

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 21 March 2022 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman), Scottie Sanderson and Jenni Schuett.

In attendance: County Cllr Shirley Webb, Clerk Kay Stone and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Scott Fuller, Jonathan Shapiro, and District Cllr Drew Beaumont.

2. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. Cllr Jennings for item 9
- 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.

A resident felt that a suggestion of flower troughs beneath the village signs would be difficult and expensive to maintain and bring urbanisation into the village. After discussion it was suggested that bulbs planted around the village would be more effective. The Clerk to identify big gaps, particularly in the Woodcote and Grafton areas, whilst the daffodils are flowering and to ask the Lengthsman if he would be willing to plant them in September. County Cllr Shirley Webb confirmed there would be no objection from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to plant bulbs in the verges.

The meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 28 February. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. The Dodford Village Hall (DVH) Committee Chairman had responded that the other group using the small hall would be asked to store their equipment temporarily elsewhere to avoid walking through the large hall. The DVH Committee are considering addressing the sliding door insulation and asked if the Parish Council would be willing to consider a grant application towards this work after taking professional advice. The Parish Council agreed but suggested the DVH Committee should consider seeking sound engineers advice. It was agreed the Clerk is to write back and suggest they contact Cllr Sanderson for any suggestions of sound engineer companies.
- iii. No response from Michael Gove MP on remote/hybrid meetings.
- iv. Suggestions for the Annual Parish Meeting speakers are Mary Worsfold, Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Conservation Officer; Dale Birch, BDC planning; Gavin Boyes, BDC Tree Officer; Natalie Lowe, Rural and Business Crime officer, PC Lloyd Stone, DVH Committee Chairman; Co-ordinator of the Platinum Jubilee Fete and representatives from users group. Refreshments to include cake.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that she will be conducting a site visit with the new Highways Liaison Officer on 1 April to look at the issues with the footpath on Priory Road, the site for the Memorial Garden and the drain opposite Sumach. Cllr Webb was asked to take a look at a potential safety issue at Sumach with the loose gravel on the road coming down from the mesh fence.

- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported via the Clerk that he posts Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) press releases or emails he has received from BDC on the Dodford Residents Facebook page. This material is non-political and he hopes informative and helpful.
- iii. No-one was able to attend the CALC meeting and so there is no report.
- iv. Nothing to report on social media.
- v. The Clerk reported:
 - a. she had reported a large pothole in Snakes Lake Lane;
 - b. the fly tipping in Alfreds Well has been reported and Cllr Webb is hoping BDC will remove today. Cllr Beaumont has sent details of an App called 'Clear Waste' which reports tipping to the appropriate authority. The Clerk confirmed she had shared this information through the usual channels. Cllr Schuett reported she had taken additional photos of the fly tipping which included an address. The Clerk to send the photos to Cllr Webb.
 - c. she has asked WCC through Cllr Webb to tidy up the Worms Ash Island
 - d. she has received the new Lengthsman contract from WCC and the funding has increased by £340.13 for this year. It was proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Griffin, and agreed by all that this be renewed.
 - e. she has drawn up the contract between the Parish Council and the Lengthsman and it was proposed by Cllr Schuett, seconded by Cllr Griffin, and agreed by all that this be renewed.

6. Planning

- i. No planning decisions received.
- ii. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- iii. The recent enforcement update had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk was instructed to report buildings behind Woodside Farm being used as residential buildings.
- iv. Other planning issues:
 - a. The Clerk had omitted to put the prior approval application for Parkgate Nurseries on the agenda, but it was agreed that as this was prior approval, it was not necessary to call a planning committee meeting.
 - b. The Clerk had received an email from a BDC planning officer asking for any local knowledge about an issue with a fence at The Cottage in Worms Ash. After discussion the Parish Council agreed this was a private land dispute and the clerk was asked to respond that the Parish Council is aware there has always been an issue but as this is an unadopted road it was suggested that BDC check the legalities of who owns the road.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. Priory Road footpath – Highways Officer and Cllr Webb to undertake a site visit on 1 April.
- ii. No footpath / bridleway issues.
- iii. Fockbury Road has been resurfaced and Yarnold Lane was due to be resurfaced on 21 March. Cllr Webb to investigate why this had not happened.
- iv. Proofs of the signs from WCC are still awaited. The Clerk to put this item on the next agenda and also on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting in May.
- v. Suggestion of flower troughs was discussed in the open meeting.
- vi. The Parish Council decided quiet lane signs were not for the parish.
- vii. Cllr Webb had sent the Clerk a reply from WCC regarding street lighting and 30mph speed signs and the Clerk was asked to forward this reply to the resident who had contacted the Parish Council.
- viii. The drain opposite Sumach in Priory Road will be viewed during the site visit on 1 April and the Clerk reported there are orange markings around the current drain. The Clerk was asked if there were any markings around the drain outside Millstone and the Clerk will investigate.

8. SmartWater Kits

The Clerk confirmed the out of date kits need to be disposed of in the waste to landfill receptacles at the household waste site.

9. Grants

This item was moved to the end of the meeting to allow Cllr Jennings to leave the meeting.

10. Memorial Garden

Site visit on 1 April by WCC Highways Officer and Cllr Webb.

11. Councillor Emails

The Clerk now has a contact on the WCC web team and is working with him to see if Councillor emails through WCC are possible.

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Working Party set up to organise the Fete has requested the £300 grant from Cllr Webb's divisional funding and the Clerk is waiting for bank to details to transfer the grant.

13. Code of Conduct

It was proposed by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr Jennings, and agreed by all to adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct updated May 2021 version with the addition of the current Appendix 5 to include the Policy of filming, photographing, audio recording and social media reporting of parish council and committee meetings.

14. Finance

i. The March Financial Report:

Deposit account as at 28 February 2022 - £20,779.92

Current account as at 28 February 2022 - £219.69

Payments to be made by bank transfer on 22 March – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Griffin:

a. Clerk's salary - £1,568.04

b. Clerk's expenses - £93.57 (Travel, 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5; use of telephone and internet £5 and stationery – colour and black printer ink £78.17)

c. HM Revenue and Customs - £392.00

d. Lengthsman duties for February (less £15 overclaimed January 2022) - £195.00

For information, a bank transfer was made on 2 March to Dodford Children's Holiday Farm for the Parish Council Grant approved at the February meeting.

15. Correspondence received – for information

Dodford Children's Holiday Farm have written to thank the Parish Council for the Grant.

16. Councillors items

No Councillor items

At this point the meeting Cllr Jennings left the meeting for item 9 to be discussed and Vice Chairman Cllr Lydon chaired the remainder of the meeting.

9. Grants

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to obtain further information from the PCC and to ask for verified accounts. This item to appear on the April agenda.

The meeting was closed at 8.58pm.

Signed.....Vice Chairman