

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 23 October 2014 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: District Councillor Brian Lewis, Clerk Kay Stone and one member of the public

1. Apologies

None.

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:

- i. Objection to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) approving the planning application for the removal of an existing single storey mobile dwelling bungalow with a proposed permanent structure for domestic dwelling use
- ii. Objection to the shortness of the length of the kerb stone repair works in Priory Road. After discussion the clerk was instructed to contact Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to ask if the repair work could be extended without compromising the start of the work on 17 November.

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 September 2014

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Churchill and seconded by Cllr Valentine after which they were signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

4. Reports

- i. The October report received from County Councillor Sheila Blagg had been received and already circulated to Parish Councillors. Copies were available at the meeting for members of the public.
- ii. District Councillor Brian Lewis gave his report on local planning matters and expressed concern that George House which is owned by BDC is being sold when the building could be used by building control or the planning department. The Clerk was instructed to write to BDC expressing their concerns about this. The Parish Council expressed their concern to Cllr Lewis about the reduction of car parking spaces in Bromsgrove resulting in loss of revenue to BDC.
- iii. The Clerk reported that:
 - a. the Audit Commission which appoints external auditors for local authorities is due to be abolished next year. Changes in the external audit regime are planned from 2017 with one of the planned changes being that parish councils where the greater of income or expenditure is less than £25k will not have to have an external audit although they will have to publish a range of prescribed information
 - b. County Councillor Sheila Blagg has written to WCC in support of the Parish Council's feedback on the Library Service Consultation. WCC had also responded

- to the Clerk acknowledging receipt of feedback and advising that the Parish Council will be informed of the outcome of the consultation in due course
- c. the Footpath Officer had reported the damaged bridge in Rose Lane and WCC have closed the bridge by wrapping red and white warning tape around it even though people are continuing to use the bridge.
- d. WCC have raised an order to jet the gulley outside Orchard House in Worms Ash and drainage will continue to be monitored as part of their routine inspection regime.

5. Planning

- i. Planning application 14/0550 – Holly Cottage, Woodcote Lane – Proposed alteration to existing garage
The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application providing the public footpath alongside the property is not compromised during the building work or afterwards
- ii. Any other planning issues – for information:
 - a. Planning application 14/0698 – Rose Cottage, Brimstone Lane – External wall insulation to approximately ¼ of existing property
The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application
 - b. The Clerk advised the Parish Council that
 - i. BDC have refused permission for extension and improvements at Key Cottage in Whinfield Road;
 - ii. BDC have refused permission for the demolition and replacement of garage at Sunday Hill, Whinfield Road;
 - iii. BDC have granted permission for the formation of a private equestrian arena at One Oak, Kidderminster Road; and
 - iv. the applicant for the appeal against non determination of a planning application for a proposed utility extension at Crowfields Farm in Fockbury Road has withdrawn the appeal

6. Taylor Wimpey plans for land at Perryfields

Three Parish Councillors had attended the public exhibition on 16 October and following a great deal of discussion about the traffic implications, the Clerk was instructed to write to WCC (cc to Cllr Blagg) expressing the Parish Council's serious misgivings about the plans and that the only solution would be to consider a western by-pass alongside the M5 from the A38 / B4094 island to the island on the Stourbridge Road (B4091). The planning application for this development will be submitted by Taylor Wimpey in January 2015 and Cllr Rea will speak with the Bournheath Parish Council Chairman before the next meeting to consider a joint submission to the planning application.

7. Highways and footpaths updates

- i. Speeding on the A448 – The Clerk is to have a site meeting with WCC Highways to ascertain where the double white lines are to be painted on the brow of the hill coming from Bromsgrove before Park Farm and what sign is to be attached to the grey pole by Park Farm.
- ii. Priory Road Flooding - Fiona McIntosh from North Worcestershire Water Management has agreed to revisit Priory Road when it has been raining.
- iii. Yarnold Lane Flooding – Cllr Churchill reported that Severn Trent had commenced work to the air release valve in the field opposite The Red House.
- iv. HGV Signage for Niblets Hill – The Clerk is arranging a site meeting with WCC Highways and will advise the Parish Council of the date when known.
- v. HGV damage to hedge at Victoria Road / Warbage Lane – The Clerk is arranging a site meeting with WCC Highways and will advise the Parish Council of the date when known.

- vi. Trees felled in orchard opposite Church in Priory Road – Tree Officer at BDC will try and identify and speak with the new owner to avoid any future felling.
- vii. Signage for dead end on Woodland Road - the Lengthsman has cut away foliage and cleaned the warning sign. The Clerk is arranging a site meeting with WCC Highways and will advise the Parish Council of the date when known.

8. 2014/2015 Council Tax Grant

- i. After discussion about a web site for all village activities to avoid organisers duplicating dates, the Clerk notified the Parish Council that she already puts events on the Parish Council web site that she sees in the Parish Magazine.
- ii. Cllr Lewis offered to find out what other requests have been made to his fellow Councillors and will report back to the Parish Council.

9. Standing Orders

- i. Cllr Lewis still to obtain advice from Kevin Dicks, BDC, as to what guidance on protection he has given District Councillors for the Parish Council to adopt.
- ii. The Clerk (as advised by CALC) has replaced Standing Order 3j with – “This has been deleted following the implementation of the openness of Local Government Bodies Regulation 2014 as of 6 August 2014.”
- iii. The adoption of the revised Standing Orders was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Scott and approved unanimously. The clerk to send the revised Standing Orders to Parish Councillors and update the web site.

10. CALC Area Meetings

After discussion it was agreed the following questions should be submitted to CALC to be put to Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning at BDC at the CALC Area Meeting on 10 December:

- i. Why is there a total lack of inconsistency in decisions?
- ii. Are there any concerns from a planning point of view regarding the Taylor Wimpey development at Perryfields, Bromsgrove?
- iii. Do you feel there is a detrimental effect of the planning officers moving to Redditch as feelings amongst residents and Parish Councils are that there needs to be a daily presence of planning officers in Bromsgrove?
- iv. Why are applications not dealt with in a timely manner?
- v. Has the transfer to Redditch been successful and how much money has been saved and what have the savings been spent on?

11. Worcestershire County Council Parish Conference – 29 October 2014 – 6.30pm

The date and agenda were noted and Cllrs Rea and Churchill and the Clerk will be attending.

12. Christmas 2014 Newsletter

Content was agreed but the Clerk was asked to incorporate a short paragraph on how the Parish Council will be making representations regarding the Perryfields development and the impact of the increased traffic.

13. Finance

- i. Acceptance of the 2nd quarter reconciliation as at end of September 2014 was proposed by Cllr Valentine, seconded by Cllr Rea and approved.
- ii. Deposit account as at 29 September 2014 - £8,230.95
Current account as at 29 September 2014 - £1,625.06
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Scott:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £285.63

- b. Expenses - £45.72 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; Storage £5; Travel 12 miles @ 45p/mile £3.60; Stationery £56.01)
- c. HMRC - £71.40
- d. Allen Farnsworth (Lengthsman duties for September) - £192.00
- e. Dodford Village Hall (hire of small hall 19 May, 26 June and 24 July) - £30.00

14. Councillor co-option

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that BDC had received no requests to hold an election for the casual vacancy of Cllr Lee and that this vacancy may now be filled by co-option.

15. Correspondence received – for information

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.

16. Councillors items

- i. Residents have complained about the noise and late evenings at the Dodford Inn and the Clerk was instructed to ascertain from BDC what their licensable activities are and who is down as the current license holder
- ii. Cllr Valentine reported that Ofsted had visited Dodford School and the feedback is relatively good.

The meeting closed at 9.53pm.

Signed.....Chairman