

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs H Fisher, R Hopkins, J Jolley, R Mason, I McNulty, D Slade and Cllr M Fisher (CCC Representative). The Clerk, Roger Wilkin was present.

1. Open Forum: -

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), J Shepherd, J Welcher, Cllrs M Davis (FDC representative) and D Connor (FDC Representative). In the absence of the Chair, Cllr H Fisher (Vice-Chair) took the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interests: - Cllr Mason declared an interest in a planning application that was to be heard later in the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 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. The facility was closed over the Christmas and New Year period but attendances remained at high numbers. Arrangements are being made for the local artist to revisit and provided painting classes to take place.

6. Administrative Matters:-

a) Parish Council Policies. Privacy Policy, Media Policy, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy had been circulated for review. The Clerk suggested that 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 year's time unless national or local circumstance dictate otherwise. Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr Slade seconded that the suggestions made be adopted. This was agreed by the members present.

7. Police Matters:-

a) No meetings between the Police and PC representatives have taken place.
b) The police, during patrols in the village, seized a number of uninsured vehicles. There were also reports of poaching taking place in the Dykemore area and motor bikes and motorised scooters being used in an anti-social way.

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

No specific matters had been received from FDC. Cllr M Fisher from CCC advised that he was pressing the Highways Dept over making urgent repairs to various road in the area including Floods Ferry that was now scheduled for repairs by the end of April 2026.

9. Highway Issues: -

a) General maintenance.
i. A number of street lights are being obscured by conifer tree growth.
b) MVAS system. Cllr Slade circulated the current statistics obtained from the MVAS units.

10. Fens Reservoir Project: -

a) The Clerk reported suggestions have been made to the Reservoir Team that the surrounding villages should receive financial benefits to compensate for the disruption that they are likely to incur from the construction of the reservoir.

11. Planning: -

a) Applications dealt with on a “round robin” basis due to time constraints imposed by FDC:

- i. F/YR25/0726/PIP PIP for 2 dwellings land south of 29 Primrose Hill
 - ii. F/YR25/0729/PIP PIP for 4 dwellings land north of 10 Primrose Hill
 - iii F/YR25/0730/PIP PIP for 2 dwellings land north of The Quadrant
 - iv F/YR25/0937/PIP PIP for 2 dwellings land south of 20D Primrose Hill
 - v. F/YR25/0949/TRTPO Works to 2 oak trees with a TPO at 4 The Oaks
- Applications i, ii, iii are revised proposals to previous applications where the description of the building adjoining the main dwelling had been changed from Workplace Unit to Residential Annex. Objections were made by the Parish Council on the original applications and those objections were reinforced and sent to FDC.

Application iv was a new application. Objections raised on the above PIP applications were put forward as an objection on this application.

Application v was a new application, and a letter of support was submitted to FDC.

b) New planning applications.

i) F/YR25/0974/O Erect up to 3 dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) including demolition of existing buildings at 28 Newgate Street Doddington.

Cllr Mason declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote.

Members objected to the application on the grounds that it was back fill development that would have an impact on the residents in numbers 1 and 3 Cooks Green. In addition, as the existing property is in the village conservation area and is an example of a traditional village cottage, its demolition and replacement with a modern dwelling would significantly alter the current street scene.

ii) F/YR26/0001/F Erect a 2 storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing conservatory and extension, and removal of existing shed at 19 Brickmakers Arms Lane Doddington.

Members supported the application.

iii) F/YR26/0008/O Erect up to 37 dwellings, the formation of a vehicular access and associated works including necessary sustainable drainage and open space (outline application with all matters reserved) at land south of 1-13 and 16-28 Wimblington Road Doddington.

Members objected to the current outline planning application on the grounds that a development of 37 dwellings will add significant additional pressure on the already overstretched infrastructure within the village. The Parish Council noted that the current application includes an element of affordable housing in addition to the indicative housing mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units. Whilst it acknowledges that affordable housing and a housing mix consisting of smaller bedroom units could be welcome, it feels that the overall development should be restricted to no more than 20 units.

The County Council Archaeological Officer has made reference to a number of very significant points over the archaeological potential of the site including the need to safeguard and preserve any possible archaeological asset. If the current application is withdrawn or refused, then the Parish Council would like to see that the full archaeological work is undertaken before any resubmitted planning application is made which shows all assets that should be preserved in relation to any development.

c) Other planning matters:

- i. Members noted the latest copy of the Planning Monitoring Spreadsheet
- ii. FDC Local Plan. FDC, at its Full Council meeting on 15th December 2025, agreed to withdraw the emerging Fenland Local Plan due to changes on how Local Plans must now be prepared. Rather than continue with a plan that would require substantial revision, the Council decided to begin preparing a new Local Plan, known as Fenland 50, under the reformed planning system.
- iii. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. The DNPG were proposing a public consultation period from 2nd February to 16th March 2026 to include 2 open events during February.
- iv. Manea PC were seeking support from a number of Parish Council's on whether a joint effort should be made to FDC that they review their procedures in line with other District Councils in Cambridgeshire over the distribution of section 106 and CIL monies to Parish Councils. Members supported the idea.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground: -

- a) The Clerk reported that the installation of the zip wire and conical climbing frame commenced on the 7th January and, subject to weather conditions, would take 7 to 9 working days to complete.
- b) The Clerk reported that the agreed Fire Safety works within the Pavilion were scheduled to take place on 15th January 2026

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

No issues were raised.

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 swop). Arrangements for its installation need to be finalised.
- c) Replacement public seats throughout the village. The Clerk informed members that delivery of the 9 new public seats was scheduled for the first week of February and that he was seeking quotations for their installation.
- d) Meridian Markers. A decision was deferred until the next meeting.
- e) Members were asked to consider if the future maintenance of the rose garden in the Church grounds should be taken over by the Parish Council. Members noted that some bushes needed replacing and agreed to defer a decision until the growing season in March.

16. Website and Communications: -

No updates reported.

17. Financial Items: -

a) 20206/27 Precept. Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated a detailed briefing note on the estimated position for the financial year 2025/2026 and a draft budget for 2026/2027. A full discussion took place on the draft budget on whether no increase should be made to the precept or whether a small increase was in order. It was proposed by Cllr Slade, seconded by Cllr Hopkins and agreed by members that the precept for 2026/2027 should be increased by £3,000 to £68,000. Within the briefing note, the Clerk suggested that three earmarked reserves, the balance of the renamed general projects, the balance from the unspent budget on the outside gym and installation of the zip wire and conical climber which in total amount to £22,097 be renamed Abbey Rec phased improvements. Members agreed with this suggestion.

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 December 2025	616.60
Eon Next	Electricity Pavilion December 2025	38.68
J C Gardens & Landscaping	Wood St to Cedar Ave & Holley Drive	260.00
Fenland Leisure Ltd	Zip wire & conical climber 25% deposit	6,847.80
Plaswood (British Polythene)	New public seats	3,490.00
St Marys Church	Annual Grant	2,000.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses Jan 2026	1,011.92
HMRC	Income Tax on Clerks salary	246.48

Payments made during the month for goods/services previously authorised

March Museum	Booklet & map Doddington c1600	48.00
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Payments made from the Community Living Room Grant

St Mary's Church	Room Hire Dec 2025	120.00
J Holding	Refreshments	50.00
J Wheeler	Refreshments	93.00
The Three Tuns	Balance – Christmas Lunch	479.00

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm