

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 14 May 2015 in Dodford Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Vicky Churchill (Chairman), Rachel Jennings, Alwyn Rea, Christine Thomas and David Valentine

In attendance: District Councillor Karen May, Clerk Kay Stone and twenty members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

County Councillor Sheila Blagg, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 May 2014 was proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Valentine after which they were signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

3. Parish Council Annual Report

- i. The outgoing Chairman, Cllr Rea, thanked former Parish Councillors Richard Scott and Terry Lee for their years of service to the Parish Council and announced that Christine Thomas had been co-opted on to the Parish Council pointing out that there are still two Casual Vacancies. The previous District Councillor Brian Lewis had stood as Independent in the recent elections but had not been elected and Cllr Rea welcomed the new District Councillor Karen May and also thanked Brian Lewis for his support over many years.
- ii. Cllr Rea explained that the Parish Council would not be taking up their right to bid for The Dodford Inn and the Parish Council wholly support the prospective purchasers.
- iii. The Annual Accounts were available at the meeting and the full Annual Report will be circulated to all residents by post after the meeting.

4. County Councillor's report

The County Councillor's report had previously been received, circulated and was available at the meeting.

5. District Councillor's report

As District Councillor Karen May had only just been elected she had no report but informed the Parish Council of her full support.

6. Laura Taylor from ICE

ICE offer free NHS Health Checks and information on smoking cessation for people between 40 and 74 years old. The confidential health check takes 20 to 30 minutes and results are given there and then. After the question and answer session it was suggested that ICE should attend the Summer Fete (Cllr Valentine made a note) and possibly the Afternoon Teas (Vice Chairman of the Village Hall Committee who organises the Afternoon Teas was at the meeting).

7. Christy Weatherby, Bromsgrove and District Age UK

This is a separate entity from Age UK and relies on funding from the Bromsgrove area. Their work is promoting independent living by providing services in own homes. They work with the County Council and also have befrienders who are trained and vetted. There is an Advice Centre in Windsor Street where people can be signposted to lots of other services. They

manage Amphlett Hall and organise various groups like computer groups, postural exercises, sewing and art groups. There are two charity shops in Bromsgrove and money raised remains with Bromsgrove and District Age UK and is not sent centrally.

8. PCSO Mark Ryder, Bromsgrove District Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Safer Neighbourhood Team deal with local issues such as traffic control and minor incidents to release the pressure from the Police. 101 is still the National Number for people to ring for non emergency issues.

9. Dodford Inn – Update on the sale and the Community Asset

The purchase of the Dodford Inn can go ahead if community groups fail to put in a bid by 21 May 2015.

10. Dodford Village Hall Committee

The Vice Chairman thanked the Parish Council for the Grant again this year and explained how the maintenance of the Village Hall is increasing in volume and cost. The Afternoon Teas have been hugely successful and the Committee are thinking of organising Lunch Clubs. The main source of income remains the Auction refreshments and jumble sales. The Committee are looking for new members, not necessarily trustees. The toilet block is due for refurbishment and the Committee are looking for external funding.

11. Neighbourhood Watch Report

Due to illness there was no report but the Chairman wished to thank Phil Richardson for all his hard work with Neighbourhood Watch over many years and for updating the Parish Council at its meetings.

12. Questions / Matters of interest to Parishioners

It was pointed out to the Parish Council that not all the wood has been replaced by concrete at the back of the new footpath in Priory Road. The Clerk was instructed to contact Worcestershire County Council Highways Department.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed.....Chairman