

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 20 November 2023 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, District Cllr Kit Taylor, Clerk Kay Stone, and eight members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Jenni Schuett

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.

- i. Vehicles being stored on land below the Chennai Restaurant on Kidderminster Road which are a safety hazard with a petrol bomb being thrown at the vehicles recently. Cllr Kit Taylor offered to investigate with Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Planning.
- ii. Two businesses are encroaching on woodland and blocking up the stream in Yarnold Lane. Cllr Kit Taylor offered to investigate this with BDC Planning. Cllr Shirley Webb offered to speak to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Countryside Team and North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM).
- iii. Request for a Chartist information notice board on the land at the corner of Warbage Lane and Priory Road, and a request that money not being used on the Memorial Garden go towards the maintenance for the Church and Village Hall.

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

4. Meetings

Cllr Sanderson proposed, Cllr Fuller seconded, and all approved the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 23 October 2023. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that
 - a. more hedges have been cut back on Priory Road, but the footpath still needs to be sided out and
 - b. she is waiting for Highways to update on the suggested one-way system around Cockshutt Hill.
- ii. District Cllr Taylor reported that there were various planning and enforcement issues he is dealing with.
- iii. No social media report.
- iv. There are no additional items to be added to the budget for next year.

6. Planning

- i. Cllr Fuller Jennings proposed, Cllr Lydon seconded, and all approved the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 30 October 2023, after which they were duly signed by the Chair.
- ii. Approval by BDC of Reserved Matters on the Perryfields Development.

- iii. No planning appeals or appeals decisions received.
- iv. Enforcement / Environmental issues. No enforcement updates received.
- v. A planning application consultation has been received for an agricultural building at Chapelgate on Warbage Lane and the Clerk has called a Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting for Monday 4 December at 7.30pm in Dodford Village Hall.

7. Memorial Garden

After much discussion it was decided that due to efforts being thwarted along the way, the Memorial Garden, as such, will not be going ahead. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Shapiro seconded, and all agreed that an information board on the history of Dodford and information on the Hunters Walk and Monarchs Way should be placed on this piece of land. The Clerk was asked to get some quotes for the board for the January meeting.

8. Highways and footpaths

- i. No updates but the Clerk was asked to include the footpath on land off Yarnold Lane mentioned in the public participation.
- ii. No applications for the post of Footpath Warden as the vacancy has only just been advertised.
- iii. The Clerk has asked Cllr Taylor for help with getting a BDC waste bin on the Church car park.
- iv. After discussion it was agreed that placing a traffic mirror on Tuppenny Cake Green in Bournheath was not practicable and the idea should be shelved.

9. First Aid Courses

The Clerk provided costs for two course providers and Cllr Jennings requested this be discussed at the January meeting after a quote has been received from St John's Ambulance and the Clerk has established the need for a course through normal communication channels.

10. Worcestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the associated Surface Water Management Plan

The Parish Council has no comment to make.

11 Grants

- i. No requests received.
- ii. The Clerk read out the Parish Council Grant acknowledgement letter from the Dodford Village Hall Committee.

12. Dodford Village Hall

- i. The Parish Council do not wish to change the start time of 7.30pm for their meetings. The Parish Council are happy to have a Parish Council representative observe the Village Hall Committee meetings but are not prepared to become a Committee member or Trustee.
- ii. The Parish Council were not able to use the PA system at this meeting as a member of the Village Hall Committee was not able to be present to set the system up. The Parish Council suggest that a member from each user group who wish to use the PA system be trained by the Village Hall Committee to avoid this happening again. The conditions of the Parish Council Grant were that this be made available for the user groups.

13. Finance

- i. The NALC pay increase of £34.67 per month for the Clerk backdated to 1 April 2023 was acknowledged. The Clerk to pay this over the next three months to avoid the Parish Council having to pay NI contributions.
- ii. The November Financial Report:
 Deposit account as at 31 October - £23,386.66
 Current account as at 31 October 2023 - £75.67
 Payments to be made by bank transfer on 21 November – Proposed by Cllr Sanderson and seconded by Cllr Shapiro:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £661.86
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £42.20 (Travel 15 miles @ 45p per mile £7.20; Storage £5.00; Use of telephone and internet line £20.00 and Heating £10.00)

- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £165.40
- d. Lengthsman's duties for October plus VAT and mileage - £167.40
- e. Dodford Village Hall – hire of hall for meetings on 2, 23 and 30 October 2023 - £105.00
- f. For Information – Dodford Village Hall PA system grant approved at October meeting and transferred on 24 October - £446.67

14. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted.

15. Councillors items

Cllr Griffin pointed out safety issues with mud, soil and gravel on Priory Road and kerbstones not being visible through the mud. It was agreed that there was also a mud issue on Yarnold Lane. The Clerk was asked to contact WCC Highways to treat this as urgent.

The meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....Chair