

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 27 February 2014 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: District Councillor Brian Lewis, Clerk Kay Stone and 20 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr David Valentine gave his apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. Cllr Lee – item 5i
- iii. Cllr Rea – item 6 for which Cllr Rea had submitted a Dispensation Request Form which was accepted by the Parish Council

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

- i. There is no co-ordination between BT and NPower for when services will be changed after poles have been replaced.
- ii. After a lengthy discussion regarding caravans in the field at the Dodford Inn the Parish Council thanked members of the public for attending and for the extra information they were able to give to the Parish Council regarding the planning application and the reasons for the caravans being on site which will be taken into consideration when the Parish Council Planning Committee discuss the planning application.

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 19 December 2013 and Extraordinary meeting held on 30 January 2014

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

4. Reports

- i. 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.
District Councillor Brian Lewis reported on Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) matters.
- ii. The Chairman and Vice Chairman reported on the Worcestershire County Council Budget Consultation meeting which was held on 22 January.
- iii. The Clerk reported that £145.33 had been received from HMRC for VAT repayment and there had been 2,086 visits to the MyParish web site over the last 12 months.

5. Planning

- i. Planning application 14/0077 – Woodcote Farm, Kidderminster Road – Erection of steel portal frame stock shed – The Clerk was asked to obtain a site plan before commenting on the application and then this will be discussed at the Planning Committee meeting on 4 March 2014.
- ii. Any other planning issues:

13/0968 – Highwoods Farm, Woodcote Lane – Retrospective application for two dormer windows to rear elevation – BDC have approved this application.

6. Dodford Inn

BDC have consulted the Parish Council on Planning application 14/0083 – To provide temporary accommodation for up to 18 caravans for National Grid construction workers. Accommodation to be occupied Monday-Friday only. This will be discussed at the Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting on Tuesday 4 March 2014. Prior to this meeting Cllrs Rea, Churchill, District Councillor Brian Lewis and the Clerk will meet with BDC planning officers on Tuesday 4 March at 9.30am at BDC Council offices.

7. Highways and footpaths updates

- i. Wayside, Valley Road – The Clerk reported she has received no objections to the painting of the white lines in Valley Road and has instructed WCC Highways Department to commence the work.
- ii. The expenditure of £500 for repair work to ditches in Bungay Lake Lane was proposed by Cllr Scott, Seconded by Cllr Jennings and approved and the Clerk will instruct Adam Taylor Services to commence the work.
- iii. The Clerk reported on work carried out by the Lengthsman during December and January.
- iv. A448 – speed restrictions:
 - a. The Clerk reported that County Councillor Sheila Blagg has arranged for Jon Fraser from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways to speak at the March Parish Council meeting. The Clerk was asked to write to WCC Chief Executive, Trish Haines, to express their concerns that John Hobbs, Director of Business and Environment appeared reluctant to face the Parish Council.
 - b. The Clerk read out the email from Ian Connolly of West Mercia Police regarding the Safer Roads Partnership decision not being able to find suitable safe locations for their staff to carry out enforcement. The Clerk was asked to reply to find out what the criteria would be for a safe location as the Parish Council can identify appropriate locations such as the verge at The Crossroads and Dodds Corner.
- v. The report by Cllr Valentine regarding the road bridge on the A448 will be discussed at the March Parish Council meeting with WCC Highways.
- vi. Local gypsy fraternity - the Clerk was asked to pass the report to WCC Highways as a resident's representation.
- vii. Cllr Rea and the Clerk will be attending a meeting in Priory Road with the BDC Conservation Officer and WCC Highways regarding the Conservation Officer's concern about keeping the kerb stones in Priory Road on Monday 3 March at 11.30am.

8. Broadband

WCC's January newsletter and comments by Abbots Morton Parish Council were circulated and noted. The Clerk was asked to contact County Councillor Sheila Blagg about problems for the aged population and lack of Broadband with WCC going completely digital.

9. Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk was asked to formally invite County Councillor Sheila Blagg to the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 19 May 2014 to talk about her portfolio for adults with social care needs; how budget cuts will affect the elderly, and what impact WCC going digital will have on the elderly with lack of Broadband. The Clerk was also asked to add to the agenda the topic of the village dying and lack of community spirit. The agenda will be finalised at the April meeting.

10. Worcestershire County Council Parish Conference – 30 April 2014

The Clerk was asked to submit 'WCC and digital implications' as an agenda item.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Lee and agreed to renew the 2014/2015 membership at the same fee as last year £29.00.

12. Internal Auditor

It was proposed by Cllr Churchill, seconded by Cllr Lee and agreed to appoint Diane Malley as the Internal Auditor for the 2013/2014 audit at the same fee as last year £55.

13. Finance

- i. It was proposed by Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Churchill and agreed for the Clerk to use Lloyds Bank Online for Business and the completed Delegate Registration form was signed by three of the four named signatories.
- ii. The Third Quarter's reconciliation and budget was presented and acceptance of this was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Scott and agreed.
- iii. Deposit account as at 29 January 2014 - £11,301.84
Current account as at 29 January 2014 - £645.66
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Churchill:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £285.66
 - b. Expenses - £108.63 (Use of telephone and internet line for January and February £10; Storage for January and February £10; Travel 64 miles @ 45p/mile £28.80 and Stationery £59.83)
 - c. HMRC - £71.40
 - d. Dodford Village Hall Grant - £500
 - e. Dodford PCC Grant - £500
 - f. Citizen's Advice Bureau Bromsgrove Grant - £125
 - g. Dodford Holiday Farm Grant - £250
 - h. Midlands Air Ambulance Grant - £50
 - i. WRVS Bromsgrove Community Transport Grant - £50
 - j. Macmillan Cancer Support in Bromsgrove Grant - £50
 - k. CPRE 2014 Membership Fee - £29
 - l. Public Works Loan Board (loan payment due by Direct Debit on 18 February 2014) - £883.62

14. Councillor co-option

No applications.

15. Correspondence received – for information

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted and the Clerk was asked to:

- i. Accept the invitation for Cllr Scott to attend the BDC Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth Ceremony at the Council House on 10 March.
- ii. Mention the BDC Home Security Event in the next Parish Magazine.
- iii. Mention the WCC's request for information on farms and businesses affected by the recent floods in the next Parish Magazine.

16. Councillors items

- i. A metal barn has appeared in a field at The Crossroads.
- ii. Parking on double yellow lines outside the school and nursery continues.
- iii. Side of roads falling away in Priory Road and Fockbury Road by the school.
- iv. Parents are being asked to drop children off between 8.40am and 8.50am.
- v. Footpath 539 from Yarnold Lane has a broken hand rail on the bridge over the stream.
- vi. Property opposite the Golf Range on the Kidderminster Road flooded on 20 February to a depth of eight inches. Clerk to ask Richard Clewer to contact Cllr Lee to meet on site to discuss situation.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Signed.....Chairman