

## DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 22 February 2021 virtually by zoom.com at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chairman), Rory Lydon, Scottie Sanderson, Jenni Schuett, and Jonathan Shapiro

**In attendance:** District Cllr Drew Beaumont, Clerk Kay Stone and seven members of the public

### 1. Apologies

County Cllr Shirley Webb

### 2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

### 3. Dispensations

- i. Cllr Lydon requested dispensation to stay in the meeting and vote on item 10
- ii. Cllr Sanderson requested dispensation to stay in the meeting and not vote on item 10

Both dispensations were approved by the Parish Council

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

A resident spoke about fundraising for Dodford Children's Holiday Farm and consideration for a grant will be put on the March agenda.

### 4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Schuett seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 25 January. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- ii. NALC's advice on returning to face-to-face meetings had been circulated to the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. This to be discussed again at the March meeting to include further information on whether remote meetings can still take place after 7 May.

### 5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb's report had been received prior to the meeting and circulated to Parish Councillors. The report is also on the Parish Council web site.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported that:
  - a. the survey on Bungay Lake Lane has been completed by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways and North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) and a further site meeting is to take place;
  - b. the Whitford Road development will go ahead following appeal;
  - c. the Landowner of the footpath past the Dodford Inn allows people to use it and action cannot be taken further, and
  - d. he is still to request signage for Yarnold Lane after the HGV lost its' way

At this point Cllr Sanderson joined the meeting.

- iii. No social media report.
- iv. The Clerk reported that the Bournheath Parish Council Clerk has raised an issue with Cllr Webb about the garden wall and post of a property in Valley Road which has been damaged by a vehicle. Cllr Webb is to ask WCC Highways to have the area assessed for a grit bin.

## **6. Planning**

- i. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Schuett seconded, and all approved the acceptance of the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 8 February. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- ii. Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) has granted permission for the conversion of agricultural building into three dwellings at Hill Top Farm, Warbage Lane
- iii. No planning appeals or decisions received.
- iv. Updates from BDC on potential breaches discussed at the planning committee meeting have been received and circulated to Parish Councillors.
- v. Other planning issues:  
Cllr Shapiro wishes to attend all three sessions on planning organised by CALC in April.

## **7. Highways and footpaths**

- i. Repair work on the Priory Road footpath is scheduled for mid-April.
- ii. A resident has contacted the Clerk about a bridle path of Timberhonger Lane being unusable for several months each year and the Clerk has notified Cllr Fuller for information but has also given the resident the link for the resident to report it on WCC Report It web page.
- iii. Waiting for speed signs to be erected around the School.
- iv. Cllrs Lydon, Griffin and Jennings to meet to discuss drafting the separate sheet to be sent out with the Annual Report in April for people to report and sign any historical footpaths that are not currently registered. Cllr Schuett to then design the sheet.
- v. Bournheath Parish Council Vice Chairman, Karen May still 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 in his report.
- vii. The Clerk to ask WCC what routes were gritted and what regularity and to ask for Yarnold Lane to be a primary route and for Church Road and Victoria Road to be added to the gritting route.

## **8. Nutnell and High Wood**

- i. Wayne Barnes of The Forestry Commission reported that he and Natural England are happy with the tree removal through thinning, but not happy with the movement of machinery in and out of the wood through exceptionally wet conditions. The contractor has been reminded to cease working with large machinery in wet conditions and that all tracks are reinstated after extraction later in the year, so they are flattened out and returned to how they were. The contractor has also been reminded that work should cease during the forthcoming bluebell season.
- ii. The Clerk was asked to contact Wayne again for the rationale for large trees being felled.

## **9. Lengthsman**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Councils who have the same Lengthsman are agreeing to pay the increased rate as from 6 April but will probably be going out to tender for 2021/22. Suggested emails that the Parish Councils propose sending to the Lengthsman and County Councillor were read out and Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded, and all agreed for them to be sent out.

## **10. Memorial Garden**

- i. It was suggested by Cllr Lydon that the Parish Council is not qualified to judge the competition. The Parish Councillors agreed there were elements from each design which they liked and agreed to ask all entrants if they would be happy to collaborate on a design and if so, then, if necessary, a third party could be brought in to assist with the overall planning. It was suggested that the entries be narrowed down to two or three and that the final judging should go back to the village.
- ii. It was proposed by Cllr Jennings that the schemes received should be discussed in camera at the end of the meeting.

**11. Phil Richardson Community Award 2021**

No nomination forms received.

**12. Sky Lanterns**

WCC Regulatory Services say that the only control Councils can impose on what is a legitimate product is to prevent their use on council property. Cllr Lydon to do more research on countrysideonline.co.uk

**13. Feeding Livestock**

It was agreed that the landowners are responsible for their livestock, but it was suggested that the School Governors might like to propose the School adopt this as a School Project and then once laminated signs can be put up around footpaths.

**14. Parish Council Grants**

Cllr Shapiro's suggested criteria was discussed, and he agreed to update the criteria to add individuals and re-circulate. The Clerk was asked to find out if other Parish Councils have criteria.

**15. Worcestershire County Council Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement**

The Parish Council has no comments to make on this consultation.

**16. Finance**

The February Financial Report:

Deposit account as at 29 January 2020 - £18,949.75

Current account as at 29 January 2020 - £216.28

Payments to be made by bank transfer on 23 February – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Griffin:

- a. Clerk's salary - £412.14
- b. Clerk's expenses - £26.19 (Travel, 4 miles @ 45p per mile £1.80; Storage £5; use of telephone and internet £5 and Zoom invoice for January meeting £14.39)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £103.00
- d. Lengthsman duties for January + petrol and taking tree debris to the tip - £147.50

**15. Correspondence received – for information**

Correspondence received was noted.

**16. Councillors items**

Cllr Shapiro reported on potholes in Snakes Lake Lane.

The meeting was closed at 8.57pm.

Signed.....Chairman