

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman and Chair for this meeting), Scottie Sanderson, Jenni Schuett, and Jonathan Shapiro

In attendance: County Cllr Shirley Webb, District Cllr Drew Beaumont, Clerk Kay Stone and four members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllrs Rachel Jennings (Chairman) and Scottie Sanderson

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

3. Dispensations

Cllr Lydon requested dispensation to stay in the meeting for item 9 which was approved.

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

4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Shapiro proposed, Cllr Griffin seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 22 February. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- ii. The Clerk is still waiting for news on returning to face-to-face meetings from NALC/CALC
- iii. It was agreed to change the date of the May meeting unless legislation allows meetings to continue via zoom after 7 May 2021. Forthcoming meetings will be:
 - a. Monday 19 April at 7.30pm – normal monthly Parish Council meeting
 - b. Monday 26 April at 7.30pm – Annual Parish Meeting
 - c. Saturday 1 May (for an hour during the day) – Annual Meeting of the Parish CouncilThe Clerk to notify the Parish Council as soon as she is advised by NALC/CALC.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that
 - a. Covid cases in Bromsgrove are down to 37 per 100k;
 - b. the testing centre at the Ryland Centre is still open;
 - c. libraries will reopen on 12 April, and
 - d. Richard Clewer (Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways) is on leave until 1 April and to report any problems to her.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported that
 - a. another site meeting on Bungay Lake Lane has been completed by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways and North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) and all have agreed a course of action to prevent future flooding. Cllr Lydon, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllr Beaumont for his efforts with this issue, and
 - b. the Perryfields Development has been granted permission to go ahead although the application will be heard again at another Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) planning committee meeting in April. Cllr Beaumont confirmed that comments made by the Parish Council will be considered for the April meeting. Cllr Shapiro expressed his disappointment that the problems with the infrastructure had not been addressed.
- iii. The Clerk reported that
 - a. there had been activity on the Dodford Residents Facebook page about young lads who appear to be up to no good in the village and it is thought they may have come from Perryfields. PC Sergeant Barney Kelsoe was to patrol the village the previous week, and

- b. there had been reports about two men in a white van acting suspiciously on the Kidderminster Road. The Clerk was able to confirm that this was the Lengthsman who were cleaning road signs between Woodcote Lane and Fockbury Road.
- iv. The Clerk reported that
 - a. she had asked Cllr Webb to request WCC increase the Lengthsman Scheme, but she has been advised that WCC will not be increasing their funding at the moment. Cllr Webb will keep pushing in the meantime, and
 - b. she has received a Freedom of Information Act request from Cllr Jennings wanting clarification on what concerns the Parish Council had in 2009/2010 which resulted in enforcement officers visiting her property. The Clerk confirmed she had sent relevant dates and minutes to Cllr Jennings.

6. Planning

- i. Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Shapiro seconded, and all approved the acceptance of the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 8 March. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- ii. BDC has granted permission for the Perryfields Development as reported by Cllr Beaumont.
- iii. No planning appeals or decisions received.
- iv. Upton Warren Parish Council has been in touch about a potential glamping business being set up in Swan Lane. Both Wychavon District Council and BDC have been notified.
- v. Other planning issues:
Upton Warren request support for their objection to convert green belt land to permanent residence at the location called Bywater Farm. It was agreed to call a planning committee meeting on 29 March to discuss this.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. Repair work on the Priory Road footpath is scheduled for mid-April.
- ii. Cllr Fuller reported on visiting a stile reported to have excess vegetation and also a metal fence making the footpath inaccessible. He has logged this with WCC and noted that it had already been logged with them in February 2021.
- iii. Speed signs are now in place around the School. Cllr Webb has reported to WCC that the signs in Priory Road are facing the wrong way round. Cllrs Griffin and Schuett will form a sub committee to take photos of potential sites for either white gates or other Chartist Village signage and report back at the April Meeting. Cllr Webb confirmed that the Grant she gave for the white gates could be spent on other village signage.
- iv. The footpath information sheet to be sent out with the Annual Report will be sent to the Clerk to be approved at the April meeting.
- v. Bournheath Parish Council Vice Chairman, Karen May still to report on her visits to businesses in Yarnold Lane and the Clerk was asked to send a reminder.
- vi. The issue of the flooding in Bungay Lake Lane was updated by District Cllr Beaumont in his report.
- vii. Non priority routes for gritting will only be done on request and Cllr Webb will put the request forward for future gritting.

8. Nutnell and High Wood

Wayne Barnes of The Forestry Commission reported that the woodlands are being thinned for multiple objectives. Natural England and the Forestry Commission are keen for this neglected woodland to be managed to introduce light to the woodland floor and stimulate successional growth to improve structure, structural diversity, and resilience. Two Cllrs thought the response bland but agreed the leaflet was helpful.

9. Memorial Garden

After discussion Cllr Lydon proposed a vote as to whether to choose a single winner or start the competition again. Two Cllrs voted for and two against. Cllr Lydon had the deciding vote in his role as Chair, and had said he was not willing to vote as members of his family have entered the competition. This item to be postponed to the April meeting when it is hoped to have full complement of Cllrs.

10. Phil Richardson Community Award 2021

No nomination forms received.

11. Sky Lanterns

Cllr Lydon had conducted further research on countrysideonline.co.uk and his findings were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. No further discussion took place.

12. Feeding Livestock

Postponed to the April meeting.

13. Parish Council Grants

- i. The Clerk had circulated Parish Council Grant criteria from Bournheath, Belbroughton and Catshill Parish Councils and it was agreed that Cllr Shapiro would look at these and produce another version for Dodford.
- ii. The Clerk reported that she had received a grant request from Dodford Children's Holiday Farm for seating in the playroom.
At this point Cllr Lydon closed the meeting to allow two members of the public to give background into how the Holiday Farm is surviving and plans for going forward.
Cllr Lydon thanked them for their contribution and re-opened the meeting. Cllr Shapiro proposed, Cllr Lydon seconded, and all agreed to give the Holiday Farm a Parish Council Grant of £406.80 as requested.

14. Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council did not wish to make a representation but asked the Clerk to write to the Parish Council to congratulate them for their work on this document.

15. Finance

The March Financial Report:

Deposit account as at 26 February 2020 - £18,449.90

Current account as at 26 February 2020 - £427.45

Payments to be made by bank transfer on 23 March – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Lydon, seconded by Cllr Shapiro, and agreed by all:

- a. Clerk's salary - £412.14
- b. Clerk's expenses - £103.25 (Storage £5; use of telephone and internet £5; Zoom invoice for February meeting £14.39; Stationery – colour and black printer ink and two reams of paper £78.85)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £103.00
- d. Lengthsman duties for February - £175.00
- e. Worcestershire CALC – Chairman training course - £40

15. Correspondence received – for information

- i. Cllrs declined Cllr Webb's offer of a Mucky Pup stencil.
- ii. The Police on the Beat in North Worcestershire Newsletter has been circulated to residents.
- iii. Grafton Motocross is to recommence on 3 April every two weeks from 10-5pm and a few Wednesdays in school holidays with the go-ahead from BDC and Environmental Health. The Clerk to notify residents and Upton Warren Parish Council.

16. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Shapiro reported on badgers in Brimstone Lane.
- ii. Cllr Griffin reported on the telephone box book swap being mentioned on the Jeremy Vine show as having 'unsuitable' books. Cllr Griffin offered to monitor.

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Signed.....Chairman