

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 24 October 2022 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: County Cllr Shirley Webb, Clerk Kay Stone, PCSO Sharon Wilson-Dixon, PCSO Sara Nash, and four members of the public.

1. Cllr Shapiro Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Shapiro agreed to continue in office and signed his declaration with the Clerk adding her signature.

2. Apologies

District Cllr Drew Beaumont and Cllr Jenni Schuett.

3. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. None
- ii. Cllr Shapiro informed the Parish Council that he is no longer Chair of the School Governors

4. 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 expressed concerns about overgrown hedges and the narrowness of the footpath along Priory Road. Cllr Webb offered to speak to Cllr Beaumont about Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) clearing the footpath. Cllr Webb also offered to speak to Dodford School about moving the parking buddy which is currently blocking the path. The Clerk to write to owners of the hedges in question.

The meeting continued as follows:

5. Meetings

- i. Cllr Fuller proposed, Cllr Griffin seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 4 July. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. Change in the November meeting from 28 November to 21 November as there is a dress rehearsal of the pantomime in the Village Hall.
- iii. Suggested 2023 dates were noted. Cllr Shapiro requested the meetings be brought forward to earlier in the evening but due to some Councillors work commitments this was not possible, and the start of meeting times will remain at 7.30pm.

6. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb confirmed the appointment of the new Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways Officer.
- ii. Nothing to report from District Cllr Beaumont.

At this point the Chair welcomed PCSO Sharon Wilson-Dixon and PCSO Sara Nash to the meeting who in turn asked the Parish Council and residents present to advise them of any issues they have. Cllr Shapiro requested a mirror be installed on the blind corner in Valley Road and Cllr Webb offered to speak to Bournheath Parish Council.

- iii. Nothing to report on social media.

- iv. It was agreed not to publish a Christmas Newsletter this year due to the increase in postage but will continue to publish and send the Annual Report to residents in April.

7. Memorial Garden

- i. Cllr Webb's divisional funding of £1,500 towards the cost of the Memorial Garden was noted and the Parish Council expressed their thanks to Cllr Webb for her support of this project.
- ii. Update on the hedge:
 - a. With regards the maintenance of the hedge, an agreement to be drawn up, with the help of WCC to protect the Parish Council should anything happen to the owner.
 - b. There is still concern by the owner of the hedge that if it is cut back 30cm on the Priory Road side, the hedge will be left brown and bare.
 - c. There is currently £3,268 in the budget and the Clerk was asked to obtain quotes from landscapers to include a complete quote and also in three stages. The Clerk is also to obtain quotes for the cutting and maintaining of the hedge.

8. Planning

- i. Approval for the demolition of agricultural buildings and replacements at Stewards Place, Kidderminster Road, granted by BDC.
- ii. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- iii. No enforcement updates. The Clerk is still waiting to hear from BDC regarding solar panels on the front of properties in the Conservation Area.
- iv. Cllr Jennings queried if the rubble put down on the bridleway alongside the barn conversions in Warbage Lane is to make an entrance way to the properties.

9. Highways and footpaths

- i. Work to commence on the Priory Road footpath towards Warbage Lane on 31 October.
- ii. The Clerk reported the new bridge over a stream by the M5 footbridge just before the fields of Windy Ridge Farm was vandalised in the summer, and Cllr Webb reported it to WCC.
- iii. Still awaiting a template of the additional village signs from WCC and the Clerk to re-send the wording to Cllr Webb.
- iv. The purchase of daffodils to be deferred to next year.
- v. Cllr Jennings read out a letter from a resident regarding the landscaped triangles at the end of Whinfield Road and Alfreds Well requesting that the Parish Council look after the triangles as agreed originally some years ago. It was agreed that the Parish Council will apply for the licences again from WCC through Cllr Webb and then will maintain them going forward. It was suggested that perhaps volunteers could look after them as they do with the flower troughs in Fairfield.
- vi. The WCC traffic count results were discussed and noted that the number of vehicles had reduced since 2016 and 2018 and the speed figures remained the same. It was not possible to put monitoring strips down in Yarnold Lane at the same time as the other strips were put down and Cllr Webb offered to speak to Bournheath Parish Council who had requested monitoring strips in the Parish to include Yarnold Lane. The Clerk was asked to send the results direct to a resident who had previously brought up the subject of speeding. The Clerk to also include the results in the Parish Magazine and put on the Parish Council web site.
- vii. 20's Plenty for Worcestershire will not work in Dodford as there are no speed limits except around the School and the parked vehicles there reduce the speed naturally. Until WCC make 20's Plenty for Worcestershire mandatory, this item to be taken of the agenda.

10. Lengthsman

No applications received and Cllr Webb pointed out that a number of Parish Councils had recently lost their Lengthsmen. The Clerk is waiting to hear from BDC on how their Place Teams operate.

11. Grants

- i. Grant request received from Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizen's Advice Bureau.

- ii. Dodford Village Hall Committee have taken further advice regarding the issue of the title deeds being kept with the Parish Council and have decided to follow an alternative route. Advice and quotations have been obtained for most of the soundproofing work required. Some of the doors are proving to be tricky to replace but there are further avenues to explore. The Committee to keep the Parish Council updated.
- iii. Further information is still awaited from Dodford PCC.

12. Councillor Emails

The Clerk had reminded WCC who admitted this request had been overlooked and will revisit the Parish Council's request.

13. Dodford Village Hall

Requested items to be discussed at the next Dodford Village Hall Committee meeting:

- i. Is there any flexibility to avoid double booking?
- ii. When will the loop system be available?

14. Civility and Respect Pledge

After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council already shows respect and civility and that there was no need to sign up to the Pledge at this point in time. At a recent CALC meeting, Cllr Fuller said that Parish Councils who attended were supportive of the Pledge. The Clerk was asked to put the following wording at the bottom of all correspondence including emails:

“We as a Parish Council endeavour to treat all members of the public and each other with civility and respect and in turn expect the same”

Cllr Shapiro spoke about training on diversity and ethnicity and offered to look up contact details. Cllr Webb replied that WCC and BDC have excellent training in these subjects and will look up contact details.

15. Finance

The following reports had been circulated to Parish Councillors and all agreed that following Cllr Sanderson confirming they were in order, that acceptance of all be proposed by Cllr Lydon and seconded by Cllr Sanderson.

- i. The first quarter reconciliation as at end of June was agreed.
- ii. The second quarter reconciliation as at end of September was agreed.
- iii. Payments for August were noted:
 Deposit account as at 29 July 2022 - £19,306.79
 Current account as at 29 July 2022 - £1,745.50
 Payments already made:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £541.64
 - b. HM Revenue & Customs - £135.40
- iv. Payments for September were noted:
 Deposit account as at 31 August 2022 - £19,307.43
 Current account as at 31 August 2022 - £1,745.50
 Payments already made:
 - c. Clerk's salary - £541.64
 - d. HM Revenue & Customs - £135.40
- v. The October Financial Report:
 Deposit account as at 29 September 2022 - £19,308.25
 Current account as at 29 September 2022 - £391.42
 Payments to be made by bank transfer on 25 October:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £541.64
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £406.37 (Travel 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage for August, September and October £15; Use of telephone and internet line for August, September and October £15; heating for August, September and October £30; 2 Moonpig cards for Phil Richardson Community Award Recipients £8.33; Amazon gift voucher for Phil Richardson Award Recipient £50; postage to send cards and voucher to Cllr Jennings

£4.03; Minutes notebook £4.99; Black and colour printer ink £79.62; SLCC Membership Renewal £144.00 and ALCC Membership Renewal £50.00)

- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £135.40
- d. Cllr Lydon proposed and Cllr Sanderson seconded and all agreed to appoint Diane Malley as the Internal Auditor for 2022/2023.

19. Correspondence received – for information

- i. An email received at the beginning of September from a resident regarding speeding and a request that residents be given the opportunity to vote yes or no for speeding restrictions. The Parish Council have received representations many times from WCC to say there are no speeding issues. The Clerk was asked to send the recent traffic count results to the resident and Cllr Webb offered to respond to the resident and was happy for the Clerk to pass on her contact details.
- ii. Police and Crime Commissioner’s October newsletter had been circulated to the Parish Council and residents.
- iii. Dodford School giving advance notice of extra parking around the Church and School for their Harvest Festival on 20 October. The School also requested hedges are cut back in Priory Road between the School and the Church.
- iv. Information on BDC’s Chairman’s Autumn Civic Soiree on 16 November.
- v. An anonymous letter regarding a breach of planning regulations at North Barn on Timberhonger Lane. The Clerk had investigated on BDC website and there is a Building Regulations Application lodged with BDC.

20. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Lydon suggested WCC check on the ownership of the bridge in Rose Lane recently damaged by a lorry. Cllr Webb assured the Parish Council that WCC are looking into this.
- ii. Cllr Shapiro asked about possible new ownership of the Dodford Inn.
- iii. Cllr Fuller gave his report from the recent CALC Area Meeting which had been omitted from the agenda.
- iv. Cllr Jennings reported that the Church are requesting, through the Parish Council, for a bin which will also take dog waste in the car park of the Church .
- v. Cllr Jennings reported that the garage at GraAnge looks to have house style doors and the Clerk was asked to put this on the November agenda.

The meeting was closed at 9.26pm.

Signed.....Chair