

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 26 July 2012 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Vic Dawson, Rachel Jennings, Terence Lee, Alwyn Rea, Richard Scott, and Katie Limm (acting Clerk).

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from County Councillor Sheila Blagg and District Councillor Brian Lewis.

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

- i. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – none
- ii. Other Disclosable Interests – none.

***There being no members of the public present no adjournment was necessary.***

#### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 28 June 2012**

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

#### **4. Reports**

- i. County Councillor Sheila Blagg's report had been circulated.
- ii. No report was received from District Councillor Brian Lewis.
- iii. No report from the Clerk

#### **5. Planning**

The Council noted the copy received of a letter from the owners of Elgon Cottage sent to the District Council about the proposed change of use of Cherry Tree Cottage, Worms Ash.

#### **6. Resignation and Councillor vacancy**

- i. The Council noted with regret Cllr Harper's resignation. The Council recorded its appreciation for his contribution to the parish and the Clerk was asked to write formally to Richard Harper to express the Council's thanks and regrets about his departure.
- ii. Cllr Lee voiced his concerns about the new requirements for Councillors to register their pecuniary interests which he considered to be excessive and not appropriate for Parish Councillors. It was agreed that the Council should consider at its next meeting writing a letter of protest about the new requirements.
- iii. A notice of the vacancy on the Council had been posted. If an election was not called by the required number of electors the Council agreed that arrangements should be put in hand to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Clerk was asked to post the notice advertising the vacancy with a view to co-opting a new member at the Council's September meeting. The vacancy should also be mentioned in the parish magazine to encourage residents to consider serving on the Council.

#### **7. Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Dawson was elected as Vice Chairman of the Council.

### **8. A448 Chaddesley Corbett to Bromsgrove**

The Council supported the proposals for a 50 mph speed limit on the A448 from Bromsgrove to Chaddesley Corbett and for extension of the 30 mph limit at Chaddesley Corbett. However, in relation to the latter the Council suggested that the limit should extend to the top of the hill to the junction with Clattercut Lane to discourage speeding on the straight stretch of road between the new school entrance and top of the hill. The need for enforcement of the new limits should also be stressed in the response to the County Council.

### **9. Change of use at Owens**

Mrs Limm said that concerns about a possible change of use of the property had been reported to the District Council. One of the enforcement officers had visited the property but had found no evidence of unauthorised activities. The Council noted this and that further evidence would be required to enable the District Council to take this further.

### **10. Finance**

Cllr Dawson confirmed that he had checked the bank reconciliation for the end of June 2012 and was content to sign this off. The Bank Reconciliation was noted.

### **11. Correspondence received**

A note of items of correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

- i. A letter from Worcestershire CPRE asked local parish councils to contribute to the cost of research to examine the housing targets being used in the District Council's draft Core Strategy. Mrs Limm said that she had been informed that CPRE had already acquired sufficient funds for this research. The Clerk was therefore asked to acknowledge the letter and say that the Council understood that sufficient funds had already been raised.
- ii. Cllr Rea said that he would ask the parish footpaths warden to check the problem with the Chartist's Walk that had been reported by a resident.
- iii. The Council agreed that the approach from Dodford Village Hall Committee about the unspent Diamond Jubilee grant should be considered at the September Council meeting. The Council should consider how it wanted to handle these unspent funds.

### **12. Councillors items**

- i. Cllr Churchill asked the Clerk to explore providing a link between the new village hall website and the Parish Council site. It would be helpful if the Clerk could let all Councillors have details of the new arrangements for hall bookings, etc.
- ii. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners of the land on the right hand side of Priory Road on the bend beyond the village hall about vegetation growing over the path.
- iii. The Clerk was asked to approach County highways about persistent flooding outside Sumach, Priory Road (the pipe from the gully is blocked) and on the A448 where a gully just beyond Woodcote Lane (near Woodcote Farm) needs to be cleared.
- iv. A reminder needs to be sent to the District Council Planning enforcement about the new access created at Alfred's Well.
- v. The Clerk was asked to raise possible breaches of planning and licensing requirements at the Dodford Inn- a smoke hut and bar have been erected at the front of the property.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....Chairman