

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 27 July 2017 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings, Rory Lydon, Alwyn Rea and Scottie Sanderson

In attendance: Acting Clerk Katie Limm and one member of the public

1. Election of Chairman and Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Jennings proposed Cllr Rea with Cllr Sanderson seconding and Cllr Rea signed his Declaration of Office with the Acting Clerk also signing the Declaration. Cllr Rea then chaired the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Vice Chairman Christine Thomas, County Councillor Shirley Webb, District Councillor Karen May and Clerk Kay Stone gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

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.

None.

The meeting reconvened as follows.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2017

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

6. Reports

- i. A monthly report had been received from County Councillor Shirley Webb prior to the meeting and items of interest to Dodford with Grafton Parish Council are:
 - a. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) still has delays with Gigaclear. Gigaclear have advised they will not continue to supply once Rowney Green is completed. Dodford is one of the areas affected. WCC asking to negotiate to continue deployment.
 - b. Cllr Webb has attended a meeting with residents in Yarnold Lane to discuss issues with HGVs and to assess the condition of the lane. She has advised arranging a meeting with the owner, Parish Council and District Councillor Karen May. WCC Highways have assessed the lane for damage and will continue to monitor.
 - c. Pothole repairs in Bromsgrove Road have been completed, resurfacing to take place in October.
 - d. WCC will continue to monitor the parking area in Fockbury Road but will not be resurfacing at this time.
 - e. WCC have arranged to have the hedge cut back in Fockbury Mill Lane for extra visibility at the Perryfields end.
 - f. Cllr Webb will be arranging traffic monitoring sessions around the division.

- g. Cllr Webb is currently sitting on two committees – Children’s Services and Adult Social Care.
- ii. District Councillor Karen May had notified the Clerk prior to the meeting that the Timberhonger Lane sign is now in at BDC depot and will be put in place shortly.
- iii. (Cllr Lydon declared at this point that he had employed Mr Jenkins on occasion). The Clerk, through the Acting Clerk, suggested that the Parish Council consider employing an advisor to deal with the Traffic Commissioner regarding the ongoing situation with HGVs in Yarnold Lane. The Council decided that it would be helpful to have further information before considering this and agreed that the Clerk should 1) ask the District Council through Cllr May who had owned the property at the time that the application for the HGV license was made and for information about the current planning permissions regarding use of the property, and 2) ask the Traffic Commissioner, via a Freedom of Information request if necessary, for a copy of the HGV application and for information about the length of the license and any grounds on which a license can be rescinded.

7. Planning

- i. Approval of the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 July was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Jenkins and agreed.
- ii. To consider planning consultations and applications received:
 - a. 17/00654 – One Oak, Kidderminster Road - Concrete pad to be laid for the erection of a mesh fenced horse walker.
The Parish Council noted that the application for a horse walker appears to confirm that the application is for an equestrian establishment whereas a previous application for a barn stated agricultural use. However, no farm animals have been visible since the barn was erected. In relation to the horse walker the Council considered that the proposed site was inappropriate since it would be visible from the road – if approved it should be sited much further back so that it would not be seen from the road.
 - b. 17/00643 – Woodcote House Farm, Kidderminster Road
This application has been withdrawn by the applicant.
 - c. 17/00735 - Half Acre, Warbage Lane - Single storey extensions. Removal of workshop and conservatory. No objections.
- iii. To consider any planning appeals or decisions received.
 - Approvals for
 - 17/00471 – The Range, Kidderminster Road - Proposed agricultural storage building.
 - 16/1037 – One Oak, Kidderminster Road - Replacement of storage building (retrospective)
 - 17/00685 - 6 Fockbury Road- conservatory.
- iv. No planning appeals or decisions received
- v. No enforcement or environmental update
- vi. No update on BDC implementing Article 4
- vii. No further planning issues

8. Highways and footpaths

- i. Cllr Webb has spoken to WCC about permission to install the gate and they are still refusing – the answer is still the same as before. The Council noted and agreed not to pursue this at present.
- ii. No update on response from Woodland Trust.
- iii. Cllr Webb has reported the yellow lines in Fockbury Road / Priory Road will be reinstated soon.
- iv. No update on request for Cllr Webb to request WCC make the bend and bridge safer on Kidderminster Road.
- v. District Councillor Karen May had notified the Clerk prior to the meeting that the Timberhonger Lane sign is now in the BDC depot and will be put in place shortly.

9. Operating Licenses

- i. No update on response from NALC.
- ii. No update on response from Parish Councils
- iii. Cllr Webb has responded that licensing is a district matter but has met with residents and this has been dealt with under Cllr Webb's report
- iv. No response yet from WCC, through Cllr Webb, on the request for HGV weight / width limit signage

10. Phil Richardson Memorial

The Council decided to make an honorary award of £25 each to Clemmie Kear and Phoebe Lydon in recognition of their contribution to setting up the Dodford Bromsgrove Facebook page which has improved communication in the village and helped keep people informed. The Clerk was asked to write to the recipients to inform them and invite them to the Dodford Show to receive their award. The award should also be covered in the parish magazine. It was agreed that the age limit for the award should be reviewed for next year.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

The Council considered that the draft questionnaire was well constructed. Some amendments were agreed to question 1 with 'GP Surgery' to be replaced by 'Library Service' and the question to read 'Relating to Dodford and Grafton what importance do you attach to the following'? Some further amendments to the items listed could draw out the nature of respondents' views. Cllr Griffin agreed to look at the questionnaire and suggest a revised draft for agreement at the September meeting.

12. Telephone Box

It was agreed that the box should be used as a book exchange. The first requirement was for some shelving and it was agreed that a request should be included in the parish magazine and on Facebook asking if anyone would volunteer to install this.

13. Worcestershire County Council Rail Investment Strategy

No comments from the Council. Individual Councillors to respond if they wished.

14. Police Crime and Commissioner Consultation

The Council considered that it was difficult to respond to the proposals in this consultation without the wider context. The proposals would need to be properly costed and very clear about budgetary responsibility and overall control. It would be helpful to know if what was proposed had been implemented in any other area and if so with what result. However, the wider issue was the national context and whether these proposals were appropriate just for West Mercia. The Council could not reasonably form a view without knowing whether the proposals were consistent with what was being considered at national level and properly debated in that wider context, including a consideration of how all the emergency services operate. The Council agreed to respond on this basis.

15. Finance

Payments by Bank Transfer for July - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Jennings:

- a. Clerk's salary - £306.61
- b. HM Revenue and Customs - £76.60
- c. Lengthsman duties for May plus petrol - £207.00

16. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted. The Council suggested that the newsletter from Superfast Worcestershire should be mentioned on Facebook and circulated to residents who had given the Clerk their email address. In relation to police patrols, the police had offered to come to Dodford

with an information stand. The Council agreed that the Clerk should invite them to come to the village show where there would be a ready-made audience.

17. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Jennings reported that footpath 517 around field 8863 was in very poor repair and difficult to use. Clerk to report to WCC footpath officer.
- ii. Cllr Lydon said that he had been approached by a resident about developments at the Dodford Inn. A large area of hard core and paving was being laid in the field adjacent to the inn. This had been reported to BDC and a response received from Dale Birch. The relevant case officer would investigate but was on leave until mid-August. The Clerk was asked to inform Cllr May with a request for her to pursue with a view to urgent examination of the position.
- iii. The Clerk was also asked to make enquiries of WCC (copied to Cllr Webb) about what had happened in relation to the footpath past the Dodford Inn and the reinstatement of signage.
- iv. Cllr Griffin raised concerns about deliveries to Pugh's which could result in Yarnold Lane being blocked for half an hour. This raised safety issues about access. Noted.
- v. Cllr Sanderson informed the Council that many young cyclists were regularly using an area behind his property as a BMX track and he suspected drinking and drug use. The track was close to footpath 623 between Fockbury Mill Lane and Bromsgrove Road. Clerk to report to WCC footpath officer and the police.

The meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed.....Chairman