

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 23 November 2017 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Rachel Jennings, Rory Lydon and Alwyn Rea (Chairman)

In attendance: Clerk Kay Stone and three members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Scottie Sanderson and Christine Thomas gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. Cllr Lydon declared an interest in item 8

3. Dispensations

No requests received.

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda as follows:

- i. A resident raised concerns about slow down private signs appearing in Warbage Lane and Yarnold Lane warning of people and animals crossing.
- ii. The logs for sale sign at the Crossroads Junction on the Kidderminster Road was also discussed.

The meeting reconvened as follows:

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 October 2017

Cllr Lydon queried item 7iv and requested the minute should include that the Clerk was asked to request the reinstatement of the face to face meetings with Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) as well as receiving the monthly written reports from them. The amended minutes will be presented at the January 2018 meeting for approval and signing.

5. Reports

- i. County Councillor Shirley Webb November report had been received, contents of which were noted.
- ii. No report received from District Councillor Karen May.
- iii. Clerk's report:
 - a. The Clerk had written to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) about the emergency road closure in Fockbury Road. The Parish Council is not happy with the explanation from WCC and still wish to know why it was considered an emergency and the lack of signage.
 - b. Next CALC Area meeting on 13 December at BDC offices
 - c. Register of Members Disclosable Interest forms must be now sent to the Elections Team in Redditch and the Clerk reminded Councillors to complete a form should any of their circumstances change.
 - d. Dodford First School are seeking a Clerk to the Board of Governors.
 - e. The appointed external Auditors for the next five years will be PKF Littlejohn.

6. Planning

- i. No planning consultations and applications received.

- ii. Approval has been given by BDC for the proposed agricultural livestock building at The Range, Kidderminster Road.
- iii. No planning appeals or decisions received.
- iv. No enforcement updates.
- v. The Clerk was asked to confirm the meeting with Mary Worsfold and Mike Dunphy to discuss Article 4 implementation and the Conservation Area appraisal to take place on Tuesday 12 December at 9am at Parkside
- i. No further planning issues.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. The Clerk to request WCC to repair the whole of Priory Road and up towards the School on a phased basis if necessary.
- ii. The Clerk to request the license from WCC to put up a trip rail on the grassed area at the corner of Warbage Lane and Priory Road. A resident has volunteered to donate some shrubs.

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to discuss the footpath at the Dodford Inn

- iii. There is no designated right of way between the dingle and Whinfield Road and the owners of the Dodford Inn have not denied the use of the permissive footpath and are happy for it to continue as such but do not wish it to be made a public right of way. The Parish Council to defer any decision until the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaires are completed to see how important all the footpaths in Dodford and Grafton are to residents.
- iv. The wrong footpath was being used and is no longer an issue.
- v. The Parish Council will await the result of the speed strips but request that slow down signs are painted on the road alongside upstanding warning signs. The Clerk was asked to find out about the private slow down signs in Warbage Lane and Yarnold Lane.

8. Operating Licenses

As Cllr Lydon had expressed an interest in this item, the Parish Council were not quorate and so this item to be deferred to the next meeting.

9. Parish Council meetings in 2018

The fourth Monday in the month appeared to be the most favourable amongst the Parish Councillors and the Clerk to ascertain if the fourth Monday or the fourth Tuesday in the month would be convenient for the District and County Councillors to attend some of the meetings.

10. Finance

- i. Cllr Rea proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the proposed 2018/2019 budget and to not increase the Precept for the forthcoming year.
- ii. Deposit account as at 31 October 2017 - £17,721.12

Current account as at 31 October 2017 - £532.13

Cheques still to go through:

- a. Dodford Village Hall - £180.00

Payments by bank transfer for October – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Lydon:

- a. Clerk's salary - £306.61
- b. Clerk's expenses - £181.60 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; storage £5; travel 8 miles @ 45p/mile £3.60; postage for Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire £168.00)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £76.60
- d. Lengthsman duties for October - £192.00

Payments by cheque for October – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Lydon:

- a. Charlotte and Craig Saving Hearts Foundation (grant for conducting defibrillator training) £50
- b. Parish Magazine Printing (printing of Residents Questionnaire, Christmas Newsletter and Phil Richardson Community Award) £96.60

17. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted and after discussion the Clerk was instructed to send in the Parish Council's comments on the potential expansion to the School – "The Parish Council are in favour of the viability of this expansion for the School but are concerned about the increase in traffic flow and the parking for potentially 25 extra cars without the provision for off road parking."

18. Councillors items

Issues with various footpaths 520 joining 523, 629, 534 – 533 and 539.

The Clerk to ask the Lengthsman to look at the slippery surface of the road by the former pig farm in Woodland Road to see if he can do anything about it.

The meeting was closed at 9.43 pm.

Signed.....Chairman