

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 15 July 2024 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman), Scottie Sanderson and Jenni Schuett,

In attendance: Clerk Kay Stone, County Cllr Shirley Webb, District Cllr Kit Taylor, PC Ian Smith and 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Scott Fuller and Jonathan Shapiro for reasons given which were accepted by the Parish Council

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. Reports of Himalayan Balsam by the stream in Alfreds Well. Cllr Taylor has had a meeting with BDC and mentioned this. This is the Landowners responsibility. The Clerk was asked to look at the North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) website and share information with residents. The Clerk was also asked to include information about invasive species in the Annual Report.
- ii. An update on the Motocross was given – see item 10.
- iii. The ongoing works at The Quinneys in Alfreds Well has been reported to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC)
- iv. PC Ian Smith was welcomed to the meeting and informed the meeting that he has transferred from Kidderminster and to contact him for anything residents feel to be suspicious.

4. Meetings

Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Griffin seconded, and all approved the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 24 June 2024. The minutes were signed by Cllr Jennings as a true record.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported
 - a. the bridge in Church Road is scheduled to be repaired by the end of September, and
 - b. Priory Road footpath still needs siding out and hedges to be cut. Residents have been sent letters from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) again.
- ii. District Cllr Kit Taylor report that
 - a. he has met with WCC Highways Officer and talked about the vegetation issue on Priory Road,
 - b. various enforcement cases are continuing, and
 - c. he is worried about the brook and is going to contact Richard Clewer at NWWM to help.
- iii. Nothing to report on social media.
- iv. The Clerk reported on the CALC Clerk's Gathering held on 25 June:
 - a. There is a need for the Parish Council to have a Publication Scheme, an Accessibility Statement and a GDPR Privacy Notice on the website and the Clerk confirmed all relevant documents and documents concluding the Audit have been uploaded,
 - b. WCC will no longer host the Parish Council web sites. There will be 12 months' notice to enable Parish Councils to set up their own web sites. CALC will advise in due course how to proceed with this. To stay with WCC could cost around £4k pa.

- c. There is a new system for Lengthsman reporting and claiming repayment from WCC. Clerks are annoyed that is doubling up on the Lengthsman's paper work and the Clerk reported that what would have previously taken 10 minutes took an hour and a quarter to do. The Clerk to send this information to Cllr Webb who offered to report back to WCC.
- v. No Clerk's report

6. Planning

- i. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Schuett seconded, and all approved the minutes for the planning committee meeting held on 11 June 2024. The minutes were signed by Cllr Jennings as a true record.
- ii. Approval for
 - a. the Conservatory and new vehicle access at Croeso and the two bedroom caravan,
 - b. the barn conversion at Crowfields Farm, and
 - c. refusal for the new outbuilding on land at Fockbury Mill Farm.

The Clerk was instructed to ask BDC why they didn't include the Parish Council's two recommendations in the Croeso decision to help the Parish Council in future.
- iii. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- iv. Enforcement and environmental updates:
 - a. The storage and dismantling of cars on land below the Chennai Restaurant was inspected by BDC on 6 June and the site has been cleared of all cars and structures and is locked and currently advertised for sale.
 - b. Under the Freedom of Information (FOI) request to Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) and BDC regarding tonnage and type of soil imported on Sumach land, response is: "Neither planning or WRS have any information to confirm the tonnage and what type of soil has been imported on to the property known as Sumach."
 - c. Under the FOI request to EA for soil invoices, the response is: "The Environment Agency can neither confirm nor deny the existence of the information requested, as to do so would breach the first data protection principle of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018). The first data protection principle requires that we are fair to individuals when we respond to requests for personal data. In this case it would be unfair to either confirm or deny that we have information about an identifiable individual, as such individuals have a reasonable expectation that information relating to them would remain confidential. The information requested is therefore exempt due to Regulation 13(5A) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004"
 - d. The Clerk has requested a quote for advice regarding help with the Planning Ombudsman from Lichfields (recommended by Richard Harper) but not received a reply.
 - e. Matthew McFeeley at Richard Buxton Solicitors in Cambridge (as recommended by Bredon Parish Council) has sent a detailed email which has been circulated to the Councillors prior to this meeting. It was agreed that this should be discussed in camera at the September meeting.
 - f. The Clerk was asked to send correspondence on Sumach to the new MP.
- v. No response yet from the Conservation Officer but Cllr Fuller contacted the Parish Council and noted on reading the document that village greens, ponds etc. can be on the Heritage List and asked if the Parish Council could include hedges. The Clerk to ask the Conservation Officer to include the hedges, streams and the swimming pool in the orchard opposite the Church. Also to include the woodland between Alfreds Well and The Dingle.
- vi. Cllr Lydon suggested requesting BDC to ban fireworks and use drones instead. The Clerk to write to BDC using information available on the RSPCA website. Cllr Sanderson to provide the clerk with the link.
- vii. Any planning issues:
 - a. As BDC could not help with providing information to the request from Cllr Griffin as to what the proportion of retrospective planning applications is as opposed to full planning applications, the Clerk had looked at Parish Council record and produced the following information:

	Total Applications Consulted on	Retrospective	Approved	Refused	Ongoing	Awaiting Decision
Since 2009	325	14	7	4	1	1
Since 2014	204	9	4	3	1	1
Since 2019	96	5	2	2	1	Application in 2016 is still awaiting decision

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. The Clerk to meet with the suppliers of the solar light on the island at the top of Alfreds Well before the next meeting.
- ii. A resident has contacted the Clerk about the role of Footpath Warden and Cllr Fuller has agreed to contact the resident and have a chat about the role.
- iii. No other footpath / bridleway issues have been reported.

8. Dodford Inn

This issue to be discussed in camera at the end of the meeting.

9. First Aid Training

The Clerk is awaiting a response from Age UK as to who will be conducting the training and at what level. In the meantime, it was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the course £255 per course and the Clerk to pick a couple of dates and check with Age UK.

10. Motocross

- i. Cllrs Webb and Taylor updated the Parish Council on their emails with Simon Glynn, the organiser of the Motocross. Simon knows he cannot undertake more than 14 meetings in a year. Cllr Taylor reported that there have been no formal complaints from residents to BDC or WRS. Residents attending the Parish Council meeting were asked to send information on numbers attending, speeding and litter to Cllr Taylor. Cllr Webb asked PC Smith to take these issues back who said they would be happy to attend the Motocross to show a presence. The Clerk to let PC Smith know upcoming dates as and when she is advised of them.
- ii. At the time of the Parish Council meeting WRS have been unable to attend with the noise monitor due to staff illness.
- iii. BDC has confirmed that "The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) (GPDO) allows temporary uses of land under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B. This allows for motor car and motorcycle racing including trials of speed and practising for these activities and the provision on the land of any moveable structure for the purpose of the permitted use for up to 14 days in any calendar year without requiring planning permission. The Government temporarily altered the permitted development rights in 2020 and 2021 in response to the pandemic and extended the time period for certain uses from 14 days to 28 days and from 28 days to 56 days. The extension to these time limits ceased on 31 December 2021. As detailed above, the version of the GPDO currently in force only allows for motor car and motorcycle racing including trials of speed and practising for these activities and the provision on the land of any moveable structure for the purpose of the permitted use for up to 14 days in any calendar year without requiring planning permission."

11. Memorial Garden

- i. The Lengthsman is willing to install the lectern if the Parish Council conduct a utilities survey on the land. This would cost the Parish Council £79.83 + VAT. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded and all agreed the Clerk should go ahead and obtain a utilities survey.
- ii. Cllr Lydon to speak to suppliers in the village for a Corten steel sign with a plastic top and trefoil and also to make a bench from wood supplied by Eric.
- iii. Clerk to contact RHS Wisley for cost and manufacturer of their Corten sign.

12. Dodford Chartist Day

After discussion on Cllr Lydon's suggestion of asking each society who uses the Village Hall to arrange for a group photo for the village history, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Lorraine Smith to see if this is something the Chartist Day group would like to take forward. If so, the Parish Council would be willing to give a grant towards the cost.

13. Bromsgrove District Consultation on Revised Statement of Principles under The Gambling Act 2005

No response.

14. 2025 Meeting Dates

Monday 27 January at 7.30pm

Monday 24 February at 7.30pm

Monday 24 March at 7.30pm

Monday 14 April at 7.30pm

Tuesday 6 May - Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm

Monday 19 May - AGM and full Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

Monday 23 June at 7.30pm

Monday 14 July at 7.30pm

Monday 22 September at 7.30pm

Monday 27 October at 7.30pm

Monday 24 November at 7.30pm

15. Dodford Village Hall

- i. Cllr Webb to seek a grant from WCC for a Bleed Control Kit on the wall next to the Defibrillator at a cost of £475.
- ii. The Clerk reported that the framed acknowledgement from the late Queen is downstairs in the Hall. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Village Hall committee if they would be willing to display a framed portrait of the King if the Parish Council applied for one. The Clerk was also instructed to ascertain if the Village Hall Committee would be willing to display more historical information.

16. Finance

- i. The adoption of the Q1 Report was proposed by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr Jennings, and agreed by all.
- ii. The July Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 28 June - £20,658.25
Current account as at 28 June - £278.01
Payments to be made by bank transfer on 16 July – Proposed by Cllr Sanderson and seconded by Cllr Schuett:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £597.17
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £133.25 (Travel 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5.00; Use of telephone and internet line £20.00, Heating £10.00; PDF Architect Renewal £7.95 and colour and black printer ink £84.90)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £149.20
 - d. Dodford Village Hall – hire of hall for 11 and 24 June - £60.00
 - e. Lengthsman duties for April 2024 plus VAT and mileage - £131.70
 - f. Lengthsman duties for May 2024 plus VAT and mileage - £165.60
 - g. Lengthsman duties for June 2024 plus VAT and mileage - £123.00

14. Correspondence received – for information

- i. Correspondence from a resident complaining about the overgrown hedge and weeds along the footpath between Church Road and the School which was covered in Cllr Webb's report.
- ii. A letter from a family member reporting silk flowers being removed from her parents grave which was forwarded on to the Vicar.

- iii. Worcestershire County Council's is currently preparing its new Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy and are looking for views to assist on the draft strategy. The consultation runs until 3rd September 2024. The final strategy is expected to be published later this year. As this is more for individuals than the Parish Council the Clerk has put the link on Dodford Facebook page and also forwarded the recent email to residents.
- iv. Report on the Chartist Day organised by Lorraine Smith which has been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting
- v. Age UK Herefordshire and Worcestershire are seeking to launch Rag Collections throughout our local community as a part of their continuous fundraising efforts. The Clerk to forward the information to the Village Hall Committee.

15. Councillors items

No Councillor items.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.57pm.

Meeting held in Camera:

- i. The nominations for the Phil Richardson Community Award 2024 were discussed and a unanimous decision was made.
- ii. Next actions regarding the Dodford Inn were discussed for the Clerk to action on.

At this point, the Clerk left the meeting

- iii. The annual appraisal and salary review for the Clerk was discussed and all Councillors agreed to the proposals set out by the Chair and Vice Chairman.

The meeting finally closed at 9.15pm

Signed..... Chair