

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 21 May 2018 in Dodford Village Hall

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

In attendance: Clerk Kay Stone and 15 members of the public.

At the start of the meeting Cllr Jennings, in her role as Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone, and thanked Cllr Rea for all his work as Chairman and Vice Chairman over the years.

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillor Karen May gave her apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2017 was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Rea and approved by all after which they were signed by the 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. Cllr Rea reported on his last year as Chairman and announced that it was with regret that the Parish Council had accepted resignations from Vicky Churchill and Christine Thomas but was pleased to announce that the Precept has not been increased for the current year. Cllr Rea spoke about the Phil Richardson Community Award for 2017 and how the Parish Council had presented this Award to Phoebe Lydon and Clemmie Kear for their services to the Community by setting up the Dodford Bromsgrove Facebook page which has helped communicate messages quickly to residents. The Parish Council are still considering whether to produce a Neighbourhood Plan or not. The Lengthsman continues to do excellent work in the village and if residents spot anything that needs seeing to, to contact the Clerk. Cllr Rea expressed the Parish Council's thanks to the Clerk. The Chairman asked if there were any questions on the Annual Report, but none were forthcoming.

4. County Councillor Shirley Webb

County Councillor Shirley Webb had produced her annual report which had been circulated and copies were available at the meeting. Cllr Webb said she was aware of the speeding and parking issues within Dodford and informed the meeting that over the next few months Worcestershire County Council will be monitoring speeds within her Ward (Dodford, Fairfield, Catshill, Bournheath, Stoneybridge and Marlbrook) and then she will organise a public meeting to discuss ways forward. This led to a discussion between Cllr Webb and residents as they are unhappy that this was an issue some 15 years ago and the problems remain the same. Many suggestions were made by residents, one of which was to reinstate the Western by-pass, but Cllr Webb said money would be spent on the eastern side of Bromsgrove (A38) which was going to be upgraded.

5. Richard Clewer, Worcestershire County Council Highways Department

Richard told the meeting that double yellow lines would be painted outside the School on the one side of Fockbury Road and that speed restrictions of 30mph would be put up approaching the Fockbury Road / Priory Road junction in Priory Road and up to the last house in Fockbury Road. Residents around these areas are to be consulted before anything is done. There

followed a discussion from the residents about the speeding and safety issues in Dodford and suggestions and ideas with a great deal of frustration coming from the meeting. Department of Transport guidelines for Yarnold Lane is that it is de-restricted, and it was suggested that advisory signs could be put up for the bends, but this is not enforceable. At the end of the discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would wait to see what the results are from the speed monitoring and then residents would be able to discuss options further at the public meeting Cllr Webb is to organise. In the meantime, it was suggested that the Parish Council make representations to Google, TomTom and Garmin to say that the lanes in Dodford are unsuitable for HGVs.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Webb and Richard Clewer for attending the meeting and with no more questions they left the meeting.

6. District Councillor Karen May

District Councillor Karen May had given her apologies and no report had been received.

7. Mary Worsfold, Conservation Officer, Strategic Planning and Conservation, Bromsgrove District Council

Mary told the meeting that the consultation with residents within the Conservation Area on the Dodford Conservation Area Draft Character Appraisal and Management Plan was due to begin next week. The purpose of the Management Plan, as supported, by the District Plan is to identify character and appearance and other noticeable spaces between buildings. The new Plan will assess boundary changes at the end of Woodland Road and Priory Road up to the School. Mary went on to explain about the Local Heritage List Strategy which lists assets which are valued by local communities and contribute to the character and local distinctiveness of the area. Heritage Assets are defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as 'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.'

The Chairman thanked Mary for attending the meeting and with no more questions Mary left the meeting.

8. Dorothy Woodhouse, Church Warden, Parish Church of Holy Trinity & St Mary, Dodford

Dorothy spoke on behalf of the Vicar who was unable to attend the meeting, on how the Church is in danger of closing in the next few years unless it is used more. The Church would like the community to get more involved and make use of the building and asked for ideas from the residents as to how they would like to see the Church used. Suggestions were made, such as board games evenings, Lunch Clubs, Community singing and coffee, tea and biscuits available to walkers and sale of second hand books.

The Chairman thanked Dorothy for attending the meeting and with no more questions Dorothy left the meeting.

9. Dodford Village Hall Committee report

Lynne Griffin told the meeting that the Committee had experienced a difficult 18 months and assured residents that areas of concern have been addressed. The finances of the Village Hall are healthy and there are three new members on the Committee, but more people on the Committee would be useful to spread the work load. The Hall has several user groups and special events which provide a regular income. There are also sponsored events such as the Afternoon Teas and the Auctions.

10. Phil Richardson Youth Community Award

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the 2017 Award was presented to Phoebe Lydon and Clemmie Kear for their services to the community. Nomination forms for 2018 have been sent to each household and are available from the Clerk or from the Parish Council web site. Three nominations have been received at the time of the meeting for the 2018 Award. The closing date is 30 June 2018.

11. Dodford and Grafton Neighbourhood Plan

A questionnaire has been sent to each household and 61 completed questionnaires (and online through Facebook) had been received. The Chairman asked residents to get involved with pulling together the Plan as it needs to be a village document not just a Parish Council document.

12. Questions / Matters of interest to Parishioners

There were no questions or matters of interest to Parishioners and the meeting closed at 9.22pm.

Signed.....Chairman

DRAFT