

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 22 March 2012 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Vic Dawson, Richard Harper, Rachel Jennings, Terence Lee, Alwyn Rea, Richard Scott and Clerk Kay Stone

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

County Councillor Sheila Blagg and District Councillor Brian Lewis

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

- i. Personal interests – none declared
- ii. Prejudicial interests – Cllr Scott declared an interest in item 7 on the agenda

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda

None

#### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16 January 2012**

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Dawson after which they were signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

#### **4. Reports**

- i. No report received from District Councillor
- ii. County Councillor's report was circulated
- iii. Following the Clerk's report it was agreed that as no resident had contacted the Clerk to report problems with Broadband in the village, the Parish Council would no longer pursue this. Cllr Dawson proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Churchill and the Clerk for their research into the possibility of improved Broadband in the village.

#### **5. Planning**

- i. Minutes of the meetings held on 12 March had already been circulated to Councillors and copies were available at the meeting.
- ii. The Planning Committee Chairman informed the Council that the reason for Bromsgrove District Council's (BDC) refusal for the planning application for The Setters was that the plans exceeded the 40% rule.
- iii. After slight amendment, the submission to the Planning Inspectorate for The Stable was proposed by Cllr Dawson and seconded by Cllr Lee.
- iv. The Clerk was asked to ascertain from BDC if the Conservation Area line could be moved to include the whole of Field 7068.
- v. The Parish Council approved spend of £500 to Stewart Vick for his work on The Stable appeal which will be taken out of contingency in the budget.
- vi. 12/0168 – Westview, Worms Ash – Proposed two storey house extension in facing brickwork and red clay plain tiles to match existing. Demolition of existing garage and rebuild to similar size in facing brickwork and red plain clay tiles all to match existing. The Parish Council object to this application as they feel it fails to respect the integrity of the existing cottage and is concerned about the size of the extension dominating neighbouring smaller cottages. The Parish Council feels it needs to be established that the extension does not exceed the 40% rule. If Bromsgrove

District Council is minded to approve the application the Parish Council would request that conservation style veluxes are used.

- vii. It was agreed that Cllrs Rea, Harper and Dawson will meet with Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning and Regeneration, BDC on Thursday 26 April at 10.00am at BDC offices to discuss enforcement issues. The Clerk was asked to form a basis of an agenda.
- viii. The Clerk was asked to add Woodside Farm to the next planning meeting agenda and to ascertain from BDC if they have received an application for change of use for the barn at the rear of the existing house.

#### **6. Traffic / Road issues**

- i. In February a visit to Dodford by the Senior Highways Engineer at Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways resulted in the following action to be taken:
  - a. WCC is going to progress looking at double yellow lines at the Fockbury Road / Priory Road Junction.
  - b. As there is no speed limit in Dodford it is not possible to have mobile speed signs.
  - c. WCC will take a look at the new surface in Woodland Road where there are patches.
  - d. WCC are pursuing putting plastic bollards on the grass verges on the A448 Kidderminster Road outside the Crossroads Garage and the Chennai Restaurant to stop staff and customers parking there.
  - e. It is not possible to change the priority for Church Road / Victoria Road, but the Senior Highways Engineer will speak to the depot to see if they can use the small gritter during the bad weather.
- ii. After some discussion it was suggested that the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting open up a discussion with residents attending about speed signs and urbanisation of the village.

#### **7. Queen's Jubilee**

It was agreed to wait until the deadline of end of March before discussing grant applications. Applications will be discussed at the April Parish Council meeting.

#### **8. Dodford Conservation Area Draft Character Appraisal January 2011**

The Clerk has been informed by BDC that the public consultation on the Dodford appraisal will now not be taking place in 2011/12. Due to a number of changes within the Council and changes at a national level in the planning system this has had to be put on hold.

#### **9. Annual Parish Meeting**

- i. It was agreed that the Parish Council business cards should be included in the Annual Report mail shot in May. The Clerk has received a quote for the reprint - £65 plus VAT for 300.
- ii. It was agreed that the Annual Report will continue to be mailed to residents in the Parish and that the Annual Report should include a piece about giving residents the opportunity to receive Minutes of the Parish Council meetings by email, blind copied. The Clerk was asked to purchase the stamps in advance of the price increase next month.
- iii. After discussion it was agreed that the Planning Officer from BDC should talk about what the Localism Bill, in their own terms, will mean to residents with regards prospective or possible changes and any conflicts this may create.

**10. Lengthsman**

Cllr Dawson proposed and Cllr Churchill seconded to renew the contract for the current Lengthsman for another 12 months and the Clerk was asked to consult with CALC to see if the Parish Council can continue with the rolling contract or should the Council be re-advertising the role. The Clerk was asked to add this to the January 2013 agenda for discussion.

**11. Finance**

- i. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the budget will have an under-spend of approximately £150 for the year.
- ii. Approval of the payments due for February set out in a schedule circulated by the Clerk were proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Dawson.

**12. Correspondence received**

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.

**13. Councillors items**

- i. A resident had complained about the erection of a stile in Field 7068, Woodland Road and the Chairman explained the Parish Council Footpath Officer is in contact with WCC Footpath Officer about this.
- ii. It was suggested that a speaker system should be used for the Annual Parish Meeting and after discussion it was decided to hold the Annual Parish Meeting in the small hall.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.

Signed.....Chairman