

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 23 January 2023 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman),

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

1. Apologies

Cllrs Scottie Sanderson, Jenni Schuett and Jonathan Shapiro.

2. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. None
- 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. But no matters arose, and the meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 21 November 2022. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. The local election is taking place on Thursday 4 May and after discussion it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 24 April in the Village Hall and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 18 May in Dodford Church, both at 7.30pm. Suggestions were made for speakers at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Clerk to invite David Ford, Rector of Bromsgrove Parish, representative from Dodford Village Hall Committee, Police, representatives from the WI and Gardening Club and Peter Jenkins, Conservation Officer together with County Cllr Webb and District Cllr Beaumont.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that:
 - a. she has received quotes from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) for the additions to the village signs at £300 per sign which she feels is excessive and has complained;
 - b. the hedge behind the proposed Memorial Garden has been cut back to WCC satisfaction and is now approved in principle. The Clerk to send the revised plan to Cllr Webb to be sent to WCC for them to issue a license. The owner of the hedge on the Priory Road side is completing a Deed of Easement and consideration needs to be given at the next meeting as to who will maintain the hedge going forward. The family of the property at the rear of the proposed Memorial Garden have asked that they are included in the history board and a plaque be put on one of the benches. The Chairman requested this is put on the agenda to be discussed fully at the February meeting;
 - c. she hadn't received the email from the resident complaining about speeding in Dodford and the Clerk to resend, and
 - d. she will chase up her request for traffic count strips are put down at the top of Yarnold Lane in Bournheath Parish.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported on
 - a. loss of staff at Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) with a new Office, Peter Carpenter, being appointed;
 - b. £14.5m levelling up fund received which will be spent on developing Windsor Street and the Bird Box area, and
 - c. the strategic transport assessment for the whole of Bromsgrove district.

At the end of his report Cllr Lydon asked if BDC would consider a free time period for parking of about 15 or 30 minutes to allow people to shop locally rather than travelling to other areas where there is free parking.

- iii. Nothing to report on social media.
- iv. No report from the Clerk.

6. Planning

- i. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Fuller seconded, and all approved the minutes for the planning committee meeting held on 10 January. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. Proposed single storey rear extension at Key Cottage in Whinfield Road granted by BDC.
- iii. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- iv. No enforcement updates and the Clerk still to invite Cllr Phil Thomas to visit Dodford with respect of solar panels facing the highway in a Conservation Area.
- v. Cllr Lydon requested the Parish Council did not renew its subscription of the Town and Country Planning Association membership.

7. Memorial Garden

The Clerk to obtain costings for the suggested bound resin path, shrubs, and benches. Further discussions to take place at the February meeting to discuss sponsorship and volunteering.

8. Highways and footpaths

- i. No footpath or bridleway issues.
- ii. See Cllr Webb's report (item 5.i.a).
- iii. Cllr Webb to chase up licenses for the islands on Whinfield Road and at Alfreds Well.
- iv. The Clerk still to meet up with Leon Hill (BDC) and contact the owner of the land opposite the driveway to the Church to see if a bin could be placed on his land.

9. Lengthsman

- i. The Clerk had been in touch with the Lengthsman at Stoke Prior and Catshill who had requested additional hours. She asked him to identify any problems in the parish and to clear the footpath from the School to the Church which he has done. After discussing his costings, the Clerk was asked to appoint him as the Lengthsman and send him a contract.
- ii. The Clerk to get in touch with Leon Hill about BDC Work Place Teams if the Lengthsman is not appointed.

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. Training

County Cllr Webb is not aware that Cllr Shapiro has passed on the information to BDC about the diversity and ethnicity training.

12. Dodford Village Hall

- i. Updates from the Village Hall Committee meeting:
 - a. Sharing the Village Hall with the pole dancing group has been broached with them and they're happy to discuss but will not be available until February. The Parish Council agreed that sharing the Village Hall does not work.
 - b. The Committee are currently seeking updated quotes for a new audio system which is the preferred choice to a hearing loop.
 - c. The Committee are waiting a site visit by an electrician to improve the lighting above the steps at the front entrance.
- ii. No new issues or questions

14. Finance

- i. Q4 reconciliation and budget were presented by the Clerk and Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Lydon seconded and all agreed their approval.
- ii. The December Financial Report was noted as follows:
Deposit account as at 30 November 2022 - £23,343.15
Current account as at 30 November 2022 - £328.29
Payments made by bank transfer on 30 December:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £569.50
 - b. HM Revenue and Customs - £142.20
- iii. The January Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 31 December 2022 - £23,343.15
Current account as at 31 December 2022 - £328.29
Payments to be made by bank transfer on 24 January – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Griffin:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £569.50
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £47.20 (Travel 16 miles @ 45p per mile £7.20; Storage £10; Use of telephone and internet line £10; heating £20)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £142.20
 - d. Dodford Village Hall – Use of Hall on 4 July and 21 November 2022 - £50.00
 - e. Lengthsman duties for December - £201.30.
- iv. The Clerk recirculated the proposed budget which now includes the Taxbase figure from BDC. There is to be no change to the budget and the Chair and Clerk signed the Precept Request form for £12,654.60 which is a 5% increase on last year's request.

15. Correspondence received – for information

Information has been received on King Charles III Coronation Mugs and the Clerk was asked to put this on the February agenda for discussion.

20. Councillors items

Cllr Fuller brought up the subject of parking during an event at the Village Hall in December causing problems with vehicles not leaving passing places. The Clerk to ascertain what the event was and to ask that they are notified in advance for December 2023 to enable notice to be given to residents to avoid the area and the police can also be notified.

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

Signed.....Chair