DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), R Mason, J Jolley, R Hopkins, J Shepherd, H Fisher and Cambridgeshire County Councillor M Fisher. Also present were the Clerk - Abbey Barnes and the Responsible Financial Officer - Roger Wilkin.

1. **Open Forum –** One Member of the Public was present.
Cllr R Mason proposed adjourning the start of the meeting to 19:45 due to the solar eclipse, Cllr J Shepherd seconded and it was agreed. The meeting resumed at 19:45.
Mr Sartain addressed the Council regarding the deteriorating condition of the B1096 Forty Foot Bank. He highlighted that approximately £880,000 had been spent over a six year period without a full engineering survey to identify the underlying cause of deterioration and plan future work. Members discussed the impact of increased road usage, the wider issue of peat roads across the Fens and Cambridgeshire County Councillor M Fisher highlighted an ongoing trial repair method on Sixteen Foot Bank. The Council agreed to continue supporting representations to Cambridgeshire County Council for highways issues that impact Doddington residents.

2. **Apologies** - Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Slade, Cllr. I McNulty and Cllr M Davis (Fenland District Council Representative).

3. **Declaration of Interests -** No declarations of interest were made.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2026** - The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2026 were approved, subject to the correction that Cllr Mason (not Cllr McNulty) had declared the interest relating to the Wheelhead Farm planning application. Proposed by Cllr R Mason, seconded by Cllr J Shepherd and signed by the Chair.

5. Parish Councillor Vacancy - The Council noted Fenland District Council correspondence regarding the vacancy and agreed to begin advertising the parish councillor vacancy through the Doddington Diary, Parish Council website, Parish Council Facebook page and village notice boards, with the Clerk preparing the advertisement. The advert is to run until Wednesday 16 September.

6. Community Living Room – Cllr H Fisher provided members with an update. Wi-Fi has now been installed in the Church Rooms. Attendance at the community living room remains very strong. The Fenland District Council Safe Team and a PCSO will attend a future session. Roof works to the Church Rooms building were due to commence. Members noted additional resilience funding, including a £60 increase in monthly support towards refreshments. It was agreed that the Clerk obtain quotations for the purchase of a projector.

7. Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up -The Chair advised that the project would formally progress in September and is aiming to bring together appropriate groups and residents to discuss Doddington's possible involvement. Further information from

Cambridgeshire County Council with regard to their initiative, will appear in the September edition of the Doddington Diary.

8. Administrative Matters - Members were advised that the missing historic minute book had not been located. The Council agreed to proceed with the planned archiving of parish records. Members were reminded to return their completed Register of Interests forms, with the Clerk to email an electronic version.

9. Police Matters - The Chair advised members that a Cambridgeshire Police 101 report had been submitted after nitrous oxide canisters were found in the Abbey Recreation Ground car park in July. Cambridgeshire Police had responded to say that PSCO patrols would be increased. Members also noted that access to the Diocesan land had now been gated to prevent anti-social behaviour, although pedestrian access for dog walkers remained available.

10. Fenland DC, CCC and Other External Organisations – Cllr M Fisher reported that clarification on Local Government Reorganisation was now expected in October. He will commence monthly locality meetings with Highways Officials in October. Members were advised of overgrown conifers affecting Drivers Close, concerns regarding anti-social behaviour on a field adjoining Peyton Close and an upcoming meeting with the Chief Executive of North West Anglia Health Foundation Trust regarding Doddington Hospital and the Minor Injuries Unit.

11. Highway Issues - Members agreed to write to the Thrift Shop regarding visitor parking, whilst recognising that Blue Badge holders may continue to park lawfully. The developing dip on Primrose Hill (B1093) and vegetation obstructing the footway in Church Lane will be reported to Cambridgeshire Highways by the Clerk. There was no update on the Wood Street LHI bid and MVAS statistics were deferred to the next meeting.

12. Fens Reservoir Project - The Chair provided feedback from the Community Liaison Group meeting, including discussions around future housing for workers and educational opportunities. Members agreed to establish a Fens Reservoir Working Group, with its first meeting scheduled for 26 August 2026.

13. Planning
a) New planning applications

F/YR26/0541/F - Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 1A Eastmoor Lane, Doddington PE15 0TD. The council supported this application.

F/YR26/0545/TRCA - Works to 1no Walnut tree within a Conservation Area at 6 Benwick Road, Doddington PE15 0TG. The council supported this application.

F/YR26/0574/TRTPO - Works to 5 x Crack Willow trees (T7-9 & T11-12) and a group (G5) of Willow trees covered by TPO 01/2014 at Crossway Wood, Wimblington Road, Doddington. The council supported this application.

F/YR26/0575/F - Erect a part 2-storey side extension, part single storey rear extension to existing dwelling, involving the demolition of existing extension and conservatory at 13 Manor Estate. Doddington PE15 0TN. The council supported this application.

F/YR26/0587/TRCA - Fell Privet (ref H2) to combat subsidence damage at 25 New Street Doddington, PE15 0SP. The council supported this application.

F/YR26/0589/AG – Erect agricultural building at Post Mill Farm, Benwick Road, Doddington PE15 0TY. The council supported this application.

b) There were no planning appeals to review at this meeting.
c) The Planning monitoring report was noted as up to date.
d) There were no updates on the Fenland District Council Local Plan.
e) Doddington Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr R Hopkins updated members that an encouraging meeting had taken place with Fenland District Council. Regulation 16 is now anticipated in October and a provisional referendum target of May 2027 was mooted.

14. Abbey Recreation Ground - Members noted that temporary repairs had been completed to the large skate park ramp, with a permanent repair still required. A seasonal hire agreement had been signed with Benwick Football Club for use of one pitch and the Pavilion for training and matches until April 2027. The proposed overflow car park discussion was deferred to the September meeting.

15. Benwick Road Cemetery – Members noted that repairs to the cemetery water tap remain with the contractor and that the grave and cremation row markers were due to be installed shortly. Cllr H Fisher requested and it was agreed to purchase additional compost for the two olive tree planters.

16. Street Lighting - There were no new street lighting matters for consideration.

17. Village Maintenance - Members noted that the new Benwick Road bus shelter had been completed and the noticeboard installed. The proposed location for the community book swap telephone box was found to be unsuitable due to its height, an alternative location near the flagpole will be investigated.

18. Celebration of Harvest Flowers and Community - The Council agreed to support the event taking place from 2–4 October with a 'Celebration of the Fallen' display incorporating Tommy, poppies, the British Legion flag and a floral arrangement prepared by a local resident.

19. Website and Communications – The Chair thanked the Clerk for recent Parish Council social media posts, noting the good level of public engagement.

20. Financial Items
a) Payments
It was agreed that online BACS transfers be made in accordance with the schedule prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer and certified by two authorised bank mandate members.

Payments for approval :-

Doddington Scout Group Litter picking - Abbey Rec	£100.00
Npower Business Solutions Street lighting electricity July 2026	£299.27
Eon Next Electricity Pavilion July 2026	£35.31
GLP Installations Installation incl concrete base Benwick Rd bus shelter	£4,764.00
A Barnes Clerks Salary & expenses (net of deductions) Aug 2026	£1,005.16

HM Revenue & Customs NI - Clerks June/July Salary		£0.00
R Wilkin RFO Salary (Net of Tax) - Aug 2026		£1,043.72
HM Revenue & Customs Income Tax - RFO Aug Salary		£254.20
	Sub Total	**£7,501.66**
Payments made under delegated authority / previously approved :-		
Wonderwall New noticeboard for Benwick Rd bus shelter		£138.00
Plaswood Additional fixing brackets for new benches		£251.30
Odd Job Ben Repairs to club house roof		£152.00
SWA Electrical Repairs to club house emergency lighting and sensors		£350.00
	Sub Total	**£891.30**
Community Living Room Grant :-		
Church Room hire		£120.00
	Sub Total	**£120.00**
	Overall Total	**£8,441.40**

Payments Received during July 2026:-	
Cambridge CC Grass cutting grant	£1,275.91
Cambs ACR Grant for CLR Room Hire	£120.00
Benwick Athletic FC Football training costs	£240.00

b) Bank reconciliation.
The RFO circulated a copy of the Councils Bank Reconciliation as at 31st July 2026, which was certified by the Chair and Cllr Hilton at the close of the meeting.

21. Correspondence - No correspondence required formal resolution.

22. Items for the Next Meeting - Members requested an update regarding Scout Hut ownership enquiries. The Chair advised that the resident should be directed to the Scout Group. The overflow car park proposal will also return to the September agenda.

23. A Local Football Club Proposal (Confidential)
The Council resolved to exclude the press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. Members considered the preliminary proposal from a local Football Club regarding use of Abbey Recreation Ground. As discussions were regarded as commercially sensitive, no further details are recorded within the public minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.14 pm.