

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 17 September 2009 in Dodford Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Harper (Chairman), J Caldicott, A Crump, V Dawson, A Rea, and J Silver; and Mrs C Limm, Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Griffin.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Rea declared a prejudicial interest in any discussions relating to a possible grant to the Children's Holiday Farm since he was chairman of the trustees.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16 July

The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Reports

Chairman's report

Cllr Harper reported on the September CALC meeting. He had volunteered to be a parish council representative on the Local Strategic Partnership for the area. This body was unelected, but had spending powers so it seemed a good idea to get involved.

Clerk's report

The Clerk said that the Council's application for borrowing approval had been checked for completeness by CALC and had now been forwarded by CALC to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Future dates to note were a second parish seminar being organised by the County Council on 16 November and the CALC AGM on 25 November. She was hoping to arrange a meeting with Mike Walton, County Highways Engineer, about roads issues in the parish to take place before the next Council meeting.

5. Planning

A report on the planning meeting held on 13th August had been circulated.

The Clerk said that she had received responses from the two residents who had been asked about developments at their properties. Their responses would be considered at the next planning meeting.

The Environment Agency had contacted the owner of field No.7068 Woodland Road and had been informed that the rubbish in the field had been dumped there, but that it had now been removed. The Clerk was asked to report back to the EA that the rubble had been moved but that it had been spread, with additional material, around the stable.

The Clerk had made contact with the new planning enforcement officer at the District Council, Joe Turner, and had sent him the Council's list of current enforcement issues. He was willing to meet the Council to discuss enforcement.

6. Parish Plan Review

Councillor Rea said that it had not been possible to get people together during August to discuss the review, but he would now set up a meeting to discuss how to take the issues forward.

7. 'My Parish' website

The Clerk had begun to add information about the Council to the My Parish website hosted by Worcestershire County Council. Photographs of Councillors would now be added. It would be useful if councillors could Email to the Clerk any photographs of the parish. The site now needed to be developed further. Cllr Crump suggested that a link should be added to the school's website and to the church's site which was currently being developed. Cllr Crump agreed to take the lead for the Council in developing ideas for the site and working with the Clerk on this.

8. Clerk's Appointment

The Clerk said that she had sent out eleven application forms for the Clerk's post in response to enquiries. Two applications had been returned so far – but the closing date had not yet been reached. The Council agreed to delegate to the Chairman and vice Chairman, with the Clerk, the handling of the appointment, including short listing the candidates and undertaking interviews. They should aim to recommend an appointment to the Council at its meeting on 15th October.

9. Consultation by BDC on their review relating to the Gambling Act 2005

The Council noted the document and welcomed the opportunity to comment. However, there were no comments on the District Council's proposals on this occasion.

10. Grants

The Council's budget for the current year provided £1,500 for grants. It did not earmark specific sums for particular organisations because the Council had considered that it should review its grant giving this year rather than following previous practice and simply

paying the same grant every year. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the organisations which customarily received a grant from the Council to ask how this was spent last year and inviting a letter of application for a grant this year which should include an explanation of the need for a grant.

It was agreed that the costs of the new fire doors for the village hall, which the Parish Council had agreed to meet, should be covered from the Council's reserves if necessary.

11. Finance

The Clerk reported the closure of the 2008/09 audit. An unqualified audit opinion had been given.

Payments for September set out in a list circulated by the clerk were approved.

12. Correspondence received

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.

13. Councillors Items

Missing road names at the junction of Victoria Road and Church Road were mentioned by Cllr Dawson. Cllr Rea said that some stone pillars at a property in Valley Road had been driven into on three occasions. Both these items could be raised at the forthcoming meeting with County Highways.

Speeding in the village was a recurring issue – it was agreed that this could be raised at the forthcoming PACT meeting and was also an issue for the parish plan.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed.....Chairman

