

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 15 October 2009 in Dodford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Harper (Chairman), J Caldicott (for items 1-5), V Dawson, L Griffin and J Silver; and Mrs C Limm, Clerk

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Crump and Rea.

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared on this occasion.

#### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 17 September**

The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **4. Reports**

##### ***Meeting with County Highways***

Cllr Rea had provided a written report on the meeting he and Cllr Dawson had with Mike Walton, County Liaison Engineer, on 14 October:

- Priory Road – Mike Walton will arrange for the drainage experts to come out and undertake a full inspection of the gullies and also the run-off from the Tower House.
- Replacement of the missing road signs at the Victoria Road crossroads with Church Road – this is a District Council matter.
- Flooding outside Millstone and outside the Pig Farm, Woodland Road, - again MW will arrange for a further drain inspection.
- Woodland Road/ Church Road junction – damage to hedge – MW will explore possible barrier erection
- Woodland Road approaching Warbage Lane – potholes and cracks to surface – MW will arrange for inspection with a view to remedial action.
- Damage (for 4th time) to pillars/wall to Wayside, Valley Road, Fockbury – MW is arranging for investigation of accident reports following latest incident and site visit by Road Safety Officer – will suggest erection of ‘Bend’ warning sign and

SLOW whitelining on approach and reflective bollards before and alongside the property (owners happy to have these erected).

- Alfreds Well and Niblett's Hill. A tree had previously fallen across the lane and had been sawn through to remove the blockage. The root and a length of the trunk had been left on the bank sloping down towards the road. This is on private land but MW advised that the Parish Council should ask for this to be removed as it could well slip down after heavy rain.

### ***Clerk's report***

The Clerk said that the Environment Agency was investigating the material that had been spread around the stable building in Field No. 7068 Woodland Road. The owner had until the end of the month to respond.

## **5. Planning**

Cllr Caldicott reported on the Planning meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October (the Minutes had been circulated).

The Clerk said that she had received a reply from the new planning enforcement officer at the District Council about the Council's list of enforcement issues. It was agreed that this would be reviewed at the next planning meeting and a date found for a meeting with him.

## **6. Parish Plan Review**

In Councillor Rea's absence this item was deferred until the next meeting.

## **7. Finance**

- i. The Clerk presented the bank reconciliations for end September 2009. The position was noted. Cllr Crump had as usual been sent a copy of the Council's Accounts and the relevant bank statements.
- ii. The Clerk circulated a budget update showing the Council's income and spending to end of September and also projected out-turn figures for the end of the year. This was background information for a discussion of the Council's 2010/11 budget at its next meeting. The Council was likely to over-spend on its budget this year because of the decision to pay for new fire doors for the village hall. The extent of the overspend would depend largely on the amount in grants that the Council decided to give for the current year and on any further spending on the parish plan.
- iii. Payments due for October set out in a schedule circulated by the Clerk were approved.

## **8. Correspondence received**

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted. A round robin letter from an Alvechurch Councillor about possible combined action by parish councils on housing proposals was discussed briefly. The general view was that the Council would prefer to focus on its own parish.

## **9. Councillors Items**

Cllr Dawson asked for the Council's stationery to be an item on the next agenda.

## **10. Clerk's Appointment**

The Council had resolved to exclude the public from discussion of this item because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

The Council agreed the appointment of Kay Stone as the new Clerk to the Parish Council on the terms recommended by Cllr Harper and Cllr Rea who had undertaken the recruitment process. Mrs Stone's appointment would start on 1 November and there would be a month's overlap with Katie Limm. It was agreed that the purchase of a laptop for the new Clerk and of a projector, primarily for use at planning meetings, should be items for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....Chairman

