

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 11 May 2017 in Dodford Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings, Rory Lydon, Alwyn Rea and Christine Thomas

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Vicky Churchill gave her apologies, reasons for which were accepted and Vice Chairman Christine Thomas chaired the meeting. County Councillor Shirley Webb also gave her apologies.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 May 2016 was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Thomas after which they were signed by the Vice Chairman as being a true record.

3. Parish Council Annual Report

The Annual Report has been sent to each household, with copies being available at the meeting. The Vice Chairman asked if there were any questions on the Annual Report but none were forthcoming.

4. John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Campion described his main role as being the asset holder for the community; setting the Council Tax precept, power to hire and fire and making West Mercia safer. His core part of the role is to hold the Chief Constable to account. Victim support is good in West Mercia and John wants to ensure the police are on the side of the victim and ensuring there are enough police officers. Police still go back to the station to access the internet and John explained how West Mercia police need modernising and they will roll out £4m over the next four years to get smart phones for the police. They also still use a typing pool and do not have WIFI. He concluded by saying he wants to ensure people feel safe and that the police are visible. There followed a question and answer session with a great deal of discussion on the problem of speeding and the number of HGVs in Dodford. John suggested that HGVs will take no notice of blue advisory weight limit signs and the only way this can be enforced is to request a weight limit sign through the County Councillor. He also suggested that residents could make a note of the HGV company's name, date and time and possibly a photograph then a letter to the HGV company from the Parish Council or County Council will sometimes stop them. John was asked if he was supportive of the alliance with Warwickshire and he replied that they have saved £30m since the formation working on organised crimes, counter terrorism and motorway policing. A resident said that West Mercia also need to work with West Midlands over cross border crime, giving the murder of the Fairfield Postmaster's son as an example, and suggested to John that the police need to look long term not short term.

With no more questions, John Campion left the meeting.

5. Mary Worsfold, Conservation Officer, Bromsgrove District Council

Mary described her role and said she is consulted on planning applications in the Conservation Area and for listed buildings and is working on a local heritage list. The Parish Council has requested Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) adopt the Article 4 Directive in the Conservation Area which gives the Local Authority the right to remove Permitted Development (PD) rights

which is being looked at. This is to preserve the Conservation Area in Dodford and prevent it from losing character. If Article 4 Directive is adopted then residents in the Conservation Area will need to apply for planning permission. There was a suggestion from a resident that perhaps Article 4 should cover all Dodford and not just the Conservation Area and Mary is looking at extending the Conservation Area in her new appraisal document.

With no more questions, Mary Worsfold left the meeting.

6. County Councillor's report

County Councillor Shirley Webb had given her apologies and did not have a report as she had only been elected the week before the meeting.

7. District Councillor's report

District Councillor May updated the meeting on the Green Belt review grading the Green Belt; the BDC District Plan which has been adopted; sustainability plan for hospitals, the findings of the Acute Hospital Trust consultation after June; LTP4 and how Bromsgrove is improving with Waitrose opening and M&S food opening in October 2017 with three or four large brand companies in the pipeline. She explained there is a need for sustainable communities with the area having the sixth lowest salary in the West Midlands and the largest percentage of youngsters moving out. Cllr May confirmed that the appeal date has passed for the Veolia bottom ash pit application and this will not be going ahead.

8. Neighbourhood Watch report

No report had been received.

9. Dodford Village Hall Committee report

Lynne Griffin gave a report on the success of the village breakfasts, afternoon teas and hot lunches. The auctions bring in the Village Hall Committees main source of revenue and Lynne produced a leaflet for everyone which has been prepared by the Village Hall Committee on everything they do. The Committee also needs more members to help spread the work load.

10. Phil Richardson Youth Community Award 2017

Nomination forms have been sent to each household with the Annual Report and the Youth Community Award has been mentioned in the Parish Magazine, newsletters, Facebook and in an article in Bromsgrove Advertiser. To date no nominations have been received and it is hoped there will be some by the closing date of 30 June 2017.

11. Dodford and Grafton Neighbourhood Plan

A leaflet on this had been sent to each household with the Annual Report and Cllr Rea mentioned the headings of the steering groups and asked for volunteers to give up perhaps six months of their time to assist in the drawing up of the Neighbourhood Plan. Once it is drawn up there will be a public consultation in Dodford and Grafton before it is adopted by BDC.

12. Questions / Matters of interest to Parishioners

There were no questions or matters of interest to Parishioners and after thanks were expressed to Cllrs Jennings and Thomas for refreshments, the meeting closed at 9.38pm.

Signed.....Chairman