

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 24 January 2013 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs, Vicky Churchill, Vic Dawson, Rachel Jennings, Terence Lee, Clerk Kay Stone and one member of the public

1. Apologies

Cllrs Alwyn Rea for part of the meeting, Richard Scott and District Councillor Brian Lewis reasons for which were accepted. Vice Chairman Cllr Vic Dawson chaired the whole meeting.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:
Cllrs Jennings declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda
- ii. None

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

- i. It was brought to the attention of the Council that there is a flooding issue in Priory Road outside Sumach and it was requested that this should be put on the February agenda

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20 December 2012

Cllr Lee had given his apologies for the December meeting and the Minutes were amended and initialled after which approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Rea and they were signed by the Vice Chairman as being a true record

4. Reports

- i. No report had been received from District Councillor Brian Lewis
- ii. The January report received from County Councillor Sheila Blagg had been received and already circulated to Parish Councillors. Copies were available at the meeting for members of the public
- iii. The Clerk confirmed that the new Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia has accepted the Parish Council's invitation to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on 23 May 2013. The Clerk has received the 2013 Village Hall Hire Agreement and it was agreed that she should sign it and return it. The Clerk confirmed that she had taken photographs of the chippings in Yarnold Lane and submitted them to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways

5. Planning

- i. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January had already been circulated to Councillors and copies were available at the meeting
- ii. Any other planning issues – for information:
A new enforcement issue - **2013/011/ENF – Little Yarnold Farm, Yarnold Lane** – walls of existing garage have been raised

6. Bromsgrove Rail Interchange Public Consultation

It was agreed that the Parish Council supports the new Bromsgrove Rail Interchange and in so doing would recommend to WCC that parking charges should be kept to a minimum to encourage commuters

7. Worcestershire County Council Highways

The Clerk reported that the reason for not changing the speed limit on the A448 is because the other local Councillor who covers most of the section didn't agree to his section of the proposed 50mph speed limit. WCC will pursue alternative speed restriction measures and as such the proposed SLOW road markings for the narrow section west of the Bungay Lake Lane junction have been laid. The associated hedge trimming of the obscured road narrows signage has been referred to WCC maintenance Section and the improved junction warning signage for Clattercut Lane is due to be carried out on 23 January. The Clerk was asked to write to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council to ask if their Councillor sought their advice and to possibly invite them to a future Parish Council meeting to discuss a joint letter in protest to WCC.

8. Draft Police and Crime Plan and Precept Options

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to support a 0% increase in council tax precept and to submit views on the draft police and crime plan as per Cllr Rea's circulated comments.

9. Membership of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)

The renewal of the Parish Council's membership of CPRE was proposed by Cllr Dawson and Seconded by Cllr Jennings and agreed.

10. Lengthsman

The contract for the Lengthsman for 2013/2014 was proposed by Cllr Dawson and Seconded by Cllr Lee and agreed. The Clerk was asked to write to the Lengthsman and thank him for his excellent work during the past year which she agreed to do when returning the signed contract to him.

11. Number of Parish Council meetings per annum

It was proposed by Cllr Dawson and seconded by Cllr Churchill and agreed that the number of Parish Council meetings per annum should be reduced. This item to be added to the February agenda to discuss the frequency and the implications.

At this point Cllr Rea joined the meeting and declared a pecuniary interest in item 13 on the agenda

12. Possible culling of Montjac Deer

After lengthy discussion the Clerk was asked to contact CPRE, the Gamekeepers at Hagley Hall and Ragley Hall for advice and to invite Nathan from West Midland Deer Management to the February Parish Council meeting.

At this point Cllrs Rea and Jennings left the room while the following was discussed

13. Grant applications for 2012/2013

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Dawson, seconded by Cllr Lee and agreed that the following grants be paid:

Dodford Village Hall - £500

Dodford PCC - £500

Citizen's Advice Bureau Bromsgrove - £125 (the additional £25 to come out of the contingency budget)

Dodford Holiday Farm - £250

Midlands Air Ambulance - £50

WRVS Bromsgrove Community Transport - £50

Macmillan Cancer Support in Bromsgrove - £50

Cllrs Rea and Jennings rejoined the meeting

14. Internal Auditor

It was proposed by Cllr Dawson, seconded by Cllr Rea and agreed to reappoint Diane Malley as Internal Auditor for the 2012/2013 audit

15. Finance

- i. The Quarterly reconciliation was presented following Cllr Dawson's confirmation of figures and acceptance of this was proposed by Cllr Dawson and seconded by Cllr Rea and agreed.

At this point Cllrs Lee and Jennings left the room while the following was discussed

- ii. Following discussion of the 2013/2014 budget it was agreed that the budget for the CAB grant should be increased to £125 and the contingency figure should be decreased to £975. Acceptance of the budget was proposed by Cllr Dawson and seconded by Cllr Rea and agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Dawson and agreed that the Precept figure of £9,850 remains the same as previous years.

Cllrs Lee and Jennings rejoined the meeting

- iii. Approval of the payments due for January set out in a schedule circulated by the Clerk were proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Dawson and agreed.

16. Correspondence received – for information

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.

17. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Churchill requested the ownership and the maintenance of the two triangular islands in Whinfield Road and Worms Ash be added to the agenda and the Clerk was asked to request a copy of the Agreement from WCC and to ask the Lengthsman if he would take the maintenance on
- ii. Cllr Churchill brought to the Parish Council the concerns of Dodford Village Hall Committee for the use of bleach to clean the Commemorative Stone. Cllr Churchill was assured that the bleach would be put on the stone with a cloth and will be carried out in the summer by Mr Richardson
- iii. Cllr Jennings reported that some residents had been challenged by the new owner at Greenhill Farm about footpaths in his field. The Clerk was asked to put this on the February agenda and to bring the Parish map to the meeting
- iv. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) regarding the change of vehicular access at a property in Warbage Lane close to the boundary with Belbroughton Parish Council
- v. Cllr Jennings brought to the Parish Council's notice that some years ago piles of grit were left by the County Council in Priory Road on land owned by the County Council by the Church and could this be a possible site for a grit bin. To be added to the February agenda.

18. Councillor co-option

To be a continuing agenda item as no-one has come forward for co-option.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed.....Chairman