

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 23 November 2020 virtually by zoom.com at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chairman), Jenni Schuett, and Jonathan Shapiro

In attendance: Clerk Kay Stone and two members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies received from County Cllr Shirley Webb, Cllrs Rory Lydon and Scottie Sanderson, reasons for which were accepted. District Cllr Drew Beaumont extended his apologies for not being able to attend the first part of the meeting.

2. Councillor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Scott Fuller read out and signed his Declaration of Office.

3. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

4. Dispensations

No requests received.

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public attending the meeting to raise matters of interest. No matters were raised and so the meeting continued as follows:

5. Meetings

- i. Cllr Shapiro proposed, Cllr Griffin seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 26 October. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- ii. After discussion on changing the start time of the meetings to 7pm it was agreed that the Clerk would ascertain from Cllrs Lydon and Sanderson if they could make an earlier meeting time and report back to the Parish Council.

6. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb's report had been received and the Clerk read it out to the meeting:
 - a. We are seeing signs that the rate of increase of cases in Worcestershire is plateauing.
 - b. As of today, the rate stands at 228 cases per 100,000. The England rate is 284 per 100,000. The West Midlands rate is continuing to rise and currently stands at 355 per 100,000.
 - c. Redditch District has the highest number of cases in Worcestershire. There are currently 354 cases per 100,000 in Redditch. Bromsgrove has 276 cases per 100,000, Wyre Forest 271, Worcester has 227; Wychavon 155; Malvern Hills has 114 cases per 100,000.
 - d. We continue to be concerned by the number of positive cases that there are within people who are aged 60 and above.
 - e. In the last 7 days there have been 1,369 confirmed cases of coronavirus recorded in Worcestershire.
 - f. The highest percentage of individuals testing positive in the week up to November 12 were in Redditch (12.5%) and in Bromsgrove (9.8%).
 - g. We currently have good testing capacity in Worcestershire.
 - h. Local test centres are being established in all districts. The centres in Worcester, Redditch, Pershore, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster are open. The site in Malvern will open next week.
 - i. The Council's drive-through test site for essential front-line workers is open and has capacity.

- j. There are 76 people in the county's hospitals with Covid-19 in Worcestershire. 10 people are in ITU.
- k. 25 care homes in Worcestershire have current outbreaks (more than 2 cases, linked in either time place or person). 9 homes are currently closed to new admissions due to Covid.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont gave his report towards the end of the meeting.
- iii. No social media report
- iv. The Clerk reported that
 - a. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) have checked out the fallen tree in Alfreds Well and have confirmed they have written to the landowner to have it removed. They will continue to monitor this to ensure the work is completed.
 - b. she had received an email from Alwyn Rea thanking the Parish Council for his Phil Richardson Community Award.

7. Planning

- i. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Schuett seconded, and all approved the acceptance of the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 9 November. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- ii. No planning decisions received
- iii. No planning appeals or decisions received.
- iv. Other planning issues:
 - a. The Clerk is to organise Zoom training for Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Planning Officers to enable them to train the Parish Councillors. This will happen in the new year.
 - b. Cllr Jennings has received the formal invitation to speak at the BDC planning committee meeting on the proposed stable in Yarnold Lane. The Clerk reported that District Cllr Beaumont will contact Cllr Jennings before the meeting.
 - c. It was proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Schuett, and accepted by all that the Parish Council request a change in Bromsgrove District Plan to provide protection to hedges that are in the Green Belt, be it domestic or agricultural.

8. Highways and footpaths

- i. No update on the Priory Road footpath.
- ii. After discussion on footpaths and stiles Cllr Fuller offered to obtain criteria for stiles from WCC and to see if WCC approved of Kissing Gates.
- iii. The result of the speed restriction consultation is still not known.
- iv. No update on historic footpaths.
- v. Bournheath Parish Council Vice Chairman, Karen May, was unable to attend the last Bournheath Parish Council meeting to report on her visits to businesses in Yarnold Lane.
- vi. The issue of the flooding in Bungay Lake Lane was updated by District Cllr Beaumont at the end of the meeting.

9. Nutnell and High Wood

The Parish Council acknowledged the update from the Land Agent and the Clerk was instructed to ask the Land Agent when the new planting is going to start where the felling has already taken place.

10. Phil Richardson Community Award 2021

Approval of the 2021 nomination form was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Jennings, and approved by all.

11. Memorial Garden

The Clerk reported that at the end of October, County Cllr Webb had offered a £1,000 grant towards the garden and the bench and has asked WCC to send a letter to the residents parking on the grass. Cllr Webb offered a trip rail to be put up before Spring and the Parish Council accepted this offer. A resident has offered to donate some plants for the garden for free. After thanking Cllr Schuett for producing the competition poster, Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Fuller seconded and all approved the wording of the poster.

12. Christmas Tree

The Clerk had received a suggestion from a resident for the Parish Council to purchase a Christmas Tree to brighten up the village. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to thank the resident but as the Advent Window idea had taken off, the Parish Council agreed not to purchase a Christmas Tree this year. It was suggested that the resident might wish to put in a design for the Memorial Garden to include a Christmas Tree.

13. Christmas Newsletter

The approval of the Christmas Newsletter was proposed by Cllr Schuett, seconded by Cllr Shapiro, and agreed by all.

14. Catshill and North Marlbrook Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported on the advisers and cost of this plan and after discussion it was agreed that there was no need to spend £7,000 or £8,000 producing a plan that would not be used.

15. Engaging with the Community

After the current health situation, the Parish Council will look at ways to pull the village together and to include Woodcote and Upton Warren. Many ideas were discussed, and it was agreed that this would form the main topic of the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2021.

16. Parish Council Grants

Cllr Shapiro will draw up criteria to be sent to the Clerk in time for the January meeting.

17. Finance

- i. The Clerk had produced the 2021/2022 budget and was asked to postpone acceptance of this to allow a 30 minute discussion on the Precept request at the January meeting.
- ii. The November Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 27 October 2020 - £20,199.23
Current account as at 27 October - £179.69
Payments made by bank transfer on 24 November – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Griffin:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £412.14
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £189.05 (Storage £5; use of telephone and internet £5; Phil Richardson Community Award Moonpig Cards £11.23; Phil Richardson Award Post Office Vouchers £100.00; Zoom invoice for October £14.39; Renewal of Association of Local Council Clerks subscription by credit card £40; Stationery – envelopes for Christmas mailing £13.43)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £103.00
 - d. Lengthsman duties for October - £200.00
- iii. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Shapiro seconded, and all approved the Clerk paying Parish Magazine Printing on receipt of invoice for the Christmas mailing.

At this point District Cllr Beaumont joined the meeting and gave his report:

- a. The problem with the Bungay Lake Lane flooding appears to be the small triangle of land between the road and the drainage ditch which nobody knows who it belongs to. Cllr Beaumont to ascertain through North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWW) who owns the land and request they clear the blocked course.
- b. He is still pursuing the Yarnold Lane road sign.
- c. There is more grant money available to the hospitality industry and Cllr Beaumont to contact The Dodford Inn, The Parkgate Inn, Manor Hill and Grafton Manor with this information.

18. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted and the Clerk to present the request for help from Cobalt Medical Charity when discussing Parish Council Grants in January.

19. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Schuett reported that the tree issue in Alfreds Well seems to be resolved.

The meeting was closed at 8.39pm.

Signed.....Chairman