

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 18 December 2014 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm**

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

**In attendance:** District Councillor Brian Lewis, Clerk Kay Stone and seven members of the public

### **1. Apologies**

Cllrs Rachel Jennings and Richard Scott gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted although it was noted that Cllr Scott hoped to join the meeting later

### **2. Declarations of interest**

- i. None
- ii. Cllr Rea – item 10

The meeting was adjourned to hear a presentation from Design and Build on the proposal for a solar park on Foxwalks Farm, Grafton Lane and for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda:

- i. Following the presentation by Design and Build it was agreed that a notice would be put in the Parish Magazine about the Parish Council meeting in February at which Design and Build will give another presentation.
- ii. All the gulleys in Yarnold Lane need cleaning out – Clerk to log with Worcestershire County Council (WCC).
- iii. Hedges at Coach House / Hawthorn Cottage were not cut back prior to footpath works.
- iv. Request that WCC have an annual budget to complete the new footpath in Priory Road to Croeso.
- v. After footpath works in Priory Road the new kerbs are high and causing parking problems.
- vi. Gritting lorry unable to pass cars parked at Village Hall and the Nursery.
- vii. Cars still being parked on the yellow lines outside the Nursery.
- viii. Asset of Community Value on Dodford Inn (to be discussed under item 6 on the Agenda).
- ix. Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) approval decision on Muffins Hill, Bungay Lake Lane – resident informed BDC had taken the Parish Council's comments into consideration.
- x. A crack in Priory Road by Hawthorn Cottage could be a water pipe leak and resident has reported this to Severn Trent.
- xi. Lengthsman and BDC had cleared leaves in Priory Road within a week of each other.

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2014**

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

### **4. Reports**

- i. The December 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 spoke on planning matters and reported that BDC are spending £10k on Hanover Street Car Park. BDC finances are being cut by 8%.
- iii. At the CALC (County Association of Local Councils) AGM it was announced that CALC will need to increase its subscription for 2015/2016. No-one from the Parish Council was able to attend the CALC Area Meeting – no report given.
- iv. The Clerk reported that:
  - a. WCC will replace the timber backing with a concrete edge support on a section of 28m in Priory Road.
  - b. The gritting lorry had been unable to pass parked cars at the Village Hall and the Clerk had notified the Village Hall Committee and was told that the Committee always puts out cones and parking restriction notices together with clear instructions in their hiring agreements. The Committee will discuss this matter at their next Hall Management Committee Meeting to see if there are any further suggestions they can make to resolve this issue.
  - c. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have given Clerks a salary increase for 2015/2017.
  - d. The Clerk has received the 2015 Electoral Roll in electronic format.
  - e. The laptop has been partly repaired and is working much better.

## **5. Planning**

- i. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November had already been circulated to Councillors and copies were available at the meeting. They were duly signed by Cllr Valentine as being a true record.
- ii. Planning Application 14/0943 – Moreland House, Newhouse Lane, Timberhonger – Demolition of garage and link and erection of garage with first floor utility and porch. The Parish Council has no objection to the construction of the extension but the timber cladding does not appear to be in keeping with the existing dwelling.
- iii. Planning Application 14/0928 – The Cottage, Cockshutt Lane – Two storey side extension. The Parish Council object to this planning application and question the size of the proposed extension in relation to the existing dwelling - is it within the 40% rule? The Parish Council also feel that if this planning application was approved it would change the character of the cottages.
- iv. Planning Application 12/0924 – West View, Worms Ash – Replacement garage – refused by BDC.
- v. Planning Application 14/0698 – Rose Cottage, Brimstone Lane – External wall insulation – approved by BDC.

## **6. Dodford Inn**

- i. BDC have informed the Parish Council that the legislation provides for exemptions when assets are being sold as going concerns therefore remain as a business serving the community. When the Parish Council successfully registered the Dodford Inn it was on the basis that the pub provided a valuable service to the local area. Therefore the sale as a going concern will ensure that there is continuation of this service to the community and as such the pub will still be an asset to the community. The legislation would only be required should the asset be sold as anything other than a going concern the provision for community purchase rights would then be actioned. In addition the Dodford Inn will remain on the register of assets for 5 years from the date of registration.
- ii. The Clerk was asked to write to Christies as there is no mention of the Community Asset Value in their sales documents and ask if Christies feel they should make any prospective purchaser aware of this fact.

## **7. Highways and footpaths updates**

- i. Speeding on the A448 – WCC Highways are proposing a review of the speed limit from Dodds Corner to Bromsgrove.
- ii. HGV Signage for Niblets Hill – WCC Highways to investigate if there is a need.
- iii. Signage for dead end on Woodland Road – there is no need for a new sign as the Clerk and Richard Clewer from WCC Highways inspected the current sign which is clearly visible thanks to the Lengthsman cutting back the foliage and cleaning the sign.
- iv. Dodford Inn have their own sign at the car park exit indicating no left turn. WCC Highways to investigate if there should be a dead end sign at the junction of Whinfield Road and Niblets Hill.
- v. WCC grit bin at the junction of Whinfield Road and Niblets Hill is in old livery and WCC Highways will replace with a yellow grit bin which will be maintained by WCC.
- vi. Two rusty sign posts in Priory Road to be replaced by WCC Parish Works Team.
- vii. Grey pole outside Park Farm on A448 awaiting a sign warning of the bend.
- viii. Broken line on the A448 at the brow of the hill past Park Farm to be repainted as an unbroken line.
- ix. WCC have no budget left to extend the replacement of the kerb stones towards Croeso in Priory Road.
- x. A request was made from a member of the public for a grit bin at the bottom of Alfreds Well and Niblets Hill – Clerk to ask WCC for one.

## **8. 2014/2015 Council Tax Grant**

- i. District Councillor Brian Lewis reported that his Council Tax Grant is to be split three ways between Bournheath, Fairfield and Dodford with £268 going to Bournheath; £465 for Fairfield and £421 for Dodford.
- ii. The Clerk has obtained information from Bournheath Clerk on their new bench which was purchased from Earth Anchors and cost £336 + VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Valentine that the Clerk should obtain a quote for a bench from Earth Anchors and then approach District Councillor Brian Lewis for the Council Tax Grant. After discussion it was decided that the new bench should be placed near to the one already on the green area at the junction of Priory Road and Warbage Lane.

## **9. Memberships**

As the cost of renewing CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) membership has increased for 2015 it was decided not to renew this membership.

## **10. Grants for 2014/2015**

This item deferred to January meeting.

## **11. Finance**

- i. The Clerk presented her report on the budget for 2015/2016 showing the percentage of increase in Council Tax it will mean to residents if the Parish Council increases the Precept. It was proposed by Cllr Valentine and seconded by Cllr Churchill to increase the Precept by 10% once BDC announce their Council Tax Base Rate in mid January. This item will be discussed further at the January meeting.
- ii. Deposit account as at 28 November 2014 - £12,656.28  
Current account as at 29 November 2014 - £63.18  
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Valentine:
  - a. Clerk's salary - £302.46
  - b. Expenses - £20.35 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; Storage £5; Travel 23 miles @ 45p/mile £10.35)

- c. HMRC - £75.60
- d. Allen Farnsworth (Lengthsman duties for November) - £192.00
- e. Dodford Village Hall (Hire of small hall) - £20.00

**12. Councillor co-option**

No applications received.

*At this point Cllr Richard Scott joined the meeting*

**13. Correspondence received – for information**

- i. Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.
- ii. The Clerk to invite a representative from ICE (free NHS Health Checks) to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in May and for the Parish Council to consider this as a joint venture with Bournheath Parish Council.

**14. Councillors items**

No items reported.

**15. Clerk's salary**

It was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Valentine to give the Clerk an increment payment backdated to April 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....Chairman