

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, R Hopkins, J Jolley, R Mason, and J Shepherd. Cllr M Fisher (CCC Representative) was present from 7.30pm until the start of Planning. The Clerk, Roger Wilkin was present.

1. Open Forum: - Robert Windell from Radio Fenland, which commenced operation in Whittlesey in May 2025, informed the meeting how the service was expanding. Sarah Hall from Support Cambridgeshire shared the findings of the Love It, Hate It questionnaire that had been completed by residents.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs I McNulty, D Slade, J Welcher, Cllrs M Davis (FDC representative) and D Connor (FDC Representative).

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

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2026: - Cllr Mason proposed and Cllr Hopkins seconded that the minutes be approved. These were agreed and were signed by Cllr Hilton who had Chaired that month's meeting.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes: -

a) Community Living Room. Attendances remained at high numbers. A local artist was continuing to provide painting classes.

6. Administrative Matters:-

a) Parish Council Policies. A new IT, Email and Internet Policy had been circulated for review. This policy is being introduced in order to comply with the additional Assertion 10 Digital and Data Compliance on the 2025/26 AGAR Final Account requirements. Two of the existing policies currently on the Parish Council webpage: Data Protection Policy and Information Technology Email and Internet Policy will be removed as their content is included in the enhanced new policy. Cllr Mason proposed and Cllr Hopkins seconded that the new policy be adopted and the necessary changes be made to the website. This was agreed by the members present.

b) Local Government Reorganisation. A statutory consultation, seeking views on the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, has been launched by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Four proposals have been received by MHCLG from the affected councils and an online survey is available to record public vote. As the consultation ends on 26th March 2026, the Chair proposed that the Parish Council considers making a formal response at the next meeting.

7. Police Matters:-

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

b) The police reported on the latest people to be banned from entering private or agricultural land across England and Wales after pleading guilty to attending a hare coursing event in January last year.

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 still pressing the Highways Dept over making urgent repairs to various roads in the area. He also provided information on a workshop being held at March Library on 27th March called “Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up”. Details of the workshop will be circulated to members including access to a webinar for those unable to attend.

9. Highway Issues: -

a) General maintenance.

- i. Benwick Road, from Hermitage Gardens to the Recreation Ground has a significant number of dangerous potholes.
- ii. The dangerous subsidence along Primrose Hill is still outstanding.
- iii. One of the legs on the white gate marking the boundary between Doddington and Wimblington had been damaged.

b) MVAS system. No reports this month as Cllr Slade was working overseas.

c) Members consider a proposal to lower the speed limit to 30mph in Hospital Road from its junction with Benwick Road northwards to cover the frontage development on that road, and also to lower the existing 40mph speed limit to 30mph on a short length of Benwick Road west of Hospital Road. Members supported the proposal.

d) New Street Naming. Members supported the suggested name for a new road on the former site of 32 Wimblington Road of Conifer Close.

10. Fens Reservoir Project: -

a) The Clerk reported that the next stage of the Fens Reservoir project which was for “a gate three submission scheduled for April 30” had been delayed as questions remain over how the reservoir will be filled with water. The decision to move back the gate three submission would not have any affect on when the reservoir is expected to come into use.

b) The Chair reported that she and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Anglian Water over the loss of the Chatteris Airfield. Investigations were in hand to see if the skydiving facility can be relocated.

11. Planning: -

a) Update on previous applications:

- i) F/YR25/0856/VOC Land east of Bevills Close and north of Eastmoor Lane. Members had previously objected to this variation to allow for the construction of an access point to the north of the development without condition 7 (a full archaeological survey being undertaken) of the planning permission being fulfilled. A Justification Statement together with a notification comment being added to the approved plans, indicates that the amendment relates solely to the removal of existing properties outside of the main development. CCC Archaeology have confirmed that they are no longer raising an objection and members agreed to follow suit.

b) New planning applications.

- i) F/YR26/0081/F Erect 2 x self-build/custom build dwellings including the formation of 2 accesses at land South of Site of Former Swan Cottage Benwick Road accessed from Dykemoor Drove Doddington. Cllr Jolley declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote. Members objected to the application on the grounds that the proposed development was a significant distance from the developed boundary of Doddington. The area is open countryside where any proposed development needs to be fully justified by special circumstance. None have been provided and it therefore conflicted with FDC Policy LP3.

In addition, there is conflict with policy LP12 as the development would have an adverse impact on the character of the surrounding countryside.

c) Other planning matters:

- i. Appeal. F/YR25/0129/O Erect up to 37 dwellings, formation of a vehicular access and associated works including necessary sustainable drainage and open space (outline application with all matters reserved) land west of Hermitage Gardens accessed from Benwick Road Doddington. The appeal will be determined on the basis of written representations.
- ii. Members noted the latest copy of the Planning Monitoring Spreadsheet
- iii. FDC Local Plan known as Fenland 50. FDC has announced that it wishes to involve Town and Parish Councils in publishing consultations and receiving general thoughts on areas the Local Plan should focus on.
- iv. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. The DNPG are proposing a public consultation period from 2nd February to 16th March 2026 to include 2 open events during late February.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground: -

- a) The Clerk reported that the installation of the zip wire and conical climbing frame has been completed and while there were a few teething issues these were quickly resolved by the equipment suppliers.
- b) A Compliance Inspection Report has taken place on the skate park plus other parish owned equipment within the recreation ground. No problems were reported.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

A portion of wooden fence on the front boundary of the cemetery has been damaged by a motor vehicle and steps are being taken to identify the vehicle involved.

14. Street Lighting: -

A streetlight in the layby on Primrose Hill is being obscured by trees.

15. Village Maintenance: -

- a) New bus shelter in Benwick Road. The location of the bus shelter has been agreed in principle.
- b) Telephone Box (book swop). A delivery date for the installation needs to be finalised.
- c) Replacement public seats throughout the village. The Clerk informed members that quotations for the installation of the 9 new seats had been sent out to three individuals. One quotation had been received but no response had been received from the other two. In the circumstances, the quotation from JC Gardens and Landscapes in the sum of £3,100 was accepted. Proposed by Cllr Fisher and seconded by Cllrs Mason and Hopkins.
- d) Meridian Markers. It was agreed to delay any further discussion over the markers for the time being.
- e) Rose bushes around the War Memorial. Cllr Fisher agreed to liaise with the volunteers who work in the churchyard with the view to drawing up a timetable of works, so that maintenance could be properly assessed. In the meantime, FDC were to be approached over contributing to the cost of replacing the dead bushes.

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 January 2026	529.45
Eon Next	Electricity Pavilion January 2026	39.01
Bridges Fire & Security	Fire Safety improvements to the Pavilion	1,592.74
Fenland Leisure Ltd	Zip wire & conical climber – balance due	20,543.40
ADC (East Anglia) Ltd	Clearing blocked drain, Pavilion car park	330.00
R Hufton	St Marys Church – brown bin charge	49.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary + expenses Feb 2026	1,021.52
HMRC	Income Tax on Clerks salary	246.48

Payments made from the Community Living Room Grant

St Mary's Church	Room Hire Dec 2025	90.00
Andrew Dockerill	Artist fee	60.00

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm