

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 27 April 2020 virtually by zoom.com (due to the Coronavirus Lockdown) at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings, Rory Lydon, Scottie Sanderson and Jonathan Shapiro

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

1. Apologies

County Cllr Shirley Webb and Parish Cllr Alwyn Rea gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

3. Dispensations

None

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public attending the meeting to raise matters of interest, but no matters were raised. The meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 30 March. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

5. Reports

- i. A report has been received from County Cllr Webb which was circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting and uploaded to the Parish Council web site.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported that
 - a. he has been helping a number of businesses receive Covid-19 help for businesses and self-employed and if any residents are having trouble claiming this money he can help them. His contact details are a.beaumont@bromsgrove.gov.uk or by phone on 07899 707238;
 - b. under direction of the Government, Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) will be taking some asylum seekers but they are not anticipated to be a drain on Local Government resources;
 - c. cemeteries have reopened, and
 - d. BDC Garden Waste bin collections will start again on 5 May.
- iii. The Clerk reported that she is regularly putting updates from Worcestershire County Council (WCC), BDC and West Mercia Police on the Dodford Residents Facebook Page during the Coronavirus situation.
- iv. The Clerk reported that
 - a. emergency legislation was passed on 6 April to enable all local authority meetings to be held remotely including allowing remote access by members of the public, and they have removed the requirement for the Annual Parish Meeting this year;
 - b. WCC Lengthsman Scheme believe there is a way forward in which the Lengthsmen can return to work but WCC are requesting Parish Councils pull together a Risk Assessment. The Clerk presented a draft Risk Assessment to Councillors for their consideration and Cllr Shapiro proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded, and all agreed its adoption with the addition of a warning triangle to be mentioned in the Risk Assessment;
 - c. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Lydon seconded, and all agreed not to renew the Open Spaces Society membership renewal for 2020/2021;

- d. the next meeting is the AGM on Tuesday 12 May and it was agreed to move the time forward from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, and
- e. the grant from Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN) of £270 has been received with the remaining 10% to be paid when the project is finished.

6. Planning

- i. Planning application consultations:
 - a. 20/00434 – Manor Hall, Swan Lane – Change of use of land for the siting of 6 wooden pods to be used as visitor accommodation and associated car parking
The Parish Council is not happy about the timescale for this application as time is required to seek the views of neighbours. For this reason, the Council would request that the District defer consideration of this application for a further month.
In the meantime, the Parish Council is objecting to the planning application for the following reasons:
 - it is an inappropriate overdevelopment in the Green Belt;
 - the proposed pods are an incongruent feature within the landscape and out of character for the business of Manor Hall;
 - the pods could be seen as an unplanned move into a new business area, i.e. glamping holidays;
 - the increase in parking spaces from 30 to 45 would have an impact with car lights and noise on neighbours, and
 - with more people staying, and in an area of their own, i.e. the pods, they may wish to continue the celebrations into the next morning. It is noted the applicants were content with their current level of business, but this allows for expansion into three day weddings which, if holding two a week as intimated, would prevent their neighbours from having any peace and enjoyment of the countryside due to increase in noise pollution.

Moreover, weddings at Manor Hall currently provide a revenue stream for local businesses, including hotels, B&Bs, self-catering providers, local accommodation with dining and taxis and car hire companies, which would be reduced if the accommodation at Manor Hall were to be increased and would thus disadvantage local businesses should the District Council approve this application.
 - b. 20/00279 – Oak Tree Cottage, Grafton Lane – Two and single storey side extension replacing existing side and rear extensions
The Parish Council in theory has no objection but are mindful the extension is larger than 40%. If planning officers are minded to approve this application then the Parish Council would request the windows be either timber framed or timber effect UPVC.
- ii. No planning decisions received.
- iii. No planning appeals or decisions received.
- iv. Three alleged breaches mentioned at the March meeting have been forwarded on to BDC, and the Parish Council has been advised that Planning Officers will not be undertaking non-essential site visits for the foreseeable future due to current restrictions. It was suggested that if photographs accompany alleged breaches this information may help to assist in establishing matters more swiftly. After discussing the alleged breach at the field in Fockbury Road, the Clerk was asked to get clarification from BDC if this is a field / garden / orchard.
- v. No other planning issues.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. It was agreed to delay having the phone box removed for 12 months to give residents the opportunity to let the Parish Council know what they would like it to be used as. The Clerk to put appropriate notices on Dodford Residents Facebook page, Parish Magazine and also the email distribution list.
- ii. Reports of two stiles in need of repair and this information will be passed on to the Footpath Officer. Cllr Shapiro to send photos to the Clerk of footpath issues in Bumble Hole Lane he has noted.

8. NHB Community Grants Scheme for 2020/2021

This is an annual Grant Scheme and it was agreed to use the next 12 months to come up with ideas and costings. If the CALC Climate Emergency Day is rearranged, then the Chairman and the Clerk will attend for ideas.

9. Parish Council Grants

- i. It was agreed to defer the grant to Dodford Village Hall in the current situation unless the Village Hall Committee has a problem and then the Parish Council will consider it again. Cllr Beaumont offered to ascertain if the Village Hall Committee can apply to BDC for a Grant.
- ii. The Dodford Show will be cancelled this year and the organisers asked if the Parish Council would like the grant for the engraving of trophies to be returned. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Jennings, and agreed by all that the organisers should keep the grant for the next Show.

10. Phil Richard Community Award 2020

One nomination has been received.

11. Finance

- i. Cllr Sanderson had confirmed prior to the meeting that the financial statements were all in order. Acceptance of the Q4 reconciliation and budget was proposed by Cllr Sanderson and seconded by Cllr Jennings.
- ii. The April Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 31 March 2020 - £13,947.44
Current account as at 31 March 2020 - £115.81
Payments to be made by bank transfer for April on 28 April – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Sanderson:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £379.44
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £24.39 (Storage £5; use of telephone and internet £5 and one month's membership for zoom.com £14.39)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £94.80
 - d. Lengthsman duties for March - £150
 - e. Worcestershire CALC – 2020/2021 Membership renewal fee - £545.11

12. Correspondence received – for information

- i. An email and letter have been received from Mr Dave Myatt at the Dodford Inn complaining about a Parish Councillor “trespassing” on private land during the current lockdown. After discussion the Clerk was instructed to respond that as the Parish Councillor involved was not on Parish Council business and was there in her own right as a resident, then it is not a Parish Council issue and it is up to the Parish Councillor concerned to take up the matter on her own behalf. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to check whether the Dodford Inn remains a Community Asset and if it has expired is it possible to get it reinstated. The Clerk also to find out if other Parish Councils have a threats policy and report back.
- ii. The Clerk was asked to put an item on the May agenda for the Parish Council to look at offering charitable help within the parish during the current situation.

13. Councillors items

- i. A resident in Worms Ash has received a letter to say three telegraph poles are to be removed and cables put underground.
- ii. Cllr Griffin requested the footpath sign currently lying on the ground at the back of the Village Hall be reinstated at the bottom of the Village Hall driveway.
- iii. The Clerk to ask residents who are walking footpaths and try to use a footpath that they have not used for years and find it missing to let the Parish Council know as 1 January 2026 is the cut-off date for adding historic paths to definitive maps. Any path which came into existence before 1949 and not claimed by 2026 will be lost forever.

iv. The Clerk to pass on information received from residents to BDC regarding a substantial building in Whinfield Road.

16. Casual Vacancy

No applications received.

The meeting was closed at 9.09pm.

Signed.....Chairman