

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 17 April 2023 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, 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

2. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. None
- ii. None – but later in the meeting Cllr Jennings declared an interest under correspondence relating to a grant request for the Village Fete

3. Dispensations

No dispensation requests received.

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public attending the meeting to raise matters of interest. No matters were raised, and the meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Sanderson proposed, Cllr Lydon seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 20 March 2023. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. Annual Parish Meeting confirmed guest speakers:
 - a. Reverend David Ford, Team Rector with particular responsibility for All Saints and St Godwald's
 - b. County Cllr Shirley Webb
 - c. District Cllr Drew Beaumont
 - d. James Cartwright, Chairman of Dodford Village Hall Committee
 - e. Penny Lydon, Dodford Gardening Club

The Clerk is still waiting to hear from Peter Jenkins, Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Conservation Officer and a representative for Dodford Women's Institute.

The Foxwalks Farm solar panel farm developers are already committed elsewhere on the evening but would prefer to address the Parish Council once their application has been submitted to BDC.

Refreshments to be served around 8.30pm and the Clerk to purchase tea, coffee and cake.

- iii. There are currently no other venues available for Parish Council meetings and there is still a need to know the time when the pole dancing club is booked until. It was agreed that the conflict about sharing the village hall also affects other organisations.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that:
 - a. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways are limited as to what they can do about the Motocross traffic on Grafton Lane as it is a private road. Cllr Webb offered to speak to Grafton Manor and the Parish Council accepted her offer,
 - b. the family who owned the piece of land to be known as the Memorial Garden are preparing the history of the land in preparation for a QR code to be put on a history board. They would also like confirmation that they may have a family plaque on one of the benches and confirmation from the Parish Council regarding their commitment for the upkeep of the hedge, and
 - c. she has spoken to the owner of the reclamation yard in Yarnold Lane who has cleared the mud on the highway and confirms he is getting a bigger, better machine for the future. After a discussion about the reclamation yard expanding into another field and

becoming an eyesore, it was agreed that this is a District Council issue, but no action was discussed.

- ii. District Cllr Beaumont had sent an email to the Clerk before the meeting to say he still intends to provide a report on the Motocross activity but there has not been a Motocross meeting since the last Parish Council meeting.
- iii. Nothing to report on social media.
- iv. The Clerk reported that
 - a. The CALC membership renewal had been received after the agenda was published. Cllr Shapiro questioned how useful this membership is to the Parish Council and Cllr Jennings and the Clerk agreed that it is an organisation to go to for advice, particularly of a legal nature recently. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded and all agreed to renew the membership.

6. Planning

- i. To consider planning application consultation:
 - a. 23/00229/FUL – Unit 5B, Woodside Farm, Woodland Road – Retrospective application for a biomass boiler.
The Parish Council has no objections but would like to point out that the Design and Access Statement is incorrect in stating that the site is close to the Dodford Conservation Area when in fact it is within the Conservation Area.
- ii. The application for alterations to external walls, roof eaves, windows and doors at Parkhill in Monsieurs Hall Lane has been withdrawn by the applicant.
- iii. Notification of an appeal has been received for the proposed single storey extension at Rock Cottage in Cockshutt Lane but as this is a Fast Track Appeal, the Parish Council is unable to comment further.
- iv. Enforcement / Environmental issues:
 - a. The Environment Agency (EA) had seen the invoice for the purchase of the imported soil at Sumach which makes the soil a purchased product and not waste. No site visits were made, and no soil tested. The Clerk has asked EA how much soil was purchased but is still waiting for a response. The Clerk contacted North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) about testing the stream. This is a matter for the Environment Agency as NWWM do not have any powers in this situation. A resident or landowner needs to request water testing and the Chair asked everyone to keep an eye on all the streams, particularly after recent changes to septic tanks.
 - b. The Chair reported on the meeting with Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning at BDC and after discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would send relevant points discussed to Cllr Shapiro who would draw up correspondence to send to Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive of BDC once approved.
- v. No other planning issues.

7. Memorial Garden

- i. Quotes for future hedge maintenance - to be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.
- ii. History board information - to be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.
- iii. Costings for path, shrubs, and benches - to be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.
- iv. Sponsorship and volunteering - to be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Highways and footpaths

- i. No issues.
- ii. After discussion on the village signs proforma, it was agreed that Parish Councillors will take photos of other village signs to be forwarded on to WCC.
- iii. The Clerk identified a site for a rubbish bin in Priory Road opposite the lane to the Church, but the Chair still requested the possibility of a bin (on behalf of the Church) to be placed in the Church car park by the garage as there is an issue with dog waste / poo bags just being left. The Clerk to confirm that BDC will put a rubbish bin on private property.
- iv. Cllr Webb has raised an advisory for the kerbs to be replaced.

9. Lengthsman

- i. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Fuller and all agreed that the Lengthsman Scheme 2023/24 contract with WCC be renewed and the contract to be signed by the Clerk.
- ii. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Fuller and all agreed that the Lengthsman Scheme 2023/24 contract with Chris Cooke be renewed and the contract to be signed by the Clerk.

10. Grants

- i. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Sanderson and all agreed to give the grant requested by Dodford Children's Farm.
- ii. No further information from Dodford PCC.
- iii. No further information from Dodford Village Hall.

11. Training

Cllr Shapiro to write about his diversity and ethnicity training information for the Clerk to forward on to BDC to request training from them.

12. Dodford Village Hall

- i. No answers received from previous questions.
- ii. Cllr Shapiro reported that Gardeners Question Time are looking for suitable venues and it was agreed that this information should be passed on to the Village Hall Committee.

13. Annual Report

Cllr Sanderson proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded and all approved the wording of the Annual Report.

14. Local Elections

The Notice of Uncontested Election was noted. As there were no additional nominations received by BDC, the current seven Parish Councillors are re-elected.

15. Bromsgrove District Council Corporate Peer Challenge

This had been circulated to Parish Councillors on 23 March and was noted.

16. Finance

- i. The external Auditor's Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2022/23 Part 2 was approved and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.
- ii. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Shapiro seconded and all approved the final quarter reconciliation as at the end of March 2023.
- iii. The April Financial Report:
 - Deposit account as at 31 March 2023 - £19,624.38
 - Current account as at 31 March 2023 - £489.31
 - Payments to be made by bank transfer on 18 April – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Shapiro:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £569.50
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £362.41 (Travel 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5.00; Use of telephone and internet line £5.00; heating £10.00; Black printer ink and drawing pins £40.54; Colour printer ink and envelopes £53.47; 24 Postage stamps £18.00, and 300 Postage stamps £225.00)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £142.20
 - d. Lengthsman duties for March - £218.26
 - e. Worcestershire CALC renewal membership for 2023/24 - £583.06

For information purposes – Grant to Lorraine Smith for Coronation Street Party as agreed at the March Parish Council meeting. Minute item 10i. Bank transfer made 23 March 2023 - £300.00

15. Correspondence received – for information

- i. The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the Village Hall Committee are organising an informal meeting with hall users to discuss an increase in charges. The Clerk to attend the meeting on 25 April and will report back.
- ii. Residents have formed an opposition group to the proposed solar panel farm at Foxwalks Farm and their next meeting is being held on 22 April. The Chair will try to attend.
- iii. Grant request from Clemmie Kear for the Village Fete has been received. Clemmie to send an email to the Clerk itemising what needs to be purchased and the cost for it to be considered at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April.

20. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Fuller reported that there is damage to the side of Woodland Road which he believes has been caused over the last year or so by lorries attending West Lea and that there is recent mud on the road. The Chair asked the Clerk to look for relandscaping in the planning approval for West Lea and report back.
- ii. Cllr Lydon suggested an increase in the grant for the Coronation Street Party. The Clerk to put this on the agenda to be considered at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April.

The meeting was closed at 9.01pm.

Signed.....Chair