

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 22 April 2024 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman), Scottie Sanderson, and Jonathan Shapiro

**In attendance:** Clerk Kay Stone and 5 members of the public.

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Scott Fuller, Jenni Schuett, County Cllr Shirley Webb, and District Cllr Kit Taylor

#### **2. Declarations and Register of interest**

- i. None.
- ii. Cllr Jennings for item 4ii.

#### **3. Dispensations**

No dispensation requests received.

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

#### **4. Grant Requests**

- i A grant request has been received from a resident who wishes to hold a small celebration in July for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chartist Day. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Lydon, and unanimously agreed to give a grant of £100.
- ii A grant request has been received from the organisers of the Dodford Church Harvest Supper for sets of cutlery and quoted between £300 and £400. Whilst the Parish Council support the Harvest Supper, after discussion it was suggested that the organisers could initially approach the Village Hall Committee to borrow theirs. If this is not possible then a formal request can be resubmitted to the Parish Council with three years set of accounts from the Church.

#### **5. Meetings**

- i. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Shapiro seconded, and all approved the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 25 March 2024. The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman as being a true record.
- ii. Confirmed speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May are:
  - a. Archdeacon Nikki Groarke to speak about the role of the church within a countryside village as the Diocese sees it
  - b. PC Simon Cadwallader, West Mercia Police
  - c. County Cllr Shirley Webb
  - d. District Cllr Kit Taylor

Apologies have been received from Sir Sajid Javid MP, National Grid, and Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways.

The Clerk to organise refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting interval.

#### **6. Reports**

- i. County Cllr Webb sent late apologies and was unable to send her report in advance. It will be received the following day and added to the minutes as an appendix.
- ii. No report received from District Cllr Taylor.
- iii. No social media report.
- iv. Clerk's reported that due to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) paying the first half of the 2024/2025 Precept on 28 March, it was unclear if the amount of £6,327.30 would incur a full external audit. The Internal Auditor confirmed this was not the case. Approval of signing the external Auditor's Certificate of Exemption (AGAR 2022/2023 Part 2) was proposed by Cllr Lydon, seconded by Cllr Jennings, agreed by all, and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

## **7. Planning**

- i. Acceptance of the minutes of planning committee meetings held on 16 April was proposed by Cllr Shapiro, seconded by Cllr Lydon, agreed by all, and signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.
- ii. Agricultural Notification for Parkgate Nurseries (24/00360/AGR). After discussion the Parish Council wish to request Footpath 607 is maintained.
- iii. No planning decisions received.
- iv. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- v. No enforcement updates received. The Clerk has received a request for confirmation that change of use of land at Sunrays has been granted as a field appears to be an extension of Pugh's Hire. The Clerk was asked to pass this on to BDC.
- vi. The letter from the Head of Planning has been received as a result of the official complaint made by the Parish Council. The Clerk to draft a letter to the Executive Officer requesting further information as to who has conducted the investigation and why the letter received did not come from an investigating officer or the Executive Officer but the head of the department at which the complaint was made.
- vii. Any planning issues:
  - a. Next planning meeting to be held on Tuesday 7 May to discuss the consultation notification received for a two-bedroom caravan at Croeso in Priory Road.
  - b. The application for the proposed solar farm at Foxwalks Farm will be discussed at the BDC planning committee meeting on Monday 29 April at 6pm. The Parish Council has not received an invitation to speak.

## **8. Highways and footpaths**

- i. The Clerk to arrange a site visit with the company who can supply a solar light on the Alfreds Well island.
- ii. No update on the Church grounds bin request as Kit Taylor was not at the meeting.
- iii. No applications received for a Footpath Warden.
- iv. No footpath / bridleway issues.

## **9. Memorial Garden**

No further ideas for information on the lectern have been received

## **10. Lengthsman Scheme 2024/2025**

- i. The Clerk explained that she has agreed on line with WCC Lengthsman Scheme to accept the 2024/2025 Agreement with the small change that Lengthsman are now able to carry out minor repairs to footpaths.
- ii. It was proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Sanderson that the 2024/2025 contract with the Lengthsman be agreed and was duly signed by the Clerk.

## **11. Annual Report**

The Clerk was thanked for producing the Annual Report and acceptance of this was proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Lydon, and agreed by all that it should be printed and sent out to all households within the Parish before the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **12. Dodford Village Hall**

- i. The Clerk is waiting to hear back from the Village Hall Committee about the installation of a bleed kit to be installed next to the defibrillator and if they wish to request for one in the kitchen.
- ii. No further issues to be brought up.

## **13. Finance**

- i. The Q4 reconciliation and budget had been previously circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. After confirmation that Cllr Sanderson agreed with the reconciliation, acceptance was proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Shapiro, and approved by all.
- ii. The April Financial Report:  
Deposit account as at 31 March - £25,333.63  
Current account as at 31 March - £185.66

Payments to be made by bank transfer on 23 April – Proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sanderson:

- a. Clerk's salary - £597.17
- b. Clerk's expenses - £465.05 (Travel 20 miles @ 45p per mile £9.00; Storage £5.00; Use of telephone and internet line £20.00 and Heating £10.00; 350 second class stamps for Annual Report mailing £297.50; colour printer ink £44.49; 500 envelopes for Annual Report mailing £17.00; 3 packs of mailing labels for Annual Report mailing £22.06, and GPDR renewal fee paid by credit card £40.00)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £149.20
- d. Lengthsman's duties for March plus VAT and mileage - £183.00
- e. Dodford Village Hall – hire of hall for 25 March - £35.00

**14. Correspondence received – for information**

- i. Correspondence received was noted with the Clerk being asked to minute correspondence from a Solar Panel Farm Opposition Group member was discussed and after following advice from Worcestershire CALC the Parish Council will not be changing their comments already submitted to BDC. As a decision was made at the March meeting, this item cannot appear on a forthcoming agenda for six months unless BDC consult again with the Parish Council if they receive further information from the developers.
- ii. A Local Council Conference between Worcestershire CALC and WCC is initially scheduled for a date in June, to be confirmed.

**15. Councillors items**

Cllr Sanderson questioned the number of vehicles parking partially or wholly on pavements around Bromsgrove which exaggerates the congestion already caused by current roadworks. This topic to be brought up at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.35pm.

Signed..... Chair