

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 24 July 2014 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Alwyn Rea (Chairman), Richard Scott and David Valentine

In attendance: District Councillor Brian Lewis, County Councillor Sheila Blagg, and Acting Clerk Katie Limm; two members of the public also attended.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Terry Lee and Rachel Jennings gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted. The Council agreed that a formal letter of condolence should be sent to Cllr Lee.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda.

The following items were raised:

- An update was requested from the Council about water apparently leaking from the Tower House, Priory Road.
- Some large vehicles visiting the Homestead opposite the Children's Holiday Farm were leaving by taking the road down Niblets Hill and then needed to reverse on finding that it was too narrow. It was suggested that the Council should consider asking the County Council for some signage to deter drivers of HGVs from taking this route. Cllr Blagg said that Bournheath PC had similar problems and she suggested that Dodford Council should liaise with Cllr Karen May.

The meeting was reconvened.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 26 June 2014

With one minor amendment, approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Churchill and seconded by Cllr Valentine. They were signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

4. Reports

- i. The June report received from County Councillor Sheila Blagg had already been circulated to Parish Councillors. Cllr Blagg gave an update on highways issues under item 6.
- ii. District Councillor Brian Lewis gave a report on local issues. He said that no details were yet available about how the Council Tax grant for parishes could be used by District Councillors.
- iii. No report from the Clerk

5. Planning

Two planning applications had been received:

- 13/0275 - Parkgate Inn, 178 Kidderminster Road, Park Gate** - Part demolition, part conversion and part new build to create three dwellings, parking and landscaping.
14/0084 – Sunday Hill, Whinfield Road – Demolition and replacement of garage

It was agreed that a planning committee meeting would be held on the evening of 31 July to consider these.

The Council noted approval of application 14/0159 - Monsieurs Hall, Monsieurs Hall Lane - Refurbish pig sty garden building to provide music room / WC and tack room.

6. Highways and footpaths updates

- i. Cllr Blagg said that the rescheduled Priory Road footpath works had been delayed because the conservation kerbs insisted on by the District Conservation Officer were very costly. However Worcestershire County Council (WCC) had now agreed to fund the work and Cllr Blagg hoped that this would start in November.
- ii. In relation to the Kidderminster Road crossroads, Cllr Blagg indicated that WCC had considered possible options, including a double white line and a solar flashing 'slow down' sign. However the cost would be around £4,000, which was not currently available. Cllr Rea suggested that the Safer Roads Partnership should be approached about possible funding for this.
- iii. Cllr Blagg indicated that the request to WCC for a footpath on the A448 from around Bankside up to the current footpath at Parkgate would not be considered unless significant new money became available - for example from S106 money payable if the Whitford Road development came to fruition.

7. Draft Dodford Conservation Area Appraisal

Cllr Rea said that two consultation meetings had been held on the appraisal and that everyone in the Conservation Area had been informed of the dates for these. Feedback from residents was awaited. In the meantime the Council agreed that its comments should include the proposal that the Conservation Area should be extended along Priory Road to include the school and nursery. This extension would include and protect some interesting local buildings.

8. 2014/2015 Council Tax Grant

In view of Cllr Lewis's statement that no details were available about the process for distributing the grant this item was deferred.

9. Worcestershire County Council Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement

Cllr Rea outlined the key points. He said that the Statement set out the processes for improving consultation on waste management and planning developments. Parish Councils would be routine consultees and applicants for major applications were to be encouraged to set up community liaison groups as part of the planning process. The Statement was generally to be welcomed but what mattered was how it was implemented. It was agreed that the Council should comment that it welcomed the Statement and looked forward to greater involvement in planning matters.

10. Worcestershire County Council's Draft Planning Validation Document

Cllr Valentine summarised the proposals which were generally sensible and raised no concerns for the Parish Council. No comments.

11. Policing in West Mercia – second annual survey for Towns and Parish Councils

It was agreed that the Clerk should be asked to circulate this document again. Any comments should be sent to her before 19th September.

12. Commemorating World War One

It was agreed that the Council would purchase 10 packets of poppy seeds for local distribution.

13. Councillor co-option

No applications received.

14. Correspondence received – for information

The Council noted the message from Richard Levett of CALC seeking expressions of support from Parish Councils for forthcoming discussions with the County Council about future financial support for the Association. Cllr Rea said that the Parish Council derived great benefit from its membership of CALC and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the WCC chief executive as requested.

15. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Rea had received complaints about HGVs going to and from the old pig farm in Victoria Road. Some serious damage had been done to the hedge at Victoria road / Warbage Lane. It was agreed that the Council should write to Mr Foster to ask him to contact his suppliers and customers to request that they use smaller vehicles when visiting his premises.
- ii. Cllr Scott provided some information about the premises license for the Dodford Inn.
- iii. Cllr Valentine said that the Chair of Governors at Dodford School had resigned. He had offered to fill the post on a temporary basis.
- iv. Cllr Churchill said that repair work to the balustrade on the bridge on the Kidderminster Road had been poorly matched.
- v. On behalf of Cllr Jennings, the Clerk reported that
 - some trees had been felled in the orchard opposite the entrance to the church on Priory Road – it was agreed that this should be reported to the tree officer for investigation.
 - Cllr Jennings had been asked to request better signage to stop unsuitably large vehicles driving up the dead end on Woodland Road. There is a very battered and old sign on Victoria Road indicating that the road to the left is a dead end, but this is not clearly visible. It was agreed that Richard Clewer should be approached about this.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed.....Chairman