

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 24 March 2016 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Rachel Jennings, Alwyn Rea and Christine Thomas

In attendance: District Councillor Karen May and Clerk Kay Stone

1. Apologies

Cllrs Vicky Churchill (Chairman) and Paul Warman gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

In Cllr Churchill's absence, Cllr Thomas chaired the meeting

2. Declarations of interest

- i. Cllr Rea for item 12iii and Cllr Jennings for items 15ii and 12ii
- ii. None

3. Dispensations

No requests received

No members of the public present so the meeting was not adjourned

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2016

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Thomas agreed by all and then signed by the Vice Chairman as being a true record.

5. Reports

- i. The March report from County Councillor Sheila Blagg had been received and circulated to Parish Councillors with copies being made available at the meeting. After a discussion the Clerk was asked to write to Sajid Javid MP, copying in Cllrs Blagg and May to advise the MP that the Parish Council did not agree with the results of the feasibility study of a western bypass stating that no requirement for a western distributor road has been identified as being necessary to support the growth identified within the emerging local plan. The Parish Council felt there should be more discussion about this as existing problems, compounded in the future, are totally unresolved.
- ii. District Councillor Karen May reported that
 - a. she had attended the recent CALC Area meeting;
 - b. her meeting with BDHT and residents in Fockbury Road had resulted in BDHT owning the verge but not the houses and she has requested a plan of action from BDHT;
 - c. in the Clerk's absence on sick leave, she had reported two drains that were blocked; and
 - d. was engaged in a BDC strategy for car parking.
- iii. Cllr Churchill's report on the recent CALC Area meeting had been circulated to Councillors where the main item of discussion was enforcement issues that Parish Councils have with Bromsgrove District Council (BDC)
- iv. The Clerk reported that:
 - a. she had claimed back VAT totalling £146.80 from HMRC which would be received next month; and
 - b. that she had notified residents through the electronic newsletter of full overnight closures on the M5 on 23 March and 29 March.

6. Planning

- i. No planning applications or consultations had been received
- ii. The Clerk reported that BDC had
 - a. approved the application for a garage conversion at West Lodge Barns, 5 West Lodge, Swan Lane; and
 - b. approved the prior approval required for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling for a building in Fockbury Road.
- iii. No planning appeals received
- iv. Enforcement/Environmental issues
 - a. Woodcote Driving Range, Kidderminster Road – part of the fence has been removed.
 - b. Pugh's Plant Hire – Cllr May is dealing with this.
 - c. Park Gate Inn – The Clerk had noted on BDC's weekly enforcement report that caravans had been seen at the rear of the property.
 - d. Building work at the rear of Wayside in Victoria Road. Cllr May to chase BDC.
 - e. Businesses being carried out at Little Paddocks in Warbage Lane
- v. There were no Conservation issues to be discussed.
- vi. There were no other planning issues to be discussed.

7. Neighbourhood Watch

No reports had been received by the Clerk.

8. Councillor co-option

No applications had been received by the Clerk.

9. Highways and footpaths

- i. Update on a gate at the entrance to the walk close by the Church Road / Woodland Road junction – The Clerk is still to write to the owners of the land either side of the entrance to the walk.
- ii. Update on Church Road surface – Worcestershire County Council (WCC) still to inspect.
- iii. Update on speed check request to – WCC still to inspect. The Clerk was asked to request WCC carry out speed checks on Woodcote Lane, Priory Road, Fockbury Road, Warbage Lane and Yarnold Lane. It was noted that there had been an accident in Yarnold Lane two weeks previously which had resulted in the road being closed. The Clerk was asked to advise Richard Clewer.
- iv. Update on the road surface in Fockbury Road – WCC have this on their programme or works for 2016/2017.
- v. Update on footpaths 525 and 519 leading into 516 – The request for steps has been made to WCC countryside team but the Clerk is waiting for a response. The Clerk reported that someone had applied to be a Footpath Warden and the Clerk had put him in touch with WCC Countryside Team.

10. Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2016

The Clerk was asked to ascertain from Cllr Blagg the name of the speaker from WCC to speak about speed limits in Dodford and to invite a representative from the Village Hall to speak and to invite the Chairman of Dodford Village Hall Committee to speak.

11. Queen's Birthday Celebrations

- i. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Rea and agreed by all that the Parish Council should offer a grant of £125.00 to the owners of the Dodford Inn who had suggested organising a village clean up / litter pick in the village followed by barbecue / refreshments for volunteers and helpers. In addition, the Parish Council would purchase 20 HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Commemorative Medals which could be

given to children following the village clean up. A method of how to distribute the medals to the children could be decided by Mr Myatt or the Parish Council nearer the time. Cllr May suggested Mr Myatt contact her and she will arrange with BDC for them to receive bags and pickers. The Clerk to contact Mr Myatt.

- ii. The Clerk to write to the school asking if the children could produce a card for the village to send to the Queen congratulating the Queen on her birthday. The wording to be drafted either by the Clerk or one of the councillors.

12. Grants

Signed audited accounts had been received from the Dodford Village Hall Committee, Dodford PCC and Dodford Children's Holiday Farm and were accepted by the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to draw up cheques as agreed at the February meeting. Cllrs Jennings and Rea did not need to leave the room during this discussion as the Grants had already been discussed at the February meeting.

13. LEADER – Rural Services, Cultural and Heritage Call

After discussion the Clerk was asked to put a piece in the Parish Magazine and in the resident's electronic newsletter.

14. Woodland Trust – free trees

After discussion it was agreed not to apply for free trees from the Woodland Trust and Cllr Thomas offered to donate a tree for those who made sacrifices in the First World War. The Clerk was asked to write to Dodford CPP to see if they would like to accept the tree and suggested it could be planted in Margaret's Meadow.

15. Lengthsman Scheme

- i. The Clerk to ask Cllr Blagg if she knew if WCC were scrapping the Scheme.
- ii. The Parish Council will renew the 2016/2017 contract with the Lengthsman as long as WCC keep the Scheme.

16. Worcestershire Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report 2014/2015

Cllr May has concerns about sand digging in the area and is keeping a watching brief.

17. Finance

- i. Deposit account as at 29 February 2016 - £11,027.10
Current account as at 29 February 2016 - £1,454.51
Cheques still to go through - £593.31
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Thomas:
 - a. Clerk's expenses - £13.60 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; storage £5; travel 8 miles @ 45p/mile £3.60)
 - b. Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (Grant) - £200.00
 - c. Allan Farnsworth (Lengthsman duties for March) - £192.00

18. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received since the previous meeting was noted with one letter from a resident discussed and the Clerk was asked to respond accordingly:

- i. Speed limits and additional signage are on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting in May
- ii. The kerbs in Priory Road that need replacing by Severn Trent had been reported to them by the Clerk but it was noted they still had not been replaced. Cllr May to chase up.
- iii. The issues of a business appearing to being carried out at an address in the village is in hand.

20. Councillors items

- i. Issues of illegal tipping being carried out an address in the village. Cllr May to contact BDC and the Clerk to contact WCC.
- ii. Building work taking place behind premises in Woodland Road. Cllr May to contact BDC.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....Chairman