

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs R Mason, I McNulty, and D Slade. 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 later this month.

1. Open Forum: - No resident was present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllrs H Fisher, R Hopkins, J Jolley, J Shepherd, J Welcher and D Connor (FDC Representative).

3. Resignation of Cllr John Welcher:- The Chair reported that she had received the resignation of Cllr Welcher from the Parish Council on health grounds. The Chair paid tribute to his 40 plus years service to the parish council and the community and wished John and his wife a quieter life.

Arrangements will shortly be made to commence the procedure to fill the vacancy.

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

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2026: - Cllr Mason proposed and Cllr McNulty seconded that the minutes be approved. These were agreed and were signed by the Chair.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes: -

- a) Community Living Room. Attendances remained at high numbers.
- b) The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation / Burnt House Wind Farm Grants. The Chair reported that despite representations being made to CCF, funding allocation would only take place once a year and any local applications for funding would have to wait until the Parish Council received further funds.
- c) “Nature Recovery – From the ground up”. The Chair reported that CCC were supporting the creation of a Community Nature Recovery Plan that should be a locally led plan shaped by the people who live in the parish. Arrangements are being made to gauge the local response through an editorial in The Diary.
- d) Rose trees around the War Memorial in the churchyard. FDC, who are responsible for maintaining the church have announced that they will not undertake any routine watering of the plants. Any watering by volunteers or the Parish Council would be made much easier if the external water tap was changed to allow a hose pipe to be attached. The matter is to be raised with the Church.

7. Administrative Matters:-

- a) Policy Reviews. The Clerk reported that following the recent Internal Audit, the current Standing Order 5J needed review to reflect current practise and Financial Regulations required updating to accommodate the Procurement Act changes. In addition, he recommended amending wordings in the Financial Regulations to take account of the split duties that would be undertaken by the Clerk and RFO. Draft wordings on both Policies had been circulated to the Councillors. Cllr Mason proposed and Cllr Slade seconded that the revised wording of Standing Orders be adopted; Cllr Slade proposed and Cllr McNulty seconded that the revised wording of the Financial Regulations be adopted. All members present concurred with the proposals.

8. Police Matters:-

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

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

- a) Cllr Davis indicated that FDC were hopeful that the issue of the new food waste bins could take place in September 2026. In addition, FDC were expecting a decision, by the end of July 2026, on which Local Government Reorganisation option the Government were favouring.

10. 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 needs to be taken up with CCC.
 - iii. The recent highway work in Hospital Road has left a drop where the new surface meets the original.
- b) Members considered whether the existing 40mph stretch of Wimblington Road should be reduced to 30mph even if it could possibly result in coalescence eventually taking place between Doddington and Wimblington. The Chair and Clerk of Wimblington PC were of the opinion that road safety should prevail. Both villages experience speeding in their respective 30mph lengths of road due to motorists speeding up through the short 40mph length. Results were being recorded on each villages respective MVAS units. It was agreed to jointly join with Wimblington in presenting a case for this stretch of road to be reduced to 30mph.
- b) MVAS system. It was agreed that the MVAS unit on Benwick Road be moved from its present location closer to the Recreation Ground.

11. Fens Reservoir Project: -

The Fens Reservoir Team have prepared a summary of the comments received during the phase three consultation which is available on their website.

12. Planning: -

- a) New planning applications:
 - i. F/YR25/0937/PIP Permission in principle for 2 x self-build/custom build dwellings at land south of Woodlands 20D Primrose Hill Doddington. A revised proposal had been lodged changing the original description from “2 x selfbuild/custom dwellings” to “2 x dwellings”. There was no indication within the FDC Planning Portal to support this change in description and as the Parish Council had objected to the original application, the Clerk had reaffirmed the Councils initial objection. Members agreed with the action taken by the Clerk.
 - ii. F/YR26/0345/PIP Permission in principle to erect 3 x dwellings at land north of Norbrown Hospital Road Doddington. Members noted that FDC had declined to determine the application.
 - iii. F/YR26/0372/F Change of use from agricultural to Class F (for use as non-residential education) and the siting of a log-cabin (to be used as an office/wet weather classroom) at land south west of Washbrook Farm Berwick Road Doddington. Members supported the application.

iv. F/YR26/0401/VOC Variation of condition 20 (list of approved drawings) of planning permission F/YR23/0914/F (Erect 9 dwellings (6 x single storey 3-bed, 2 x 3 storey 5-bed and 1 x storey 4-bed) involving the formation of a new access and demolition of existing outbuildings, and alterations to 3 Wimblington Road including single storey extensions to south and west elevations, extension to roof to create a first floor and erect a garage – unit 1 (3 Wimblington Road) extension changes, Units 2-9 house design alterations, and the addition of bollard lighting and garden offices at land north of 3 Wimblington Road Doddington.

Members supported the variation.

v. F/YR26/0415/F Erect a single storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling involving the infill of existing porch to front elevation at 9 Cooks Green Doddington.

Members were advised that this application had been withdrawn.

b) Appeal: Members noted that the result of two appeals against FDC's refusal to grant planning permission had been received as follows:

F/YR25/0129/O Construction of up to 37 dwellings on land west of Hermitage Gardens accessed from Benwick Road Doddington.

F/YR25/0223/F Erection of 9 bungalows with associated works on land south of Juniper Close Doddington.

In both cases the appeals were dismissed.

c) Other Planning Matters:

i. Planning Monitoring Report. Members noted the current report.

ii. FDC Local Plan known as Fenland 50. The initial scoping consultation which ran from 28th Jan to 23rd March has been relaunched from 29th May to 29th June. It is about setting the direction of the plan and covers identifying key priorities for Fenlands future, understanding what matters most to local people, and shapes how the Council works with communities.

iii. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan. Further meetings are planned to finalise the Plan.

13. Abbey Recreation Ground: -

a) Communal walkway. Work has started on the clearance of undergrowth to create a communal walkway through the tree boundary. A number of photographs had been taken of the work which were circulated around the members.

b) A number of enquiries had been received to hire either the grounds or the Club House:

Benwick Athletic Football Club wish to restart using one of the football pitches, A registered veterinary nurse and dog trainer wishes to start some dog socialisation classes with basic control work,

A resident wishes to start a supervised children's play group using the equipment currently sited within the grounds.

Members confirmed their agreement to these activities taking place and the RFO and Chair would negotiate terms.

c) Members agreed to purchase a first aid box to be located within the Club House.

d) Consultation for Pride in Place Funding. Following on from the announcement made at last month's meeting, FDC have now published a Play Areas Consultation that includes the Abbey Rec and the Benwick Road Rec.

e) It was reported that one of the tiles on the roof of the Club House had been broken and steps were being taken to have it repaired.

14. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

No new items

15. Street Lighting: -

No new items

16. Village Maintenance: -

- a) New bus shelter in Benwick Road. Work has started on clearing the area for the construction of the concrete base.
- b) Telephone Box (book swop). A date is to be fixed for the delivery of the telephone box.
- c) Members noted that two sets of defibrillator pads are required to replace those due to expire later this year.

17. Website and Communications: -

No updates reported.

18. Financial Items: -

- a) The Clerk circulated a copy of the Councils Bank Reconciliation as at 31st May 2026 which was certified by the Chair and one additional councillor.

- 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 May 2026	314.29
Eon Next	Electricity Pavilion May 2026	27.12
Clear Councils Insurance	Cyber Insurance Policy due 01.06.26	420.25
Anglia Water Business	Water supply Cemetery March, April & May 26	24.07
B Jupp Horticultural	Tree cutback adjacent Beech Ave	540.00
S R Harding	Pest control Bier House	80.00
Fenland DC	New dog waste bin nr Beech Road Rec	199.68
CPRE	Subscription	36.00
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary June 2026	1,043.54
HMRC	Income Tax on Clerks salary	254.20

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

Currys Group Ltd	New laptop for Clerk	399.00
Currys Group Ltd	Software for laptop	134.97
Screwfix	Key safe for Abbey Rec Club House	15.99
Westend DIY	Cleaning items for Abbey Rec Club House	63.58
Amazon	Combination padlocks	41.98
The Copper Shop	Refreshments for Annual Assembly	380.00

Payments made from the Community Living Room Grant:

J Wheeler	CLR Refreshments	100.00
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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm