

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, R Hopkins, J Jolley, R Mason and J Shepherd. Cllrs M Davis (FDC representative), M Fisher (CCC Representative) and the Clerk, Roger Wilkin were present as was Abbey Barnes, who will be taking up the role of Clerk next month.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:- It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Shepherd that Cllr Hufton be elected as Chair and Cllr Fisher be elected as Vice-Chair for a further year. This was unanimously approved by the members present; Declarations of Acceptance of Office were duly signed.

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

3. Open Forum: - No resident was present.

4. Election of Committees and Prime responsibilities:

- **Planning:** Cllrs Fisher, Hopkins, Jolley, McNulty & Shepherd
- **Street Lighting:** Cllrs McNulty & Slade
- **Abbey Recreation Field & Pavilion:** Cllrs Fisher, Hufton, & Mason
- **Skate Park & Outside Gym:** Cllrs McNulty & Shepherd
- **Village Maintenance:** Cllrs Fisher, Hufton & Mason
- **Benwick Road Cemetery:** Cllrs Fisher, Hufton, Mason & Welcher
- **Public Noticeboards:** Cllr Hopkins
- **Flag:** Cllr Welcher
- **Village Clock:** Cllrs McNulty & Shepherd
- **Website & Facebook Page:** Cllr Hopkins & the Clerk
- **MVAS Systems:** Cllrs McNulty & Slade
- **Defibrillators:** Cllr Slade
- **Risk Assessment:** All members

5. Election of representatives on other bodies: -

- **Burnthouse Wind Farm Fund:** Cllr Hufton
- **Ransonmoor Wind Farm Fund:** Cllr Hopkins
- **Eleemosynary Charity of Nicholas Spencer:** Cllrs Hufton & Welcher
- **Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group:** Cllrs Fisher, Hopkins & Hufton
- **Fens Reservoir Liaison Group:** Cllrs Hufton, Mason & Shepherd
- **Community Living Room Group:** Cllr Fisher

6. Declaration of Interests: - Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in planning item 14a)iii. Cllr Mason declared an interest in planning item 14a)ii.

7. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2026: - Cllr Mason proposed and Cllr Hopkins seconded that the minutes be approved. These were agreed and were signed by the Chair.

8. Matters arising from previous minutes: -

a) Community Living Room. Attendances remained at high numbers and funding has been secured to install Wi-Fi in the church rooms.

- b) The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation / Burnt House Wind Farm Grants. The Clerk reported that a further 3 applications had been referred to Cllrs McNulty and Slade for vetting which they subsequently approved. Members agreed funding totalling £1,250 to the three organisations. This, together with the funding agreed at the April 2026 meeting, resulted in the initial £3,000 received from CCF being totally allocated.
- c) “Nature Recovery – From the ground up”. The Chair reported that she and the Clerk were attending an on-line meeting on 15th April followed by a face-to-face meeting on May 18th.

9. Administrative Matters:-

- a) Appointment of new Clerk to the Parish Council. Abbey Barnes was formally introduced to the members. She would be starting work as Clerk for Doddington PC next month.

10. Police Matters:-

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

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

- a) Pride in Fenland Awards 2026. This year, no specific categories are being set for nominations and the scheme is open to all. A number of names were suggested by members which the Chair agreed to submit.

12. Highway Issues: -

- a) General maintenance.
- i. The footpath in Church Lane is again badly overgrown from the adjoining trees and shrubs.
 - ii. The condition of Cooks Green following its resurfacing has been taken up with CCC.
- b) MVAS system. A new exhibit showing a summary of the three MVAS downloads was very well received by the members.
- c) Local Highway Improvement Schemes.
- i. 2025/26. The Clerk reported that the white line repainting of 4 junctions in the village should be undertaken by September.
 - ii. 2026/27. Wood Street footway resurfacing. Ongoing scoring taking place.

13. Fens Reservoir Project: -

No further updates had been received.

14. Planning: -

- a) New planning applications:
- i. F/YR26/0318/F Alterations to existing dwelling which include: erect a single-storey rear extension involving demolition of existing extension, erect a first-floor side extension; replace and raise roof height, replace doors and windows, and render to all elevations of existing dwelling at 22 Wimblington Road Doddington.
Members supported the application.
 - ii. F/YR26/0320/O Erect 1 x dwelling and the demolition of existing buildings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at 28 Newgate Street Doddington.
Members supported the application with the condition that the cottage remains as is.
 - iii. F/YR26/0325/F Erect 1 x self-build/custom build dwelling and front boundary fence 1.2m high (max) in association with existing business on land North of Dykemoor Drove Doddington.
Members supported the application.

b) Appeal: Members noted that the appeal against FDC's refusal to grant retrospective planning permission on application F/YR25/0537/F Erect a hay store, stable and fencing on land south of Swan Cottage Benwick Road accessed from Dykemoor Drove had been dismissed.

c) Other Planning Matters:

- i. Planning Monitoring Report. Members noted the current report.
- ii. FDC Local Plan known as Fenland 50. Following the Governments new Local Plan rules, Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2026, FDC have updated their Local Plan Timetable and are seeking potential development sites for consideration.
- iii. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan. Additional reports have been published on the Parish Council website.

15. Abbey Recreation Ground: -

- a) Communal walkway. Following last months presentation of possible works to create a communal walkway through the tree boundary, an estimate of £1,500 plus vat was submitted by Kings Farming Ltd. It was proposed by Cllr Shepherd, seconded by Cllr Mason and approved by the members present to accept the quotation.
- b) Following representation from the owner of 19 Beech Avenue who was requesting the trees abutting their property from the Recreation Ground to be cut back far enough to prevent squirrels jumping onto their property roof fascia and causing damage within their loft. During a visit to the property, pest control operatives confirmed the damage being caused. A quotation from B Jupp Horticultural Contractors in the sum of £450 plus vat was presented. Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded that the quotation be accepted. This was agreed by the members.

16. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

- a) The Chair reported that arrangements for the supply of two brown bins had been agreed with FDC for the collection of green waste.

17. Street Lighting: -

Nothing further to report

18. Village Maintenance: -

- a) New bus shelter in Benwick Road. The Chair reported that she was chasing for GLP Installations to commence and work on its installation.
- b) Telephone Box (book swop). Following a meeting with CCC Highways, agreement was given to site the telephone box a few metres to the left of the brick-built bus shelter on the High Street.
- c) Members agreed to purchase additional fixing brackets to the new public seats at a cost of £20 per set.

19. Website and Communications: -

No updates reported.

20. Financial Items: -

- a) The Clerk had circulated to all members a copy of the Parish Councils Asset Register showing the position as at 31st March 2026.
- b) The Clerk advised members that the Councils Insurance Policy was due for renewal on 1st June 2026 but that it had been a number of years since the building values had been reviewed for insurance purposes. Members agreed to renew the current policy and seek appropriate revaluations of our assets.

c) The Clerk circulated a copy of the Councils Bank Reconciliation as at 30th April 2026 which was certified by the Chair and one additional councillor.

d) Year-end Accounts 2025-2026.

i. The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Internal Auditors Report to all members and advised them that there were a few changes in administrative procedures that would be introduced. In addition, some changes were needed in the wording of the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders which would be considered at a later meeting. Members noted the Internal Audit Report and the actions proposed by the Clerk. In addition, they confirmed their agreement to appoint Legra Internal Audit Service as their internal auditor for the current financial year at a cost of £325 plus travel expenses.

ii. Certification of AGAR Annual Governance Statement 2025/26. The Clerk read out each of the 10 financial statements and in each case members agreed that that control was in existence and being observed. That document was then certified by the Chair and Clerk.

iii. Certification of AGAR Annual Accounting Statement 2025/26. The Clerk reported that the financial data included within the Statement had been copied from the draft financial accounts circulated and agreed by members at the last meeting. The statement was approved and signed by the Chair.

iv. Notice of Public Rights of Inspection. The period for the exercise of public rights had been fixed as running from 3rd June 2026 to 14th July 2026 inclusive.

e) 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 April 2026	357.50
Npower Business Solutions	Clock Tower 01.04.25 to 31.03.26	19.08
Eon Next	Electricity Pavilion April 2026	35.32
Clear Councils Insurance	Insurance Policy due 01.06.26	4,626.36
Narkedesign	Web Site hosting inc email	225.00
Legra Internal Audit Service	Internal Audit Fee & travel costs	344.00
Recreation 7 Sports Comttee	Recycling credit received from FDC	117.36
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary May 2026	1,043.54
HMRC	Income Tax on Clerks salary	254.20

Payments made during the month for goods/services previously authorised:

Methodist Church Rooms	Hire for Annual Assembly	30.00
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Payments made from the Community Living Room Grant:

St Mary's Church	Room Hire April 2026	120.00
J Wheeler	CLR Refreshments	100.00
J Holding	CLR Refreshments	100.00
Doddington Diary	12 months advert for CLR	120.00

Payments made from CCF/BurntHouse Windfarm (Community Grant)

3 additional grants approved and paid	(see item 8b above)	1,250.00
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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm