

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Alwyn Rea, Christine Thomas (Vice Chairman) and Paul Warman

In attendance: County Councillors Sheila Blagg, Anthony Blagg, Clerk Kay Stone and four members of the public

In the absence of Chairman Vicky Churchill, Vice Chairman Christine Thomas chaired the meeting

1. Apologies

District Councillor Karen May, Cllrs Rachel Jennings and Vicky Churchill (Chairman) gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Parish Councillor Co-option

Cllr Rea proposed and Cllr Warman seconded, and all agreed, to co-opt Rory Lydon on to the Parish Council after which Cllr Lydon took his place on the Parish Council

3. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

4. Dispensations

No requests received

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda. There were no matters arising.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 October 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.

6. Reports

- i. The monthly report from County Councillor Sheila Blagg have been received and circulated to Parish Councillors with copies being made available at the meeting. Cllr Blagg reported that the Corporate Plan had been approved at Cabinet and that the general themes were the same as last year. After discussion on Superfast Broadband the Clerk was asked by Cllr Blagg to give her a report on problems faced by residents in Dodford regarding Gigaclear. Cllr Blagg was asked by the Parish Council to ask BT to speed up Cabinet 25 in Priory Road.
- ii. District Councillor Karen May gave her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and gave the Clerk an update on the purchase of the verge in Fockbury Road which will be discussed as it appears on the agenda.
- iii. The Clerk reported that she had used her personal printer and scanner for six years since becoming Clerk and as this is no longer working well asked the Parish Council to replace this with another printer and scanner. The Clerk explained that a grant from the Government could be obtained for the scanner and the Parish Council asked the Clerk to obtain prices.

7. Planning

- i. To consider planning application:
 - a. 16/0930 – Foxwalk Cottage, Grafton Lane – Ground floor extension and new detached garage to replace existing garage.
The Parish Council are not aware of the size of the garage and question the position of the garage being at the front of the building line with regards permitted development. The Parish Council have no objection to the ground floor extension.
- ii. No planning decisions received.
- iii. No planning appeals received
- iv. No enforcement updates but the Clerk reported on a new enforcement issue in Alfreds Well.
- v. No conservation issues.
- vi. No other planning issues.

8. Highways and footpaths

- i. Clerk to check with Ringway to see when they can fit the gate.
- ii. Clerk to check if Ringway have reported the need for a structural inspection to Worcestershire County Council (WCC).
- iii. The speed check results were not discussed but Cllr Blagg informed the Parish Council that WCC are only able to put up Horse Rider signs where there are stables but as there are already some existing posts then WCC will fit the signs and they will be in Snakes Lake Lane and Fockbury Mill Lane.
- iv. District Councillor May has informed the Clerk that she has met with residents but one resident does not wish to purchase the land from BDHT and so Cllr May will be meeting again with the residents.
- v. The Clerk was asked to repeat the information on Himalayan Balsam weed in a Spring edition of the Parish Magazine.
- vi. Overgrown hedges are starting to be cut back but the Clerk was asked to keep this item on the agenda for next month.
- vii. Following the report to WCC of the overgrown hedge in Timberhonger Lane, WCC legal team have written to the owner requesting it is cut back.
- viii. Advertising boards on the verge at the junction of Fockbury Road and Kidderminster Road were discussed and as there is only one currently, the Clerk was asked to retain the information for reporting these to BDC should the need arise in the future.
- ix. Forthcoming road closures in December in Fockbury Road and Woodland Road were noted.

9. Removal of public payphone in Priory Road

As this payphone, has only been used once in 12 months the Parish Council has no objection to BT removing it.

10. Phil Richardson Memorial

Cllr Churchill had presented the Parish Council with a draft nomination form and announcement. After discussion, it was agreed that

- i. the closing date should be extended;
- ii. the award should be made at the Dodford Show at the beginning of September,
- iii. and the age limit should be increased to 18.

This item to be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

11. Dodford School

The Clerk reported that Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) had confirmed that no planning application is required if the flag pole does not exceed 4.6metres. This information has been passed on to the School.

12. Defibrillator

The Parish Council were told that they could receive funding from BDC and then to approach Charlotte and Craig's Saving Hearts Foundation who will get the defibrillator installed and arrange for an electrician at no cost to install it. Cllr Blagg informed the Parish Council that she had offered Fairfield Community £900 towards the cost of their defibrillator and would be willing to offer Dodford the same. Should the Parish Council be successful in receiving funding from BDC then Cllr Blagg's offer of £900 still stands for the benefit of the Village Hall. A suggestion was made for better lighting at the side entrance.

At this point the County Councillors left the meeting.

13. Neighbourhood Plan

- i. Cllr Rea updated the Parish Council on a recent meeting organised between Hagley Parish Council and BDC.
- ii. The Clerk reported that Bournheath and Belbroughton Parish Councils are also at early stages in starting their Plan, and that Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council had received £20k as a grant from the Government although grants of around £8k are only available now. Chaddesley also spent £5.5k on consultants who put their Plan together. The Clerk was instructed to liaise with Chaddesley Clerk to ascertain if they had an action plan which Dodford could follow and the order in which they put the plan together and then went out to consultants. The Clerk was asked to then circulate the response to Parish Councillors prior to their first Working Party meeting.
- iii. First Working Party meeting to take place on Wednesday 11 January 2017 at 7.30pm at the home of Cllr Thomas.
- iv. It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Warman and approved by all that the Clerk should be paid overtime on work carried out specifically on the Neighbourhood Plan over and above the contracted eight hours a week.
- v. The useful web site at mycommunity.org.uk/take-action/neighbourhood-planning was noted.

14. Bromsgrove District Council Statements of Community Involvement (SCI)

The consultation was discussed and the Parish Council agreed they would find the document useful and have no objections to its adoption by BDC. The Parish Council felt that it would be helpful if they could be consulted at the same time as Neighbourhood Consultations for Lawful Use or Permitted Development take place. The deadline for the consultation is 5 December and the Parish Council agreed that if Cllr Rea wished to offer more suggestions he would contact the Clerk before the closing date.

15. Neighbourhood Watch

No report but Cllr Thomas advised Cllr Warman of Community Messaging Service (CMS) and will supply him with details.

16. Parish Council meetings in 2017

Cllrs noted and agreed the dates as follows, although Cllr Warman advised he may not be able to make all the Thursday meetings. 26 January, 23 February, 23 March, 20 April, 11 May, 22 June, 27 July, 28 September, 26 October and 23 November all at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

17. Finance

- i. The 2017/2018 budget had been approved at the October meeting and the Precept request was agreed at the same meeting. This item to stay on the agenda until the Precept request closing date of 31 January 2017.
- ii. Deposit account as at 31 October 2016 - £15,586.30
Current account as at 31 October 2016 - £1,155.25

Cheques still to go through - £846.18

Payments for November - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Lydon and seconded by Cllr Thomas:

- a. Clerk's salary - £324.57
- b. Clerk's expenses - £15.70 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; storage £5; travel 63 miles @ 45p/mile £28.35; postage £2.85, and refund for faulty printer ink cartridge -£25.50)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £81.00
- d. Lengthsman duties for October - £192.00
- e. Lengthsman duties for November - £192.00
- f. Redditch Borough Council (printing of Christmas newsletters) - £54.60
- g. Worcestershire CALC (fee for Clerk attending Clerk's Gathering) - £10.00

18. Councillor co-option

There remains one vacancy to be filled by co-option following the co-option of Cllr Lydon.

19. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received since the previous meeting was noted and the Clerk was asked to notify the Dodford Inn about The Great British Spring Clean taking place 3-5 March 2017.

21. Councillors items

No Councillor items

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed.....Chairman