

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 22 July 2019 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman), Scottie Sanderson and Jonathan Shapiro

In attendance: District Cllr Drew Beaumont, Clerk Kay Stone and 4 members of the public

1. Apologies

County Cllr Shirley Webb, Parish Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chairman) and Alwyn Rea, gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted. In the Chairman's absence, Cllr Rory Lydon chaired the meeting.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

3. Dispensations

No dispensation requests received.

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

- A member of the public pointed out that if a trip rail is erected on the grass area at the corner of Warbage Lane and Priory Road, it would make it difficult for the tall hedge to be cut which is currently cut using a tractor. Also, no cars have been parked there for a long time.
- Peter Churchill presented his first traffic survey in Yarnold Lane and was thanked by the Parish Council for undertaking this. Some suggestions were made as to how and when the survey should take place and how the results are presented.

The meeting reconvened as follows:

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 June 2019

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

5. Reports

- i. No report has been received from County Cllr Webb.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont was welcomed to the meeting and introduced himself. He was elected District Councillor in May 2019 and has been a Clent Parish Councillor for three years. He sits on three committees on Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) – Audit, Standards and Governance Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Board and Planning Committee. He has recently been diagnosed with cancer in his skull base and neck and will be shortly undergoing chemotherapy. He is hoping to continue with his role but if he becomes too ill, then District Cllr Shirley Webb (Catshill South Ward) will cover his ward. Her contact details are s.webb@bromsgrove.gov.uk or 07818 516682. A five-yearly review of polling stations will shortly be taking place and the annual electoral canvas household enquiry forms will be delivered to residents this week. Residents are encouraged to complete and return them to BDC.
- iii. A request from a resident has been received for a Facebook page for Dodford family announcements (to include births, deaths and marriages) to be run by the Parish Council. Concern was expressed about the risk of false information and the authenticity of the postings. It would be a big responsibility for the administrators. It was decided to defer a decision to the

September meeting and in the meantime the Clerk was asked to contact the current Dodford Residents Facebook page administrators for their thoughts.

- iv. The Clerk reported that
 - a. she has registered the defibrillator on a new combined registry run by British Heart Foundation and the NHS which she has done. The current pads in the defibrillator expire at the end of September 2019 and the Clerk will order two new ones costing £30.95 each in September.
 - b. the Land Agent for High Wood has come back to say they are against giving new permissive rights for the new clearing but appreciate that people will wander over it anyway. He is still happy to walk with the Parish Council and residents through the woods when he marks up 2d in High Wood.

6. Highways and footpaths

- i. No further forward on modifying the definitive map and statement. To be kept on the agenda.
- ii. No further forward on turning the phone box into a library. To be kept on the agenda.
- iii. Safer Roads Partnership has referred the Parish Council's concerns about the safety at the junction with Kidderminster Road and Fockbury Road to their West Mercia Traffic Management adviser who has confirmed any requests for reviewing road markings such as double solid white lines should be referred to Worcestershire County Council (WCC). The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Webb to request double solid white lines as the current painting on the road do not appear to be sufficient.
- iv. After discussion it was agreed to not request more painted slow down signs on the roads as it was felt the upright warning signs are sufficient.
- v. The Parish Council's request for white gates to be erected in Fockbury Road by the cobbles has been refused by WCC as they need to be located within a 30mph limit. It is noted that there are numerous examples of white gates above 30mph – Stone and Rushock to name two. Guidelines have been received from WCC and the Clerk was instructed to query the criteria with WCC through Cllr Webb because of the other gates.
- vi. It was decided to have a rethink about the trip rail on the grass verge at the corner of Warbage Lane and Priory Road as the work at Little Paddocks has lessened and the parking of vehicles seems to have stopped. To be reviewed in October. In the meantime, the Clerk to put the request to WCC on hold.

7. Worcestershire County Council – Passenger Transport Strategy Consultation

The Clerk was asked to notify residents on this consultation (closing date 13 September) via Dodford Residents Facebook page, the Parish Magazine and the email address list.

8. Midlands Energy Hub

The Clerk was asked to send the grant applying information to the Village Hall Committee and the Holiday Farm.

9. Dodford Day – Sunday 30 June

Cllr Shapiro was congratulated on the success of Dodford Day. Around 60/70 people and many children undertook the Treasure Hunt with around 100 people at the Afternoon Tea party. 60/70 attended the evening entertainment. Further discussion will be held between the organisers as to when and how Dodford Day will be celebrated going forward.

10. Finance

- i. Q1 reconciliation and budget was presented by the Clerk and it was proposed by Cllr Lydon and seconded by Cllr Shapiro that the budget for a new Parish Council laptop (current one being 10 years old) should be increased from £400 to £500 and the Clerk was instructed to purchase a new one at her convenience. Acceptance of the Q1 reconciliation and budget was proposed by Cllr Lydon and seconded by Cllr Sanderson.
- ii. The July Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 30 June 2019 - £15,702.23

Current account as at 30 June 2019 - £1,327.89

Payments by bank transfer for July – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Lydon and seconded by Cllr Shapiro:

- a. Clerk's salary - £364.86
- b. Clerk's expenses - £23.73 (Use of telephone and internet £5; storage £5; travel 12 miles @ 45p/mile £5.40; paper £4.49; Postage (DPI forms to BDC) £2.52 and Postage (planning applications to Parish Council Chairman) £1.32)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £91.00
- d. Lengthsman – duties for May plus petrol - £210.00
- e. Cllr Griffin - £49.74 (Dodford Day afternoon tea and Treasure Hunt expenses previously agreed by the Parish Council) – to be paid by cheque
- f. For information – Loan payment due by direct debit on 17 August to Public Works Loan Board - £883.62. Cllr Shapiro queried when this loan ends and the Clerk confirmed two more payments – February and August 2020.

11. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted. Cllr Beaumont pointed out that any overgrown footpaths can be reported on WCC Report It web page. A discussion took place on applying to Solihull Borough Council through their Small Habitats Grant Fund (GBSLEP) to clear up ponds and whether this grant could be used for the land at the Church. As a result, the Clerk was asked to

- i. enquire about the process and deadlines involved in the Small Habitats Grant Fund (GBSLEP) to be discussed in more detail at the September meeting, and
- ii. put the information on the Severn Trent Water road closure in Bromsgrove Road and Valley Road between 29 July to 2 August to the resident's email addresses and on Facebook.

12. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Shapiro mention his unadopted road was to have their over ground electric cables put underground.
- ii. The Clerk was asked how many SmartWater kits are left - around 160. The availability of these to be publicised at Parish Council meetings and the Clerk was asked to bring a few to each meeting.

13. Planning

- i. Approval of the Planning Committee Meeting Minutes held on 9 July was proposed by Cllr Lydon and seconded by Cllr Shapiro, agreed by all and then signed by the Vice Chairman as being a true record.
- ii. Planning application consultations received:
 - a. 19/00830 – The White House, Warbage Lane – Removal of existing greenhouse and erection of a new domestic greenhouse.
As Cllr Lydon abstained from discussion and voting, the Parish Council were no longer quorate and the Clerk to arrange a planning committee meeting next week to discuss this consultation.
 - b. 19/00900 – Great Meadow, Victoria Road – Proposed internal and external alterations to existing listed building.
The Parish Council has no objection
 - c. 19/00855 – Woodbury, Woodland Road – Certified Proposed Lawful Use/Dev for proposed single storey rear extension and installation of roof lights.
The Parish Council feel they have no need to comment.
 - d. 19/00802 – Cherry Tree Cottage, Worms Ash – Certified Proposed Lawful Use/Dev for the use of land to station a mobile home (family annex) for use incidental to main dwelling.
The Parish Council objects to this as it is concerned about the potential precedent being set by allowing this development - in that such a building erected in the village would radically change the nature of the village and as such, the Parish Council consider this inappropriate development in the green belt. If Bromsgrove District

Council is minded to approve this, the Parish Council would seek reassurances that the mechanisms are in place for the mobile home's removal once its stated use is ended. Could the District Council suggest that it is located closer to the main dwelling to preserve the openness of the green belt.

- iii. BDC has approved the proposed retention of the marquee at Manor Hall in Swan Lane and alterations and extensions to Fauns Hill in Warbage Lane. The single and two storey extension at The Latch in Brimstone Lane has been refused by BDC.
- iv. No planning appeals or decisions have been received
- v. No new enforcement or environmental issues.
- vi. The current Parish Plan to be discussed at the September meeting.
- vii. Other planning issues for information:
 - a. BDC has confirmed that the applicants for the current Dodford Inn planning application have removed the proposal for the overflow car park from the scheme. The District Council will still be determining the application on the internal alterations and the roof lights.
 - b. The planning application which comes under Bournheath Parish Council by Mr Pugh for the continuation of use of land for storage of machinery and equipment at the junction of Claypit Lane and Stourbridge Road, Bournheath was discussed. Concern was expressed that this could increase the traffic flow to and from the Yarnold Lane site and the Clerk was instructed to ask BDC to consider the impact this could have in Dodford if they were minded to approve the application. Cllr Beaumont has noted the Parish Council's concerns.

The meeting was closed to the public at 9.45pm to allow a discussion to take place on the nominations for the Phil Richardson Community Award 2019. However, it was felt that more Parish Councillors should have a say in the decision and this item to be added to the proposed planning committee meeting next week.

Signed.....Chairman