinforce it with possible additional arguments.

f) The Clerk reported that notifications had been received on a number of road closures:

- i. Forty Foot Bank. Closure for one day on 10th December.
- ii. Manor Estate (inc Childs Lane). Closure during 18th/19th December.
- iii. Parsons Land Drove. Anticipated closure from 19th January to 31st March.
- iv. Dykemoor Dive. Anticipated closure from 12th January to 6th February.

g) A suggested name for the new road serving the development at 3 Wimblington Road had been received from FDC called Farm View. Members considered that a more appropriate name could be either Woods View, Glebe View or Coney View.

10. Fens Reservoir Project: -

a) The Clerk reported that as the closing date for receiving any comments on the phase three consultation exercise expires today he had received confirmation that we can submit our comments late. The Chair and Clerk would prepare and submit the Council's comments taking into account the observations that members had made.

11. Planning: -

a) Revised proposal to an existing application.

i) F/YR25/0551/RM Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping (1 x plot only) pursuant to planning permission F/YR23/0070/O (Erect up to 5 x dwellings including highway works (outline application with all matters reserved) including demolition of stables and hay store) at Land East of The Hollies Hospital Road Doddington.

Members noted that the object of the revision was to remove any likely responsibility on any prospective purchaser of plot 9 to contribute towards the road improvements of Hospital Road and/or the access track to that plot. However, members reiterated that no development should take place on that plot until Hospital Road and the access track was improved to CCC Highway standards.

ii) F/YR25/0598/RM Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (plot 7 only) pursuant to outline permission F/YR23/0070/O (Erect up to 5 x dwellings including highway works (outline application with all matters reserved) including demolition of stables and hay store) at Land East of The Hollies Hospital Road Doddington.

Members noted that the object of the revision was to remove any likely responsibility on any prospective purchaser of plot 7 to contribute towards the road improvements of Hospital Road and/or the access track to that plot.

However, members reiterated that no development should take place on that plot until Hospital Road and the access track was improved to CCC Highway standards.

b) New planning applications.

i) F/YR25/0856/VOC Variation of condition 7 (archaeology) of planning appeal APP/D0515/W/23/3318467 relating to planning application F/YR21/1072/FDL (Erect 47 x dwellings with associated garages, parking, landscaping and infrastructure. Creation of vehicular access from Bevills Close and creation of cycle/footpath/emergency link from Bevills Close. Provision of open space, LEAP and attenuation basin. Demolition of dwelling and garage at number 44 Bevills Close and erection of replacement dwelling. Demolition of existing agricultural building) – to enable commencement of the access at Land East of Bevills Close and North of Eastmoor Lane Doddington.

The Parish Council objects to the suggestion that permission should be granted to construct an access road into the main site without clause 7 of the appeal conditions being fully completed. The site is in close proximity to a number of potential historic sites such as the bishops palace and if these are shown to be within the site then their protection is of the utmost importance.

ii) F/YR25/0860/F Erect 1 x self-build/custom build dwelling at Land East of 26 Turf Fen Lane Doddington.

The Parish Council had raised objections to an earlier application on this site which was refused planning permission, and which was upheld on appeal.

The Parish Council objects to the current application on the grounds that it is still back land infill development that will have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding countryside and farmland contrary to policy LP12.

iii) F/YR25/0866/TRCA Works to a Conifer hedge and 1 x Willow tree within a conservation area at 1 Hermitage Gardens Doddington.

The Parish Council supported this application.

iv) F/YR25/0869/F Erect a 2 storey side extension to existing dwelling (garage with living accommodation above) at 25A Newgate Street Doddington.

The Parish Council supported this application.

v) F/YR25/0924/F Erect 1 x self build/custom dwelling at plot 3 land South East of Norbrown Hospital Road Doddington

Members noted that CCC Highways have raised an objection to this application on the grounds that insufficient details have been provided covering matters of access and associated items. The Parish Council objects to the application by adding its supports to the matters raised by CCC Highways.

vi) F/YR25/0922/F Erect a garage extension to existing workshop, involving re-cladding the exterior and insertion of a roller door at Haulage Yard 19 Primrose Hill Doddington.

The Parish Council supported this application.

c) Other planning matters:

i. Members noted that appeals had been made to the Secretary of State against FDC's refusal to grant planning permission on the following applications:

a) F/YR25/0223/F Land South of 28-29 Juniper Close

b) F/YR25/0424/F Land south of The Quadrant Primrose Hill

ii. Members noted the latest copy of the Planning Monitoring Spreadsheet

iii. FDC Local Plan. No further information has been circulated.

iv. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. Members were informed that a meeting of the Group was scheduled to take place on 6th January 2026 to include a representative from FDC Planning.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground: -

a) Members agreed to shelve the idea of creating a den within the tree line for the foreseeable future.

b) Any improvements that could be incorporated into the overall facilities would be restricted to the land upon which the third football pitch stands. The existing junior football pitch and the main adult pitch that runs parallel to the car park would remain available for formal team use.

Cllr Slade presented his report to redevelop the third pitch area into a series of themes including an active play zone, a dedicated community hub area that provides seating and picnic spots, and a natural discovery zone to celebrate biodiversity. Members supported the ideas and concepts. The Clerk was instructed to liaise with the company who will be providing the zip wire and conical climbing frame to turn the positioning of these items 90 degrees from its initial suggested site. In addition, it was agreed to advertise "drop in" sessions to seek public opinion on the future developments including opening the pavilion for residents to see the refurbishments and how it can be used for community use. Members also agreed to provide initial financial resources towards the developments when the precept was considered at the January meeting.

c) A request had been received from a resident in Holly Drive for the hedging along the boundary to be cut back. An estimate from JC Gardens & Landscaping in the sum of £180, which is the same price as he charged for doing the work last year, was accepted.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

Four replacement hedging bushes are required to replace those that had died. The Chair agreed to approach the garden centre that had provided the initial supply.

14. Street Lighting: -

No issues were raised.

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 swap). Arrangements for its installation need to be finalised.

c) Replacement public seats throughout the village. The Clerk informed members that he and Jared from JC Gardens & Landscaping had visited all the sites in order for him to provide a quotation to remove and refix the new seats. During the visit there was at least one existing concrete slab that would need replacing as it was badly cracked. This would be in addition to the five new slabs that had been identified. As a few of the existing seats were cemented into the existing slabs, rather than being bolted on, it was possible that these slabs could be badly damaged during the seats removal and would need to be replaced. Members noted the position.

d) Meridian Markers. A decision was deferred until the next meeting.

16. Website and Communications: -

No updates reported.

17. Financial Items: -

a) 20206/27 Precept. The Clerk reminded members that, at next month's meeting, the precept decision for 2026/27 needed to be finalised and that he had asked for suggestions for possible capital projects that could be considered. Members agreed that £5,000 could be provided as our contribution to the Wood Street LHI application. In addition, accruals could be made for the Abbey Park development as outlined in item 12b above, possibly including a small MUGA and extending the car park.

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 November 2025	490.34
Eon Next	Electricity Pavilion November 2025	34.72
Anglian Water Business	Water supply, cemetery Sept – Nov 25	23.43
B Jupp Horticultural	Additional Tree works Abbey Rec	360.00
J O Cutteridge	Grass verges cuts April-Nov 25 (8 cuts)	7,488.00
D & M Pest Control	Pest control – Bier House	80.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses Dec 2025	1,081.90
HMRC	Income Tax on Clerks salary	246.48

Payments made from the Community Living Room Grant

St Mary's Church	Room Hire Nov 2025	150.00
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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm