

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 25 April 2022 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman), Scottie Sanderson, Jenni Schuett and Jonathan Shapiro.

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

1. Apologies

District Cllr Drew Beaumont and Cllr Lynne Griffin.

2. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. Cllr Jennings for item 9ii but as it is only an update and no discussion or decision to be made Cllr Jennings can stay in the meeting.
- 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 made some suggestions as to where the new village signs should be placed and also including the original area names such as Worms Ash, Park Gate, Woodcote Green etc.

The meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 21 March. The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman as being a true record.
- ii. The Parish Council agreed the booking of Dodford Village Hall (DV) for the following meetings: 10 May, 6 June, 4 July, 26 September, 24 October, and 28 November.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that
 - a. she has received a complaint from a resident regarding the surface of Yarnold Lane and confirmed she has arranged a site meeting with a Highways Engineer the next day;
 - b. the Highways Engineer will be doing a Memorial Garden site visit at the same time and the Clerk offered to meet with them;
 - c. she will also take the Highways Engineer to see the condition of the edges in Warbage Lane by The Nutnalls;
 - d. Snakes Lake Lane is down for repair patching in 2022 and surface dressing in 2023, and
 - e. the speed monitoring strips at all five entries into the village will be going down within the next four weeks and Cllr Webb will request that the information received from the strips will include the type of vehicle.

At this point Cllr Webb left the meeting.

- ii. No report received from District Cllr Beaumont.
- iii. Nothing to report on social media.
- iv. The Clerk reported that following the March meeting she has circulated the adopted Code of Conduct 2022 to all Parish Councillors and uploaded to the Parish Council's web site.

6. Planning

- i. No planning decisions received.
- ii. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- iii. No enforcement updates.
- iv. No other planning issues.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. No update on the Priory Road footpath.
- ii. Cllr Fuller reported that a Worcestershire County Council (WCC) lady has been in touch about footpath 616 which runs from Snakes Lane Cottages and has three electric fences across the field. Although it has a grab handle, on investigation, Cllr Fuller could not use it himself. This issue is being dealt with between Cllr Fuller and WCC.
- iii. Resurfacing of Yarnold Lane has been covered in Cllr Webb's Report (item 5ia).
- iv. A proof of the new village signs has been received but rejected as there is no mention of the Chartist village or trefoil as requested. The Clerk has sent a lengthy email to WCC, via Cllr Webb, to verify the history of the Chartist plots. After discussion, the Clerk to request a quote for a rectangular sign to go beneath the current signs to read "Incorporating the Great Dodford Chartist Settlement" and to include the trefoil. After discussion it was put to the vote as to whether the sign in Warbage Lane should be moved closer to the village. One Councillor voted to move the sign and five voted against. The sign to remain close to the junction with Dordale Road by the cobbled section.
- v. No update on purchase of daffodils but Cllr Lydon has researched suppliers and gave the Clerk the relevant information.
- vi. The flooding issue at Sumach and Millstone has been checked during the recent site visit by WCC Highways and Cllr Webb but were unable to see what the exact issue is as it had not been raining. The Clerk has asked the resident at Sumach to take photos and submit them to her when the flood occurs again.
- vii. Bournheath District and County Councillors were meeting local businesses using HGVs in Bournheath and Dodford but no update has been received.

8. Lengthsman

The Clerk to investigate Place Teams operated through Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) which some local parish councils are using in place of a Lengthsman.

9. Grants

- i. DVH Committee to still request details of sound proofing engineers. The Clerk to ask the committee to be timely with their alterations and to keep the Parish Council informed.
- ii. Dodford PCC will respond to all the points raised once the accounts have been approved.

10. Memorial Garden

This was covered in Cllr Webb's report (item 5ib).

11. Councillor Emails

No update.

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Clerk now has bank details to transfer the £300 Queen's Jubilee grant from Cllr Webb, which is to be transferred with the April payments (item 16.iii).

13. Phil Richardson Community Award

It was agreed to organise this for 2022 but to change the title to Phil Richardson Community Recognition Award. The Clerk to arrange the printing and for the nomination form to be sent to each household with the Annual Report.

14. Annual Parish Meeting

- i. Confirmed speakers are Sophie Sanderson, North Worcestershire Rural and Business Officer; PC Lloyd Stone, DVH Committee Chairman.
Dale Birch (BDC) needs clarification as to what he is requested to talk about. It was agreed that he should explain the process and what goes on behind the scenes when BDC receive a complaint about an alleged breach.
The Clerk to still receive a response from Mary Worsfold and Gavin Boyes.
The Jubilee Fete will be covered by the DVH committee chairman and Clemmie Kear.
Apologies have been received from Cllrs Webb and Beaumont.
- ii. The Clerk to purchase cakes, biscuits, tea, and coffee for serving at 7pm.

15. Annual Report

Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded and all agreed the wording of the Annual Report. The Clerk to arrange printing and mailing to all households, preferably before the Annual Parish Meeting.

16. Finance

- i. Cllr Sanderson proposed, Cllr Shapiro seconded and all approved the external auditor's Certificate of Exemption (AGAR 2021/22) which was duly signed by the Chair.
- ii. Acceptance of the final quarter reconciliation was proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Sanderson, and agreed by all.
- iii. The April Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 31 March 2022 - £17,530.08
Current account as at 31 March 2022 - £310.30
Payments to be made by bank transfer on 26 April – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Shapiro and seconded by Cllr Schuett:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £541.64
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £121.28 (Travel, 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5; use of telephone and internet £5; heating £10 and two packs of Defibrillator pads paid for by credit card - £95.88)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £135.40
 - d. Lengthsman duties for March - £210.00
 - e. Dodford Church – Cllr Webb's division grant for Jubilee Fete - £300

17. Correspondence received – for information

- i. DVH Committee asking if it is possible for the Title to the Land on which the Village Hall sits to be registered in the name of the Parish Council. The Clerk explained this needs research and discussion and recommends this appears on the June agenda. In the meantime, the Clerk was instructed to ask the DVH Committee to clarify what they wish the Parish Council to discuss in June.
- ii. Prior notification from an applicant who is planning a potential solar farm project at Foxwalks Farm. The Parish Council will wait to hear from BDC before discussing.
- iii. DVH Committee would like to start regular lines of communication with hall users and will notify hall users of the committee's next meeting (23 May) to raise any issues or questions they may have.

18. Councillors items

Cllr Schuett brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the high gates at Sumach were still in place despite the resident saying at the January meeting that they would be reduced.

The meeting was closed at 8.49pm.

Signed.....Chair