

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 26 October 2020 virtually by zoom.com at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chairman), and Rory Lydon, Scottie Sanderson, Jonathan Shapiro, and Jenni Schuett

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

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from County Cllr Shirley Webb

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

- i. Cllr Schuett declared an interest in item 6v on the agenda and has completed a Dispensation Request form which was accepted by the Parish Council at the planning committee meeting on 19 October
- ii. Cllr Jennings declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda and Cllr Shapiro declared an interest in Dodford First School should this be discussed during the meeting

#### **3. Dispensations**

None

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public attending the meeting to raise matters of interest. No matters were raised and so the meeting continued as follows:

#### **4. Meetings**

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

#### **5. Reports**

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that
  - a. there are currently 174 per 100,000 coronavirus cases in Bromsgrove alone, which puts us on high alert with Public Health England;
  - b. a testing centre for Bromsgrove has been identified for Stourbridge Road Car Park (opposite council house). This is due to be ready from the middle of November. It will be classed as a walk in centre, but appointments will be necessary;
  - c. Dodford School reduced speed restrictions results due soon, just awaiting the recommendation from the Traffic Management team;
  - d. the local police have said ANPR has been asked for before and is generally only on major roads into the town, ie A491 Hagley, and the motorway junctions;
  - e. VAS sign in Golden Cross Lane to be replaced soon;
  - f. the local police are hoping to be out this week to do speed monitoring along the main strips she has highlighted to them;
  - g. she is still waiting for the asylum seekers exit strategy from Serco, and
  - h. she is still happy to donate towards the corner of Priory Road planting but needs to know as soon as possible as her funds are disappearing quickly.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported that
  - a. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) funding to assist residents and businesses with less than 100mgb per second broadband no longer applies for Dodford as the majority of Dodford are linked to the Bromsgrove exchange which is already part of the Open Reach upgrade for early next year. Residents can check if they are on the Bromsgrove exchange and Cllr Beaumont to send the clerk the link for distribution;

- b. a virtual public inquiry into the proposed Whitford Road development is taking place on 17 November at 10am. Cllr Beaumont to send the Clerk the link for distribution;
- c. the proposed Perryfields development is going before Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) planning committee on 19 November and residents can view this meeting via the BDC website, meetings, planning, YouTube;
- d. he has spoken to the resident in Alfreds Well whose garden was damaged by the recent HGV incident and after discussion during the meeting it was decided that Cllr Beaumont will arrange for a Yarnold Lane road sign to be placed at the bottom of Yarnold Lane so that it can be seen when approaching from the Priory Road junction. He will also arrange for two blue advisory HGV signs to be placed either end of Alfreds Well. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Sgt Barney Kelsoe and the policeman who attended the scene reported the driver was lost and tried a short cut and was not delivering to Dodford;
- e. he has met with the resident over the Bungay Lake Lane flooding issue and it would appear WCC Highways were blaming the resident for not keeping the drains clear when it is WCC at fault. Cllr Beaumont to speak with Cllr Webb. The resident is to send the letter received from WCC to Cllr Beaumont, and
- f. BDC Leader, Cllr Karen May, has been resisting going into a higher Covid category.
- iii. The Clerk reported that the Dodford Residents Facebook page administrators are now able to turn off commenting should posts become offensive.
- iv. The Clerk reported that
  - a. Cllr Webb is asking Parish Councils in her division if they would be interested in purchasing a mobile speeding sign for use within her division and is happy to contribute to the purchase, which is around £3,000. These are normally placed where there is a 30mph speed limit and does not apply to Dodford at the moment;
  - b. the Annual General Meeting of Worcestershire CALC is to be held via zoom,.com on Monday 30 November at 6:30pm, and
  - c. she asked if anyone was willing to pull together the Christmas newsletter but no volunteers came forward.

## 6. Planning

- i. Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Shapiro seconded, and all approved the acceptance of the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 19 October. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- ii. Permission has been given by BDC for the Great Meadow application.
- iii. No planning appeals or decisions received.
- iv. Other planning issues:
  - a. The Clerk is still waiting to hear from BDC about planning training via zoom.com
  - b. The Clerk sent the government guidance on hedgerow protection to BDC but is still awaiting a response.
  - c. There is a prior notification (Class Q) application for Hill Top Poultry Farm and the Parish Council would like the Clerk to call a planning committee meeting to discuss
- v. Enforcement issues – no updates following the planning committee meeting on 19 October

## 7. Highways and footpaths

- i. No update on the Priory Road footpath.
- ii. There have been many footpath reports which the Clerk has passed on to the Footpath Officer who in turn takes a look and either deals with them or logs them with WCC. Cllr Schuett reported on a tree stump in Alfreds Well at the last meeting and the Footpath Officer investigated it but thought to be a WCC Highways issue and Cllr Webb is looking into it. Cllr Schuett confirmed that the cones and blue tape have been removed. Cllr Shapiro queried the fallen tree which he had reported earlier in the year and the Footpath Officer confirmed this has been logged with WCC but is within Bournheath Parish Council and the WCC officer he reports to is also the Tree Officer at Bournheath and is aware of the situation.

- iii. Cllr Webb has reported that Dodford School reduced speed restrictions results due soon, just awaiting the recommendation from the Traffic Management team.
- iv. The Historic Footpath Sub-group reported on their recent meeting. They are to contact rambling groups to see if members are willing to fill in forms identifying paths they have used for years. The Parish Council agrees with this and Cllr Lydon and Cllr Beaumont to have a phone conversation to seek advice from WCC on how to take this forward.
- v. Suggestions from Alwyn Rea on trees to be planted on the grass triangle at the Priory Road, Warbage Lane junction were discussed. After a great deal of discussion, Cllr Schuett volunteered to draft a flyer to be used to announce a village competition for a garden to commemorate those who gave their lives for the benefit of others. The flyer to be sent out with the Christmas newsletter.
- vi. Bournheath Parish Council Vice Chairman, Karen May, was unable to attend the last Bournheath Parish Council meeting to report on her visits to businesses in Yarnold Lane.
- vii. The issue of the flooding in Bungay Lake Lane was covered in Cllr Beaumont's report.
- viii. After discussing possible signs proclaiming Dodford's Chartist connections it was decided that the Parish Council could ask Cllr Webb for funding from next year's budget to add something to the existing signs. This will also be looked at if and when white gates are erected.
- ix. The ANPR request was covered in Cllr Webb's report. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to put the Police Rural Crime officers' details in the Christmas newsletter.

## **8. Parish Councillors**

After discussion it was agreed that Parish Councillors are not on duty 24 hours a day and do have personal views and that it is a fact of life that by becoming a Councillor then the Councillor can become a target. The Clerk was asked to put a piece about this in the Christmas newsletter.

## **9. Remembrance Day Memorial**

Details of a suggested bench had previously been circulated to Parish Councillors. Cllr Lydon suggested local wood and it was agreed that would be more of a long term project.

## **10. Phil Richardson Community Award 2020**

This item to be moved to the end of the meeting as Cllr Jennings has declared an interest.

## **11. Catshill and North Marlbrook Neighbourhood Plan**

The pre-submission consultation was noted, and the Clerk was asked to find out how much the Parish Council had paid their advisors and how much it had cost to produce the Plan.

## **12. Parish Council Grants**

It was agreed that grants should be opened out to the village and Cllr Shapiro to draw up criteria to be sent to the Clerk.

## **13. 2021 Parish Council Meeting Dates**

Monday 25 January, Monday 22 February, Monday 22 March, Monday 26 April, Monday 17 May, Monday 28 June, Monday 26 July, Monday 27 September, Monday 25 October, and Monday 22 November all at 7.30pm.

## **14. Finance**

- i. Cllr Shapiro agreed to be a third signatory.
- ii. The Q2 reconciliation and budget had been circulated to Councillors prior the meeting and it was proposed by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr Shapiro, and agreed by all to accept them.
- iii. The October Financial Report:
  - Deposit account as at 29 September 2020 - £14,960.09
  - Current account as at 29 September - £214.39
  - Payments made by bank transfer on 27 October – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Sanderson and seconded by Cllr Jennings:
    - a. Clerk's salary - £412.14

- b. Clerk's expenses - £19.56 (Storage £10; use of telephone and internet £10 and stationery – notebook and highlighter pens £9.56)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £103.00
- d. Lengthsman duties for September plus petrol - £210.00

**15. Correspondence received – for information**

- i. Email from a resident asking for signs to be put up around the village about letting off fireworks after 11pm and also to ask residents to give neighbours advance warning of fireworks to protect livestock and pets. The Clerk was asked to put a notice on the notice board and repeat the Facebook message.
- ii. Email from a resident requesting sight of the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Complaints Procedure which the Clerk had sent to the resident.

**16. Councillors items**

- i. Cllr Jennings reminded the Parish Council that before the current health crisis training was being arranged to enable volunteers to have training for handheld speed cameras and asked the Clerk to check that Councillors are still on the training list.
- ii. Cllr Jennings would like an item to be put on next months agenda to ensure Dodford remains green and to engage with the community.

**At this point the meeting was closed to the public to discuss the following two items in camera.**

**17. Casual Vacancy**

Two applications have been received and after much discussion and divided opinions, the Parish Council accepted the application from Scott Fuller.

**At this point in the meeting Cllr Jennings left the meeting.**

**10. Phil Richardson Community Award 2020**

After much discussion it was agreed the Awards would go to George Bryan and Paddy Crump for standing up to the mark when the village was in desperate need of a Parish Magazine editor, and Alwyn Rea for his commitment to the village community over many years through Dodford Children's Holiday Farm, The Gardening Club and the Parish Council. It was suggested that the 2021 Award would have a second tier.

The meeting was closed at 9.58pm.

Signed.....Chairman