

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 3 July 2023 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Scottie Sanderson, Jonathan Shapiro, and Jenni Schuett

In attendance: PC Dave Gresswell, Clerk Kay Stone, and two members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman)

2. Councillors Sanderson and Schuett Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllrs Sanderson and Schuett agreed to continue in office and signed their declarations with the Clerk adding her signature.

3. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. None.
- ii. None.

4. Dispensations

No dispensation requests received.

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

- i. The Chair welcomed PC Dave Gresswell to the meeting and PC Gresswell gave his report on recent activity within the Parish.
- ii. A resident brought his concerns about the proposed Memorial Garden and it was agreed the Chair would open the meeting up at the appropriate point in the agenda.

There were no other items raised and the meeting continued as follows:

5. Meetings

Cllr Fuller proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 19 June 2023. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.

6. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that
 - a. the PACT (partners and communities together) meeting on Thursday 22 June was attended by four residents who discussed the proposed solar farm in Grafton and speeding on Woodcote Lane. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways are looking in to painted slow signs on the bend in Woodcote Lane and an HGV advisory sign at the junction with Dordale Road, and
 - b. she and District Cllr Taylor will be meeting the organiser of the motocross at Foxwalks Farm the following week and will report back.
- ii. No report received from District Cllr Taylor
- iii. No social media report.
- iv. Nothing to report from the Clerk.

7. Planning

- i. Cllr Sanderson proposed, Cllr Shapiro seconded, and all approved the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 30 June 2023, after which they were duly signed by the Chair.
- ii. No planning decisions received.
- iii. No planning appeals or appeals decisions received.
- iv. Enforcement / Environmental issues. The Clerk reported that Cllr Taylor has written to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) on outstanding issues.

- v. No other planning issues.

At this point the meeting was adjourned to allow the resident attending the meeting to bring his concerns about the amount of time and money (yet to be spent) on the proposed Memorial Garden and felt it could be more appropriate to spend the money in tidying up other open areas in Dodford.

There were no other items raised and the meeting continued as follows:

8. Memorial Garden

- i. Costings for bound resin path and railings:
 - a. The Clerk had found it impossible to get a quote for a resin path without a home visit but had seen a quote for a drive for a large, detached house at £3,414.
 - b. A rustic wooden two rail fence for 100 metres for self-build at £1,853.74.
 - c. Unable to get a quote for an iron rail but Eric, through Shirley, had offered to help out with anything to do with the proposed garden.
 - d. There is £3,267 in the budget for the garden made up of: £1,767 which appeared in the budget in March 2021 as a result of not having to pay back the Public Works Loan. £1,500 which was received from Cllr Webb's divisional fund. There is also £1,000 sitting in the budget for the additional village signs which at the June meeting, it was decided not to go ahead with the additional village signs due to the cost. The Clerk suggested to the Parish Council that a decision needs to be made on what to do with this £1,000 to enable her to go back to Cllr Webb and request her permission to put it towards a specific project.
- ii. WCC Highways have quoted £2,200 approximately for knee high fencing leaving a 4-metre gap for the tractor to cut the hedge.
- iii. After a discussion on simplifying the plan for the garden the following actions to take place:
 - a. The Chair proposed that the fence quoted by WCC should be put up as a start.
 - b. The Chair to speak to the person who cuts the hedge currently, to ascertain if he will be able to do so with the proposed gap in the railings or will there need to be a similar gap the other side of the garden. The Clerk to send an email to the Chair.
 - c. The request from Jo Rengger for a bench with a plaque to be discussed at the September meeting. Cllr Fuller expressed his concern about the safety of people sitting on a bench on what could be potentially a dangerous corner should the traffic through the village increase as a result of the Perryfields development.
- iv. Sponsorship and volunteering to remain on the agenda to be discussed once work on the garden has commenced.

9. Highways and footpaths

- i. WCC Highways conducted a safety inspection for Woodland Road and Victoria Road and although some of the damage appears to be wear and tear, some patching is needed. After a discussion on the lorries delivering soil and rubble to a site in Woodland Road, the Clerk was instructed to contact BDC.
- ii. The Clerk has requested a bin for the Churchyard and is waiting to hear if this is possible on private property.

10. Grants

- i. No further information from Dodford PCC.
- ii. A request has been received from the Dodford Village Hall Committee for a grant to be put towards a new sound system. At the request of the Village Hall Committee, this item to be postponed to the September meeting.

11. Training

After discussion, the Clerk to investigate with BDC about recent Diversity and Ethnicity training at BDC by an external company.

12. Dodford Village Hall

- i. No updates.

- ii. The Clerk to report the continuing noise issue with sharing and also that the group using the small hall had said they had not been told to end when the Parish Council meetings commenced and as far as they were concerned, they could continue until 8pm.

13. Local Government Boundary Commission

The Clerk could not see any changes for the Perryfields Ward and also was unable to access the consultation survey using the link given in an email. The Clerk was asked to report this issue back to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

14. Finance

- i. Cllr Sanderson is willing to continue to oversee the bank reconciliation on a quarterly basis. This appointment was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Jennings, and agreed by all.
- ii. The 2023 Council's Annual Review of Financial Management was signed by the Chair.
- iii. The Clerk was unable to present the first quarter reconciliation as the appointment of Cllr Sanderson to oversee the bank reconciliation had not taken place until item 14.i. The Clerk to send the bank reconciliation when the June bank statements are received and will report on the bank reconciliation at the September meeting.
- iv. The July Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 30 June 2023 (as per bank statement on line as paper copy not yet received) - £20,993.69
Current account as at 30 June 2023 (as per bank statement on line as paper copy not yet received) - £210.40
Payments to be made by bank transfer on 4 July – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Sanderson and seconded by Cllr Jennings:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £569.50
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £25.40 (Travel 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5.00; Use of telephone and internet line £5.00 and heating £10.00)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £142.40
 - d. Dodford Village Hall – hire of hall for meeting on 19 June 2023 - £25.00
 - e. Dodford Church – hire of Church for meeting on 30 June 2023 - £30.00Cllr Sanderson asked the Clerk how much data and money is spent on using the internet and telephone as he felt the current amount, which has not changed in 13 years, seemed low. The Clerk to report back at the September meeting.

15. Correspondence received – for information

An email from Dodford School on recent issues with school run parking and local agricultural traffic on the roads during school run times. It was agreed that this is an issue also experienced elsewhere.

16. Councillors items

- i. Concern was expressed concern about the metal sheets which are propped up and precariously balanced at a property in Priory Road. School holidays are about to start and there was concern that children being children and playing could be hurt.
- ii. A resident had approached a Councillor about the reclamation yard on Yarnold Lane spreading out in to the next field.
- iii. The Chair called for an extraordinary meeting to discuss the BDC Planning Committee meeting which she attended, on behalf of the Parish Council. This to take place on Wednesday 12 July at 7pm in Dodford Church.
- iv. Cllr Shapiro gave his apologies for the September meeting.

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.....Chair