

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 25 January 2021 virtually by zoom.com at 7.30pm

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

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

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None although Cllr Shapiro declared an ongoing interest in the School as he is the Chairman of the Governors.

3. Dispensations

No requests received.

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

- i. Cllr Shapiro proposed, Cllr Schuett seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 23 November. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- ii. Dates for 2021 were confirmed as 25 January, 22 February, 22 March, 19 April, 10 May, 28 June, 26 July, 27 September, 25 October, and 22 November. All Mondays at 7.30pm and via zoom.com until 2 May and then the Parish Council will receive guidance from the Government.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb's reported on
 - a. the current COVID figures with 529 per 100,000 for Worcestershire, 497 for the UK, 574 for West Midlands, 686 for Redditch and 557 for Bromsgrove. Lateral flow testing continues and hospitals in Worcestershire are as busy as they have ever been;
 - b. Lloyd Stone is a new member of the Police team working alongside Barney and Simon. Lloyd is keen to attend PACT meetings once it is safe to do so;
 - c. there is a new member of staff responsible for footways and repairing and hopefully repairs to Priory Road will take place in the next couple of months;
 - d. Cllr Shapiro asked Cllr Webb if it was normal to have so many Severn Trent road closures around the village. Cllr Webb explained the work is needed and is in contact with some of the residents in Yarnold Lane and she is trying to get a contact name at Severn Trent for them, and
 - e. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) is not contracted to keep the hedge cut at the back of the grass triangle at the Warbage Lane, Priory Road junction. Cllr Webb also suggested that part of the trip rail could be made removable to allow a tractor to cut the hedge.
At this point Cllr Webb left the meeting.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported that:
 - a. there are no results yet following the Whitford Road development public inquiry, but the results could have an impact on the decision to be made on the Perryfields Road development;
 - b. he asked to be notified if the planning application decision is contravened at all for the stable on land SW of Saltbay, and

- c. he attended a Bungay Lake Lane site meeting in November with residents, North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) and WWC to discuss the flooding. NWWM and WCC agreed issues need to be resolved and conducted a survey in December which was interrupted by OpenReach works.
Cllr Shapiro asked Cllr Beaumont about grit bins and the problems with having bins emptied down unadopted roads. Clerk explained gritting and grit bins is WCC responsibility not BDC and the Clerk to send a gritting map to Parish Councillors. The Parish Council to consider asking WCC to do extra gritting and at what cost to the Parish Council to get extra roads gritted.
- iii. The Clerk reported that the speed restriction around the School had received favourable comments on Dodford Facebook page.
- iv. The Clerk reported
 - a. that the Lengthsman has given notice that he is to increase his hourly rate from 6 April. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk ascertain if other Parish Councils have agreed to the increase and report back to the Parish Council before deciding, and
 - b. on the Yarnold Lane road closure next month but this had been covered under Cllr Webb's report.

6. Planning

- i. Planning application consultation 21/00005CUPRIO – Hill Top Poultry Farm, Warbage Lane – Conversion of agricultural building into three dwellings.
The Parish Council disagree with this prior approval planning application in that the building mentioned is not an agricultural building and is and has always been an office building.
The Parish Council would ask the Planning Officers to request a formal plan for the whole site and it would appear that this is a creeping development that has several buildings on the same site all without a combined landscaping plan.
If it were a housing development, it would require that a formal plan be submitted to include the following points as per the Bromsgrove High Quality Design document:
 - 1) Cycle storage
 - 2) Points for car charging
 - 3) Bin storage
 - 4) Landscaping plan for the whole site including the building that already has permission for conversion
 - 5) Exterior lighting plan to minimise urbanisation
 - 6) Car Parking plan for the whole site including the building that already has permission for conversion
 - 7) Private amenity space will be required to be of a usable size with a minimum of 70 sq. mtrs. for dwellings
 - 8) Play areas for young Children
- ii. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Lydon seconded, and all approved the acceptance of the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 4 January. 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. Other planning issues:
There is to be a Parish Council planning committee meeting on Monday 8 February at 7.30pm via zoom.com.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. Cllr Webb had updated on the Priory Road footpath status in her report earlier.
- ii. Cllr Fuller gave his report on stiles and kissing gates. If it is not possible for a person to get over a stile (this does not include dogs) then the stile should be reported to Cllr Fuller who in turn will report to WCC. After a great deal of discussion on repairs to stiles and changing some stiles for kissing gates, Cllr Fuller offered to find out the legal basic requirements for stiles and

kissing gates from WCC. Cllr Fuller explained that it is the landowner's responsibility to maintain the stiles and WCC will supply necessary materials, with the landowner paying for the labour.

- iii. The new speed limit around the school comes into force on 28 January and once the siting of the signs is known then the Parish Council can discuss the installation of white gates.
- iv. Cllr Beaumont to report back on historic footpaths. After discussion it was agreed that a separate sheet is sent out with the Annual Report in April for people to report and sign any historical footpaths that are not currently registered.
- v. Bournheath Parish Council Vice Chairman, Karen May still to report on her visits to businesses in Yarnold Lane.
- vi. The issue of the flooding in Bungay Lake Lane was updated by District Cllr Beaumont in his report.

8. Nutnell and High Wood

- i. The fly tipping in Nutnell Wood has been removed.
- ii. After Cllr Jennings had received reports on scrambling bikes being used in the woods, Cllr Fuller reported that he could not see any evidence and felt that the noise of the chain saws in the woods could be mistaken for scrambling bikes.
- iii. Wayne Barnes, Forestry Commission, had recently visited the woods to check on the felling and was to visit again last week and will report back to the Parish Council. With regards replanting, Natural England do not support the idea of replanting of various species away from the site and rely on natural regeneration. If this does not seem to be happening in a couple of years, then the Land Agent confirmed they would try and find some suitable oak. Cllr Shapiro asked for the rationale for the felling of such large healthy trees. The Clerk to ask the Land Agent and report back.

9. Sky Lanterns

Cllr Lydon reported that many Local Councils have banned the use of Sky Lanterns and all agreed that the Parish Council should request WCC and BDC to ban them also.

10. Parking in Bromsgrove during lockdown

Cllr Lydon reported on parking meters in Bromsgrove only taking cash and requested BDC suspend car parking fees during lockdown. After discussion it was agreed by all that the suggestion be made after lockdown for the first half hour to be made free to encourage residents back into the town instead of undermining the viability of the town centre.

11. Memorial Garden

- i. Two designs have been received and a reminder has been put in the Parish Magazine.
- ii. After discussion on the trimming of the hedge at the back of the grass triangle it was agreed that the hedge owner should have full access. Consideration was given to the Parish Council paying a tree surgeon to cut the top of the hedge every three or four years with the Lengthsman being asked to cut the sides regularly, after consulting with the owner of the hedge. The Clerk reported that the £1,000 grant from Cllr Webb has been received towards the garden and the bench and that in the 2021/2022 budget she has allowed £100 per annum for the upkeep which could go towards the cutting of the hedge at the back of the grass triangle.

12. Phil Richardson Community Award 2021

No nomination forms received.

13. Parish Council Grants

Cllr Shapiro to draw up criteria to be sent to the Clerk in time for the February meeting. The Clerk confirmed that grants need to be made in the current financial year ending 31 March.

14. Finance

- i. The Clerk re-presented the 2021/2022 budget. After discussion on special projects, it was agreed that the Memorial Garden is the first special project and that next year, residents and organisations in the parish can apply for grants for their own special projects. Cllr Shapiro

highlighted some school projects and suggested the idea of match funding. Cllr Jennings proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded, and all approved the acceptance of the budget and that the Precept request be the same as last year.

- ii. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Fuller seconded and all approved the acceptance of the quarterly reconciliation as at the end of December 2020.
- iii. The December Financial Report:
 - Deposit account as at 30 November 2020 - £20,199.40
 - Current account as at 30 November 2020 - £695.50
 - It was acknowledged that payments were made by bank transfer on 21 December:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £412.14
 - b. HM Revenue and Customs - £103.00
 - c. Lengthsman duties for November - £200.00
 - d. Parish Magazine Printing - £86.40
- iv. The January Financial Report:
 - Deposit account as at 31 December 2020 - £19,699.57
 - Current account as at 31 December 2020 - £393.96
 - Payments to be made by bank transfer on 26 January – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Shapiro and seconded by Cllr Sanderson:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £412.14
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £152.54 (Travel, 4 miles @ 45p per mile £1.80; Storage £10; use of telephone and internet £10; Postage to top up Christmas mailing and keep in store; Zoom invoice for November meeting £14.39 and Stationery – colour and black printer ink cartridges £92.95)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £103.00
 - d. Lengthsman duties for December - £200.00
 - e. Worcestershire CALC – 2 online training sessions for Cllr Fuller - £60

15. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted and the Clerk was asked to respond to a resident's concerns about Victoria road being subjected to more and more flooding and send them details of NWWM and Severn Trent for them to investigate first.

16. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Griffin asked if the Parish Council could get the message out about the dangers of walkers feeding livestock. The Clerk to put on the February agenda for discussion on ideas.
- ii. There has been an incident of youths smoking illegal substances around the Church and the Police were involved.

The meeting was closed at 9.34pm.

Signed.....Chairman