

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 28 September 2020 virtually by zoom.com at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings, and Rory Lydon

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

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Sanderson and Shapiro

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. Cllr Jennings declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda

3. Dispensations

None

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public attending the meeting to raise matters of interest.

A resident brought to the attention of the Parish Council the flooding issues in Bungay Lake Lane and the differences in the Worcestershire Water Management Watercourse map and Worcestershire County Council Highways Watercourse map. Cllr Beaumont agreed to meet on site with the resident.

The meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 27 July. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

At this point item 20 Casual Vacancy was brought forward.

An application for co-option has been received from Jenni Schutt and the Chairman welcomed Jenni on to the Parish Council. Jenni read out and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office. One vacancy remains.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that
 - a. all libraries are now open, with Catshill library having reduced hours;
 - b. schools are now open with staggered drop off and pick up times which appears to be working well;
 - c. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) are opening a walk-in Covid-19 test centre in Bromsgrove by the end of October;
 - d. 19 care homes in Worcestershire are experiencing Covid-19 and restrictions for visits are in place. 6 people have been admitted to Worcestershire hospitals in last few days;
 - e. recycling centres are all open with booking slots for Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays and for the rest of the week, slots do not need to be booked;
 - f. she has reported six pot holes in Yarnold Lane and pot holes in Fockbury Road and Cockshutt Lane to WCC;
 - g. it is not possible for one row of pavement slabs in Fockbury Road to enable parents to get children out of cars safely as there has to be a width of a metre and a half for safety;
 - h. the footpath damaged outside GraAnge has been repaired, and

- i. a street cleaner vehicle is needed in Alfred's Well following recent work, but as they were not used during Lockdown there is a need for work to be carried out on them and so could take two to three weeks for the road to be cleaned.

At this point Cllr Webb left the meeting

- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported that
 - a. Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) are conducting a Community Survey and recommended residents in Dodford completed it. Cllr Beaumont to send link to the Clerk and the Clerk will put this information on the Dodford Residents Facebook page and also send an email to the resident's email address list;
 - b. WCC has funds to assist residents and businesses with less than 100mb per second broadband until March 2021. Applications are in groups of two or more premises and Cllr Beaumont recommended knocking on neighbours doors. Funds available are up to £7k for businesses and up to £3k for residents. Cllr Beaumont to send the link to the Clerk who will forward on as above, and
 - c. the agent for the application for the proposed stable in Yarnold Lane is to provide further information to BDC and the planning officer will let Cllr Beaumont know when it is received. If the application goes before BDC planning committee then Cllr Beaumont and Cllr Jennings will attend as before.
- iii. No social media report but Cllr Jennings felt a recent post and subsequent comments on the Dodford Residents Facebook page became too personal with regards cars having to go on to resident's drives to avoid HGVs in Fockbury Road. It is possible to report offensive comments to the administrators who can delete the post and/or comments.
- iv. The Clerk attended the CALC Area Meeting on 9 September via zoom for the first part of the meeting to hear Ruth Bamford and Dale Birch from BDC talk about enforcement. She said there was nothing further to add to the meeting that Cllrs Lydon, Jennings, and Shapiro had with Ruth and Dale at Redditch earlier in the year.
- v. No further reports from the Clerk.

6. Planning

- i. To discuss planning application consultations received:
 - a. 2000698 – The Farm House, West Lodge, Swan Lane – Provision of winter turn out area and mobile field shelter
The Parish Council do not have any objections to this planning application but would request that no hedges or trees are removed; there is no lighting on the site and the footpath access remains the same.
 - b. 20/01053/LBC and 20/01052/FUL – Great Meadow, Victoria Road – Two storey rear extension, car port, landscaping, and internal and external alterations
The Parish Council strongly object to this planning application. Great Meadow is a Grade II Listed Building and was the home of Feargus Edward O'Connor who was an Irish Chartist leader and advocate of the Land Plan, which sought to provide smallholdings for the labouring classes. This property and the history attached to it has great significance nationally and in Dodford. The Parish Council would respectfully draw the Conservation Officer and Planning Officer's attention to the proposed landscaped garden as this affects the setting of the listed building. The Site Plan fails to show that the proposed landscaped garden is in fact an agricultural field and the Parish Council objects to the change of use to the rear of the property from an agricultural field into an amenities landscaped garden and question why there are so many large structures in the garden but there are no plans for them. The Parish Council object to the removal of a tree for a 5mtr wide driveway which is not in keeping with narrow lanes and hedges. Also, the Parish Council is unable to ascertain from the plans where the car port will be in relation to the property.

- Cllr Beaumont to ascertain from the Planning Officer if BDC are minded to approve this application and if so the Parish Council requested Cllr Beaumont call the application in.
- ii. Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the acceptance of the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 1 September. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
 - iii. No planning decisions received.
 - iv. No planning appeals or decisions received.
 - v. Enforcement issues – updates had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting.
 - vi. Other planning issues:
 - a. Permitted Development Rights for Additional Storeys to Dwellinghouses:
The Town and County Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2020 will confer permanent permitted development rights to allow existing houses to be extended by way of the addition of up to 2 storeys. The rights apply to existing houses which are detached, semi-detached or in a terrace. They are subject to a maximum height limit of 18m, and where the house is in a terrace its height cannot be more than 3.5m higher than the next tallest house in the terrace. The rights only apply to houses built between 1 July 1948 and 28 October 2018 and do not apply in Conservation Areas. There is a requirement to obtain prior approval in relation to the impact on the amenity of neighbouring premises, the external appearance, and the impacts a taller building may have on air traffic and defence assets.
 - b. The Clerk was asked to retain the WCC Public Rights of Way comments and contact details on The Farm House planning application for a winter turn out area for future reference. The Clerk to send this document to Cllr Beaumont.
 - c. The Clerk was asked to ascertain if BDC can provide planning training to Councillors via zoom.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. Before leaving the meeting Cllr Webb reported that repairs to the Priory Road footpath remain on WCC works list.
- ii. Just prior to the meeting the Clerk had received an email from a resident about the condition of footpath 534 leading into footpath 533 at the rear of Dingle View in Whinfield Road and the Clerk to pass on to the Footpath Officer.
- iii. The issue of the white gates to be kept on the agenda to be discussed once WCC has decided on the speed limit.
- iv. Cllrs Lydon, Jennings, and Griffin to arrange the Historic Footpath sub-group meeting before the next full Parish Council meeting.
- v. The Clerk has applied to WCC Highways through Richard Clewer for a planting license for the grass triangle at Warbage Lane / Priory Road junction. WCC require a plan and details of the tree(s) involved. Normal planting licenses only allow for bushes up to 50mm and so approval needs to be sought from WCC Green Team on the species of tree(s) the Parish Council wishes to plant. Parish Councillors to think about this before the next meeting.
- vi. The Parish Council has no control over speeding by bikes in Alfred's Well and it was agreed that cyclists, walkers, and drivers all need to respect each other.
- vii. A resident had reported an overgrown footpath from the bridge up to Chennai Restaurant on Kidderminster Road which has now been cleared by WCC. The resident also requested an extension to this footpath up to the Fockbury Road junction and possibly beyond to the Park Gate. Before Cllr Webb left the meeting, she reported that there is not enough room for this footpath as there has to be a metre and a half width for safety.
- viii. Overhanging branches in Church Road have been reported to WCC who in turn have contacted the owners of the field in question.
- ix. The Clerk was asked to repeat the 30mph speed consultation comments made to WCC in March..... On the evidence presented to the Parish Council, the Parish Council do not see the necessity for the speed restriction and question the use of the money.
- x. There is an issue becoming of great concern to residents in Yarnold Lane regarding the HGVs and suggestions for renewal of HGV road signs and possible painting on the road was

discussed. The Clerk to ask Bournheath Parish Council for feedback following Cllr Karen May's visits to the businesses in Yarnold Lane.

8. Parish Councillors

This item to be postponed to the October meeting.

At this point Cllr Beaumont left the meeting

9. Risk Assessment for Covid-19

The NALC (National Association of Local Councils) risk assessment document was discussed, and it was decided that this document is not relevant for Dodford with Grafton Parish Council as they do not own open spaces or facilities.

10. Dodford Litter Pick Up

This did not go ahead due to social distance restrictions and the Clerk informed Councillors that BDC, from whom the Grant was received, has been kept informed.

11. Countryside Hedgerows: protection and management

The Government guidance was discussed, and the Parish Council feel that the removal of the hedge in Yarnold Lane was unlawful. The Clerk was asked to send the article to BDC enforcement and ask them to look at the property again. The Clerk was also asked to write to the resident who brought the issue and the guidance to the Parish Council's attention to thank and also inform that the Parish Council is pursuing this with BDC.

12. Remembrance Day Memorial

The Parish Council discussed placing a Remembrance Day Bench on the grass triangle at the corner of Warbage Lane and Priory Road and the Clerk to see if permission is needed by WCC.

13. Phil Richard Community Award 2020

This item to be postponed to the October meeting.

14. Hereford and Worcester Fire Service Community Risk Management Plan 2021-25

The closing date has now passed.

15. Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Town and Parish Council Survey

This was discussed, completed online, and submitted at the meeting.

16. Catshill and North Marlbrook Neighbourhood Plan

This item to be postponed to the October meeting as the consultation date ends on 2 November.

17. Finance

- i. The Clerk has asked Cllr Shapiro if he would be willing to be a third signatory, but no response has been received.
- ii. The increase in Clerk's salary as per Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2020/2021 was acknowledged.
- iii. The August Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 25 August 2020 - £16,459.37
Current account as at 25 August 2020 - £237.40
Payments made by bank transfer on 25 August:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £402.26
 - b. HM Revenue & Customs - £100.40
 - c. Lengthsman duties for July plus petrol - £210.00
- iv. The September Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 28 August 2020 - £15,459.9
Current account as at 28 August - £470.76

Payments made by bank transfer on 29 September – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Lydon:

- a. Clerk's salary - £462.13
- b. Clerk's expenses - £178.83 (Storage for August and September £10; use of telephone and internet for August and September £10; two month's membership for zoom.com £28.78; Get Well card for Cllr Beaumont £4.05 and SLCC Membership renewal £126.00)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £115.40
- d. Lengthsman duties for August plus petrol - £210.00

18. Correspondence received – for information

- i. Email from a resident suggesting a sign proclaiming the village's Chartist connections. The clerk was asked to put this on to the October agenda for discussion.
- ii. Emails received from two residents complaining about loud music at Tiggywinkles. This has been amicably resolved with all parties and no longer is a Parish Council issue.
- iii. Information from BDC about displaying a personalised QR code on buildings which the Clerk has forwarded on to Dodford Village Hall Committee.
- iv. Information from WCC regarding Crowdfund Worcestershire
- v. Invitation from WCC to the official launch event for the Public Sector Energy Efficiency Programme (PEEP) on 1 October.

19. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Schutt reported a tree stump in Alfred's Well by Alfred's Well house is leaning. Clerk to report this to WCC

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....Chairman