

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 19 December 2013 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: District Councillor Brian Lewis, Clerk Kay Stone and three members of the public

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of interest

- i. Cllr Valentine – item 7i
- ii. Cllrs Jennings and Rea – item 13

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

- i. Repair work to the footpath in Priory Road had commenced.
- ii. After a lengthy discussion regarding verbal threats made to the Clerk, the Clerk was instructed to notify the Police; make enquiries about using a PO Box number instead of home address and to enquire from the District Council about the possibility of an injunction to protect the Clerk and Councillors. This item to be added to the February agenda.
- iii. Former Councillor Vic Dawson told the Parish Council how much he had enjoyed serving on the Parish Council for 12 years and hoped he had contributed in some way. The Chairman replied that the Parish was grateful to him for his commitment, hard work and long service.

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14 November 2013

The Clerk had omitted to record the election of the Planning Committee Chairman. This was rectified and approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Churchill after which they were signed by the Chairman as being a true record. The rectified Minutes will be circulated with the December Minutes.

4. Reports

- i. The November 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.
District Councillor Brian Lewis reported on Bromsgrove District Council matters. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter to Bromsgrove Conservative Association supporting District Councillor Lewis's decision to stand again at the next election.
- ii. No report from the Clerk.
- iii. The Clerk and Cllr Churchill gave a report on the recent CALC Area Meeting.

5. Councillor co-option

No applications.

6. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Jennings proposed Cllr Vicky Churchill as Vice Chairman and Cllr Scott seconded. The Vice Chairman then signed the declaration with the Clerk adding her signature.

7. Highways and footpaths updates

- i. Greenhill Farm – public footpath. The Clerk reported that Steve Waring, Countryside Services, WCC had not received a reply to his letter to the landowner but the Parish Council were told that the owner and occupier want people restricted to the right of way and are proposing erecting a light weight fence and loose rope to indicate right of way.
- ii. A448 – speed restrictions:
 - a. The Clerk read out the response from Sajid Javid MP, enclosing a letter from Robert Goodwill at the Department for Transport, to say there are no plans to introduce a blanket 50mph national speed limit and offering to write to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to ask about a speed limit on the A448 if the Parish Council wished him to.
 - b. The Clerk had received a response from the Safer Roads Partnership to say that the Parish Council's request has been tabled as an agenda item for their January meeting.
 - c. The Chairman reported on a near miss at Bungay Lake Lane.
 - d. The Clerk read out an email received from a resident about a near miss at the Fockbury Road junction.
 - e. The Clerk was asked to find out more about Clent Parish Council's project of residents monitoring vehicle speeds.
 - f. The Clerk was asked to invoke the complaints procedure with WCC.
- iii. Wayside, Valley Road – The Clerk reported she was still waiting to hear from two residents and was instructed to write to them again with a deadline for response and if nothing is heard then to instruct WCC to go ahead with the white line painting.
- iv. Bungay Lake Lane – The Clerk reported that the contractor suggested by WCC to shore up the ditches was waiting to have a site meeting with WCC before issuing a quote. The other issue regarding verbal threats to the Clerk from the farmer's contractor who cuts the hedges had already been discussed in the open meeting.
- v. The Clerk reported on all the drainage work carried out by the Lengthsman during the month.
- vi. It was agreed that the Lengthsman should attend a training course on road safety organized by WCC using time he would have spent in the village.
- vii. It was agreed that speed restriction signs should be at the six entrances to the village and that this item should be put on the Annual Parish Meeting agenda in May 2014.

8. Worcestershire County Council – withdrawal of subsidised bus services

No apparent bus services for Dodford.

9. Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan – second stage consultation

Cllr Valentine's report on the Local Plan had been circulated to Councillors and it was decided that the Parish Council would support Bournheath's response and the Clerk was instructed to acquire a copy of their response from the Clerk.

10. Bromsgrove District Council – Consultation on criteria for the Bromsgrove Local Heritage List

After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council have no objections to the criteria.

11. Bromsgrove District Council – Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

No comments

12. Planning

- i. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December had already been circulated to Councillors and copies were available at the meeting.
- ii. District Councillor Brian Lewis informed the Parish Council that WCC have approved the planning application for the Hartlebury Incinerator.

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

13. Grants for 2013/2014

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Churchill, seconded by Cllr Scott and agreed that the following grants be paid (reasons for which the Clerk was asked to record in the Annual Report):

Dodford Village Hall - £500 (*Village project*)

Dodford PCC - £500 (*Village project*)

Citizen's Advice Bureau Bromsgrove - £125 (*Advice given to residents is confidential and the Parish Council have no proof that residents in Dodford do not use this valuable service*)

Dodford Holiday Farm - £250 (*Benefits children*)

Midlands Air Ambulance - £50 (*Residents may need use of the Air Ambulance away from Dodford*)

WRVS Bromsgrove Community Transport - £50 (*Essential with the reduction of bus services*)

Macmillan Cancer Support in Bromsgrove - £50 (*Everyone is affected at some stage by cancer within families*)

It was agreed that when the Council Tax Support Grant for 2013/2014 for £150 is received from Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) that this could be used as an additional grant.

Cllrs Rea and Jennings rejoined the meeting

14. Standing Orders

The new version had been circulated to Councillors and the adoption of the Standing Orders was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Scott.

15. Communication

It was agreed that the Clerk should notify residents in the Annual Report where they will find Minutes, Agendas and newsletters. It was also agreed that the Chairman would pull together a quarterly Newsletter which will be available on the web site and notice boards commencing in March 2014.

16. Finance

- i. The Clerk is awaiting further information from BDC before Councillors are able to discuss the setting of the Precept and so acceptance of the 2014/2015 draft budget and the setting of the Precept will be discussed at an Extraordinary meeting to be held on the last Thursday in January 2014.
- ii. Deposit account as at 29 November 2013 - £12,150.88
Current account as at 29 November 2013 - £634.96
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Lee:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £285.66 (December) and £285.66 (January)
 - b. Expenses - £66.38 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; Storage £5; Travel 28 miles @ 45p/mile £12.60; Postage £7.20 and Stationery £36.58)
 - c. HMRC - £71.40 (December) and £71.40 (January)

- d. Allen Farnsworth (Lengthsman) - £377.60 (November and December) and £188.80 (January)
- e. Dodford Village Hall - £20.00

15. Correspondence received – for information

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.

16. Councillors items

The field opposite the Church is being bought to be used as a paddock. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Tree Officer if trees in a Conservation Area are automatically covered by a Tree Preservation Order. The Clerk was also instructed to write to the new owners care of the estate agents to advise them about being in the Conservation Area.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed.....Chairman