

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 22 January 2024 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman), and Scottie Sanderson

In attendance: County Cllr Shirley Webb, District Cllr Kit Taylor, Clerk Kay Stone, and 11 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Jenni Schuett and Jonathan Shapiro

2. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. None.
- ii. None.

3. Dispensations

No dispensation requests received.

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public attending the meeting to raise matters of interest.

- i. A resident was against the potential one way system round Cockshutt Hill. Cllr Webb responded that she is waiting to hear back from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways.
- ii. A resident concerned about the potential solar farm at Foxwalks Farm updated the Parish Council on the Hornsey 3 North Sea wind farm being the largest wind farm in the world and talked of concerns about mounting solar panels on greenfield land. Concern was also expressed about the land at Foxwalks Farm being comparable to the height of the Lickey Hills.
- iii. The Chair read out a statement on behalf of a resident who was unable to attend the meeting about concerns over the Parish Council being banned from the Dodford Inn.

There were no other items raised and the meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

Cllr Fuller proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded, and all approved the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 20 November 2023. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that
 - a. WCC Highways will be siding out the footpath on Priory Road from the School to Church Road to allow safe passage for pedestrians;
 - b. WCC Highways have put out ice risk signs on Yarnold Lane due to a blocked drain, and
 - c. WCC Countryside Team are looking into the footpath issue off Yarnold Lane as reported by a resident at the last meeting.
- ii. District Cllr Taylor reported that
 - a. the Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) planning officer is gathering more information on the potential solar farm at Foxwalks Farm;
 - b. BDC planning are looking into reports of the stream off Yarnold Lane being blocked and the encroachment in to the wood;
 - c. he has looked at the site on Kidderminster Road down from the Chennai and is finding out who is responsible for it;
 - d. he has sent letters of complaints about the issues with the ongoing road works in Whitford Road and the A38, and
 - e. he reassured residents that BDC are not cutting back on fire services.

- iii. No social media report.
- iv. The Clerk thanked residents of Dodford for their support in her recent 874 mile walk over 212 days raising £1,720 for Alzheimer's Research UK.

6. Planning

- i. Cllr Lydon has noted that National Highways recommends planning permission not be granted for a period of three months to allow the applicant time to submit additional supporting information. The Clerk to respond to BDC stating that the Parish Council feel they do not have all the information and would like to see all of the reports received by BDC before they comment further on the proposed solar farm at Foxwalks Farm. The Clerk to request the planning officer advise the Parish Council three weeks before the end of the consultation for them to meet and consider their response.
- ii. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Lydon seconded, and all approved the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 6 December 2023, after which they were duly signed by the Chair.
- iii. Approval by BDC for the erection of an agricultural building on land adjacent to The Breezes, and refusal for a new storage building on land at Fockbury Mill Farmhouse.
- iv. No planning appeals or appeals decisions received.
- v. Enforcement / Environmental issues. No enforcement updates received.
- vi. No further planning issues.

7. Memorial Garden

- i. The Clerk to get costs for three designs of information board.
- ii. The request for money not being used on the Memorial Garden to be put towards the maintenance of the Church and Village Hall to be deferred until costings are received for the information board.

8. Highways and footpaths

- i. Discussion took place on the issues of mud and debris on roads was discussed. The Parish Council was advised that the owner of the reclamation yard in Yarnold Lane is talking to WCC and BDC about an impermeable drive to the lane and looking at purchasing another sweeper. The amount of soil deliveries to Sumach was discussed. The Parish Council asked that Cllr Webb and Cllr Taylor act on their behalf regarding the condition of these two roads.
- ii. No applications received for the post of Footpath Warden.
- iii. No footpath or bridleway issues.
- iv. Update on the vehicles stored on land on Kidderminster Lane below the Chennai was covered in Cllr Taylor's report (item 5iic)
- v. Update from BDC on the blocking of the stream off Yarnold Lane and encroachment of woodland was covered in Cllr Taylor's report (item 5iib)
- vi. Update from WCC and North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) on the blocking of the stream off Yarnold Lane and encroachment woodland was covered in Cllr Webb's report (item 5ic).
- vii. Cllr Taylor looking into who is the right person in BDC to contact about a bin in Church grounds.

9. Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation

The Parish Council has no comment as there are no changes proposed for Worcestershire.

10. Hereford and Worcester Fire Rescue Service

The Resource Review consultation document to be discussed at the February meeting after Cllr Taylor has put the Chair in touch with a member of the Fire Service.

11. Worcestershire County Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Cllr Fuller has looked at the document but could not ascertain what was going to be proposed. The Clerk was asked to put the consultation document on the website.

12. First Aid Courses

The Clerk provided costs for two course providers and reported that she is still waiting for a quote from St John's Ambulance. Four residents (one with two children) have expressed a wish to attend the courses.

13. Dodford Village Hall

- i. The Parish Council has received a request from the Village Hall Management Committee that the Parish Council takes on responsibility for setting up the PA system for Parish Council meetings and for ensuring that the Hall is left clean and tidy for the next users. Instructions on how to set up the PA system were also received
- ii. The Clerk to respond to the Village Hall Management Committee that the Parish Council will collectively be responsible for their meetings but cannot be held responsible for shared users. The Parish Council will lock up the Hall at the end of the Parish Council meetings and unless the Village Hall Management Committee hear otherwise, can assume that all is well.

14. Finance

- i. The 2024-2025 budget was presented by the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr Jennings, and approved by all that the budget be approved. The precept request is to stay the same at £12,654.60.
- ii. The Q3 reconciliation and budget had been previously circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Sanderson (who had overseen and agreed the reconciliation and budget), seconded by Cllr Jennings and approved by all.
- iii. The December Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 30 November - £21,913.35
Current account as at 30 November - £573.31
Payments made by bank transfer on 22 December were noted:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £661.86
 - b. HM Revenue and Customs - £165.40
 - c. Lengthsman's duties for November plus VAT and mileage - £165.40
 - d. Dodford Village Hall – hire of hall for meeting held on 20 November - £35.00
- iv. The January Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 31 December - £21,438.91
Current account as at 31 December - £209.05
Payments to be made by bank transfer on 23 January – Proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Fuller:
 - e. Clerk's salary - £661.86
 - f. Clerk's expenses - £157.95 (Travel 20 miles @ 45p per mile £9.00; Storage for December and January £10.00; Use of telephone and internet line for December and January £40.00 and Heating for December and January £20.00; colour and black printer ink £78.95)
 - g. HM Revenue and Customs - £165.40
 - h. Lengthsman's duties for December plus VAT and mileage - £106.50
 - i. Underpayment for Lengthsman for November £25.20

14. Correspondence received – for information

- i. Correspondence received was noted with the following actions:
- ii. Cllr Webb to liaise with WCC Highways and the resident who has made the complaint about vehicles damaging the resident's wall and to see if the island at the top of Alfred's Well can be taken back to its' original size or removed.
- iii. Cllr Webb queried where all the unused signs are and suggested that the Lengthsman could collect them and return them to Lydiate Ash and Cllr Webb will also ask WCC Highways about the bridge on Church Road
- iv. The clerk to put the Cockshutt Hill traffic issues on the February agenda

15. Councillors items

- i. A resident wishes to bring the Parish Council's attention to the removal of the chimneys at the Dodford Inn which is not in line with planning application 19/00685 when internal alterations to create additional rooms in the loft with new roof lights was granted approval
- ii. It was also queried that condition 5 relating to five electric vehicle charging spaces does not seem to have taken place (planning application 23/0051) when change of use to a mixed use venue and public house was granted . The electric vehicle charging spaces were to be in place before the change of use came into place.
- iii. A new building called The Courtyard in Yarnold Lane was noted.
- iv. Concrete to the side of Sumach and around the barns and containers was noted
- v. The Clerk to add the above Councillor items to the February agenda.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.55pm.

Signed.....Chair