

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Scottie Sanderson and PC 2609 Emma Turberfield.

2. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. None
- ii. Cllr Lydon – item 17.v and Cllr Griffin – item 17.c

3. Dispensations

No dispensation requests received.

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

- i. Concern was expressed about one or two misusing the Dodford Residents Facebook page.
- ii. Recent fireworks display within 100 metres of livestock.
- iii. Concern over a property where another building appears to be lived in.

The Clerk was asked to mention on Dodford Residents Facebook page, the Parish Magazine and Annual Report to ask residents to let other residents know in advance if holding firework displays. The Clerk to also mention in future communications, the Countryside Code and not leave gates open. The Clerk to also contact Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) regarding the building which appears to be lived in.

The meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Shapiro proposed, Cllr Griffin seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 24 October. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. Dates for 2023 meetings were confirmed.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that:
 - a. She has spoken to Bournheath Parish Council about a mirror at Tuppenny Green and consideration to be given to making it one way from Rocky Lane to Valley Road.
 - b. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has written to the owner, through her daughter, about the cutting back of her hedge behind the proposed Memorial Garden.
 - c. She is awaiting a quote for the addition to the village signs
 - d. The Lengthsman who looks after Stoke Prior is looking for extra hours.
- ii. No report from District Cllr Beaumont.
- iii. Nothing to report on social media.

6. Memorial Garden

At the moment the owner of the hedge at the back of the proposed Memorial Garden is not giving permission for it to be cut. WCC have written to her as in Cllr Webb's report above. Until permission is given, the Clerk has yet to obtain quotes.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. The bridleway from Warbage Lane by Hill Top Farm with rubble having been put down has been reported to WCC (reference number 7649). BDC has said there is no breach of planning

control relating to any new access. It was noted at the meeting that bricks on the edge of the triangle have already been damaged.

- ii. Cllr Webb awaiting quote for additions to village signs.
- iii. The Clerk reported a resident wished to bring to the Parish Council's attention the fact that large vehicles get stuck regularly on the triangle in Whinfield Road and that any planting of plants will be damaged.
- iv. District Cllr Beaumont has put the Clerk in touch with Leon Hill at BDC regarding the request for a dog poo bin in the Churchyard. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident who owns the land opposite the driveway to the Church to see if a bin could be placed on his land.

8. Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Consultation on Draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy

No comments from the Parish Council.

9. Lengthsman

- i. A resident's relative has shown interest in the Lengthsman's position but has received no WCC training and the Clerk to ascertain if WCC will give training.
- ii. Cllr Beaumont has put the Clerk in touch with Leon Hill who is the contact for BDC Work Place Team.

10. Grants

- i. No grant requests received.
- ii. Further information is still awaited from Dodford PCC.
- iii. No further information from Dodford Village Hall.

11. Councillor Emails

As the Clerk is unable to arrange this through WCC or BDC, this item to be taken off future agendas.

12. Training

Through County Cllr Webb, BDC would be interested to learn more about the training that Cllr Shapiro attended through another committee and Cllr Shapiro is to pass details on to the Clerk.

13. Dodford Village Hall

- i. There has not been a meeting since the Parish Council requested an update about sharing the hall and when the hearing loop will be installed. Their next meeting is 19 December.
- ii. To repeat the last requests and also highlight the need for adequate lighting at the bottom of the front steps and the puddle.
- iii. A suggestion was made that the Holiday Farm has a meeting room but parking is an issue. Cllr Jennings said that the Church hoped to have full disabled access and heating and lighting issues sorted within the next six months.

14. Finance

- i. The November Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 31 October 2022 - £24,335.13
Current account as at 31 October 2022 - £308.01
Payments to be made by bank transfer on 27 November – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Lydon and seconded by Cllr Jennings:
 - a. Clerk's salary to include ALCC salary award back dated to 1 April 2022 - £763.52
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £25.40 (Travel 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5; Use of telephone and internet line £5; heating £10)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £190.80
- ii. The NALC's National Salary Award which was back dated to 1 April 2022 for an extra £1 per hour was noted.
- iii. The Clerk had circulated the proposed budget figures and explanation to all Councillors prior to the meeting and there were no questions. It was agreed that due to the increase in postal charges, there will only be one mailing a year – the Annual Report in April. Cllr Shapiro

proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded and all agreed that the Precept amount requested from BDC should be increased by 5% for 2023/2024 to £12,654.60. This to be reviewed at the January meeting when the Clerk has the Council Tax Base Figure from BDC.

15. Correspondence received – for information

- i. A request has been received from a resident that the top part of Yarnold Lane needs a traffic assessment due to the HGVs visiting businesses in Yarnold Lane. Cllr Webb to liaise with Bournheath Parish Council who has requested the same.
- ii. A second email has been received about speeding in Dodford and Cllr Webb asked the Clerk to forward on the email to her and she will respond.

20. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Griffin - eroded side of the highway in Warbage Lane just past Priory Road. Cllr Webb to check with Highways.
- ii. Cllr Jennings – footpath erosion in Rose Lane where the steps are broken and now very slippery. The Clerk to give Cllr Fuller the path number.
- iii. Cllr Jennings – rainwater from new driveway at Sumach going down Priory Road and expressed concern that this would freeze in the Winter.

8. Planning

- i. No planning decisions received.
- ii. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- iii. Enforcement issues:
 - a. Following BDC's response regarding solar panels facing the Highway in a Conservation Area, the Parish Council agreed they were not happy with the response as they felt BDC is inconsistent. The Clerk was asked to go back to BDC and ask them to reconsider. Cllr Webb suggested approaching Cllr Bill Thomas who is the Cabinet Member for Planning, copied in to Cllr Beaumont. The Parish Council to invite Cllr Thomas to visit the village.
 - b. The rubble on the bridlepath from Warbage Lane is a WCC matter not BDC matter and has been reported to WCC (as above).
At this point in the meeting Cllr Griffin left the meeting.
 - c. The Clerk reported there is a case number for the potential planning breach at GraAnge.
- iv. No further planning issues.
At this point in the meeting Cllr Lydon left the meeting
- v. To consider planning application consultation – 22/02313 – Key Cottage, Whinfield Road – Proposed single storey rear extension.
The Parish Council requests clarification as to why full planning permission is required when it is permitted development.

The meeting was closed at 9.03pm.

Signed.....Chair