

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 24 May 2011 in Dodford Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Alwyn Rea (Chairman), Vicky Churchill, Richard Harper, Rachel Jennings, Terence Lee, Richard Scott, Clerk Kay Stone, County Councillor Sheila Blagg, District Councillor Brian Lewis and four members of the public. Also in attendance, guest speaker, Andrew Fulford from Bromsgrove District Council.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Dawson, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 May 2011 were available at the meeting and were agreed.

3. Parish Council Annual Report

The Annual Report was available at the meeting and had been circulated to all residents prior to the meeting. The Chairman reported that he had received a phone call from a resident congratulating the Parish Council on their work. The Clerk reported that she had received a request from one resident to receive the Annual Report and Minutes electronically.

4. District and County Councillors reports

The County Councillor's annual report had previously been received, circulated and was available at the meeting. Cllr Sheila Blagg updated the meeting on how the funding gap is now £90m and that far sighted reviews were taking place regarding staff and co-location of buildings. An update was also given on the Police Authority with news about the election for a Police Commissioner which is taking place in November 2012.

District Councillor Brian Lewis updated the meeting on possible developments on the old market hall site in Bromsgrove. He also advised the meeting that the Core Strategy is going to be published in July. There has been a cut back on the number of District Council meetings from one a month to five a year. Within the Planning Department, enforcement is being given priority. He concluded his report informing the meeting that he is no longer on the planning or the licensing committee.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor and District Councillor for attending and giving their reports, making special mention of the informative monthly update from the County Councillor.

5. Dodford Village Hall Committee report

The Chairman of Dodford Village Hall Committee reported on how they had moved on from May 2011 with the new roof and storage area and also how the kitchen and bar had been updated.

The Village Hall Committee is currently fundraising to replace the small hall window, upgrade the toilets and extend the stage area for changing facilities. The Chairman concluded by thanking the Parish Council for their support. Cllr Rea then presented to the Chairman a framed response from HM Queen following the Parish Council, on behalf of the residents, sending congratulations on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.

6. Neighbourhood Watch report

The Neighbourhood Watch Officer gave his report which involved crime statistics for the Bromsgrove area. He also warned the meeting of bogus callers; theft of garden furniture, ATM machines in High Street that may have been interfered with and the request that householders have their burglar alarms serviced and to notify neighbours when away and who the key holders are to avoid alarms being sounded constantly whilst away. Cllr Rea thanked Phil Richardson for his report and hard work.

7. Speed signs and urbanisation of the village

Cllr Rea informed the meeting that the Worcestershire County Council Highway's proposal for parking restrictions in Priory Road and Fockbury Road was accepted by the Parish Council with the request that the position should be reviewed once the restriction is in place. The Parish Council would also request that Conservation lines be painted. The meeting was informed that one Parish Councillor had registered objection to the urbanisation.

8. Presentation on the District Plan by Andrew Fulford, Bromsgrove District Council Planning Officer

Andrew Fulford gave an enlightening report on Bromsgrove District Council's Local Plan and how it may affect residents. A discussion and question and answer session followed on recent and future developments. Cllr Rea thanked Andrew for attending and bringing this information to the meeting.

9. Questions/Matters of interest to Parishioners

Cllr Scott informed the meeting of the reasons for handing the keys back and closing the Dodford Inn.

The meeting closed at 9.13pm.

Signed.....Chairman