

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 25 July 2013 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Vic Dawson, Rachel Jennings, Terence Lee, Alwyn Rea (Chairman), Richard Scott and David Valentine

In attendance: Acting Clerk Katie Limm, District Councillor Brian Lewis and one resident.

1. Apologies

County Councillor Sheila Blagg gave her apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. Cllr Valentine declared an interest in 7ii

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda – No items were raised.

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 27 June 2013

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

4. Reports

- i. The July 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.
- ii. District Councillor Brian Lewis reported on a meeting with the local MP, also attended by Karen May Chairman of Bournheath Parish Council, about the Veolia application for an Incinerator Bottom Ash processing facility in Fairfield (Belbroughton Parish). The MP had undertaken to discuss this with the County Council but made no other commitments. Cllr Lewis also reported on a transport policy assessment briefing organised by County Highways which looked at transport policy up to 2022.
- iii. The Clerk had circulated a note about a telephone call from a resident who was concerned about noise and potential fire risk from firework displays at a wedding venue in Upton Warren. The Council asked the Clerk to check the planning conditions attached to the application for use of Manor Hill as a wedding venue and also the legal requirements concerning private firework displays and music licenses. The Council would then consider what action if any it could take to support the resident concerned.

5. Planning

- i. Cllr Dawson reported on the items discussed at the meeting held on 3 May. The Minutes were approved after which they were signed by the Planning Committee Chairman as being a true record.
- ii. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July had already been circulated to Councillors and copies were available at the meeting.
- iii. Planning application 13/0390 – Jalna, Woodland Road – Demolition of existing UPVC conservatory to the rear of the property and constructing a single storey facing brickwork

extension on the existing footprint with gable end pitched roof over all to match existing – Approved by Bromsgrove District Council (BDC).

6. Electoral Review of Bromsgrove Consultation

The Chairman reminded the Council that the outcome of the Boundary Commission's review of District Ward boundaries had been reported at the previous meeting. The Council had agreed to defer consideration of what action, if any, it could take in view of the unwelcome proposal to include Dodford with Grafton in a new Perryfields ward. There was no right of appeal against the final recommendations. The proposals would be laid before Parliament for approval in the autumn.

The Parish Council had objected to the new warding proposal on the grounds that well established local links with Bournheath and Fairfield were being disregarded and that the rural residents of the parish would be disadvantaged by being included in a predominantly urban ward. The Council agreed that the Clerk should write a strongly worded letter to the local MP setting out these concerns and including a copy of the Council's letter of objection to the Boundary Commission. The Clerk's letter should point out that the Commission seems to have ignored local views and also ask what action the MP could suggest to ensure that these concerns get a hearing before the legislation for the new wards is approved.

7. Highways and footpaths updates

- i. A448 – The Clerk had written to the safer roads partnership and is waiting to hear back from them. County Councillor Sheila Blagg has also received an email from a resident on the A448 complaining about the speed which the Clerk has forwarded on to the safer roads partnership.
- ii. Greenhill Farm public footpath – The meeting between the land owner and Worcestershire County Council and the Parish Council has been postponed until the November or December meeting.
- iii. Wayside, Valley Road – No update from the County Council. Cllr Blagg's July report had suggested that in light of the lack of officer response, the Parish Council should write to John Hobbs. The Council agreed this course of action.

8. Mini constituencies

A resident had suggested that the Council should consider giving Councillors mini constituencies. The Council noted that since Councillors' contact details were available they could readily be contacted by residents. The practical difficulties of dividing the parish up into equal constituencies was also noted.

However the Council agreed that it should consider how it communicates with residents including those who live in Grafton. Some residents do not subscribe to the parish magazine. Information about meetings was included on the notice board, but could be made more visible for example by putting out a large roadside notice a few days before hand. There would be another Council election in two years and it was important to generate interest in the Council and in serving as a Councillor. The Council agreed to schedule time for a fuller discussion about communication with residents at the next meeting and that Mr Wyrill should be invited to attend to explain what he thought mini constituencies would achieve.

9. Parish Cookbook

Cllr Jenkins explained that she would like entries from local organisations to include a recipe, a few words about the organisation, and a 'top tip'. It was agreed that the Clerk should be asked to provide a contribution for the Council.

10. Speed restriction signs

The Council noted that this issue had been discussed many times. In the past the consensus had always been that signs would urbanise the village. However concerns about speeding and the desire to do something about this recurred. It was agreed that Richard Clewer, County Highways, and Cllr Sheila Blagg should be invited to attend a Council meeting to discuss the options and what might be possible. One option to explore was having advisory signs at the village entrances saying 'Please drive slowly through the village' and 'Thank you for driving slowly' at the exits. If some realistic measures could be identified in discussion with the County, then the Parish Council would organise a public meeting to consult residents about the options.

The enforcement of parking restrictions at the school was raised. Cllr Scott said that he had spoken to the District Council (who had taken over responsibility for enforcement of parking restrictions) and they intended to visit and enforce restrictions from September when the school returned.

Councillors pointed out that some nursery school parents were often the chief offenders and that peak parking times for them were 8.00 am and 5.30 pm. The problems would be exacerbated from September when all school pupils had been asked to arrive at 8.45 am rather than having a staggered arrival time. Cllr Lewis undertook to pass this information on to Mike Webb at the District Council.

11. Finance

There were no payments for July

12. Correspondence received – for information

No correspondence received

13. Councillors items

Cllr Lee said that there was a persistent problem with cars parking at the Fockbury Road junction.

Cllr Churchill raised concerns about the lack of signage after the Fockbury Road junction to warn residents about the temporary traffic lights on the A448. Clerk to report to County Highways.

Cllr Valentine mentioned a property at the right hand side of the junction opposite the Crossroads Garage. There had been a recent fire – and he expressed concerns about the future use of the site. He suggested that the Council should keep this in view.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed.....Chairman