

## DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 in Dodford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chairman), and Jenni Schuett

**In attendance:** PC Lloyd Stone, Clerk Kay Stone and 14 members of the public.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

County Councillor Shirley Webb, District Councillor Drew Beaumont, Cllrs Lydon, Sanderson, and Shapiro gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April 2021 was proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Fuller and approved by all after which they were signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

#### **3. Parish Council Annual Report**

Cllr Jennings started her report with thanking the Clerk, Kay Stone, for her work throughout the year. She then read her report from the Annual Report which is in the process of being sent to all properties in the parish (copy attached).

#### **4. Financial Report**

The Council's income for 2021/2022 to the Parish Council was £13,665.82 (*previous year* £14,360.60) and the spending was £13,462.75 (*previous year* £10,606.54). The full financial report can be found in the Annual Report (copy attached).

#### **5. County Councillor Shirley Webb's Report**

Cllr Webb's Worcestershire County Council Annual Report was circulated at the meeting (copy attached).

#### **6. District Councillor Drew Beaumont**

No report has been received prior to the meeting.

#### **7. Sophie Sanderson, North Worcestershire Rural and Business Officer, West Mercia Police**

Sophie is new to her role but talked about the main thefts being oil, and external letter boxes resulting in fraud. Sophie talked about alarm devices that can be purchased and installed to alleviate oil thefts. She also mentioned how many rural crimes are under reported and encouraged residents to do so when they happen.

#### **8. PC Lloyd Stone, Bromsgrove Safer Neighbourhood Team, West Mercia Police**

Lloyd mentioned that he is responsible for organising surgeries in the Bromsgrove area to give residents the opportunity to talk face to face with the Police. He encouraged residents to always report anything suspicious and that the last three digits on a number plate are the ones that really matter with make, model of vehicle and the direction of travel. Lloyd talked about how the Police are tagging tyres with SmartWater to enable them to trace fly tipping. Bromsgrove Police and West Mercia Police Rural Matters pages can be found on Facebook.

#### **9. Mary Worsfold, Principle Conservation Officer, Bromsgrove District Council**

The Dodford Conservation Area was formed in August 1975 to protect the Chartist Development and was extended in 2018. She talked about restrictions in the Conservation Area such as

cladding and pebbledash. For extensions to the rear of more than one storey, planning permission is required. Dormers, garages, sky dishes, solar panels may also have restrictions. If a tree is to be cut down then 6 weeks notice to the Planning Authority is required if the tree is 1.5m or more in height, and 7.5 cm or more in diameter. It is a criminal offence to carry out work to a tree without giving notice in advance. Hedges have no protection in the Conservation Area and when asked Mary offered to see if a Neighbourhood Plan would protect hedges. If any resident is in doubt about what can and cannot be done then contact them via email [conservation@bromsgrove&redditch.gov.uk](mailto:conservation@bromsgrove&redditch.gov.uk) or [newplan@bromsgrove&redditch.gov.uk](mailto:newplan@bromsgrove&redditch.gov.uk).

#### **10. James Cartwright, Chairman, Dodford Village Hall Committee**

James went into great detail about the Charity Commission's definition of a Village Hall and how to make them visible. He also explained how during the pandemic income was down and to bring income back some users share the Village Hall, although this is not ideal. He then explained the structure of the Committee and volunteers involved. Their new web site has been launched although in its infancy. James talked about how events raised for the Village Hall are ring fenced and are to be used on projects for the Hall, such as a PA system and proper emergency exits for wheelchair users. He concluded by asking for suggestions to discuss at Committee Meetings and that volunteers are always welcome.

#### **11. James Cartwright and Clementine Kear, Dodford Village Fete**

Clemmie spoke about the forthcoming Queen's Jubilee Fete to be held on Sunday 5 June to take the form of the previously held Village Fetes and stalls so far confirmed. She also encouraged all residents to attend with their picnics and chairs. James confirmed that the Village Hall has been reserved should the day be wet.

#### **12. New Village Signs**

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council requests an additional rectangular sign to be put underneath the current Village Signs to say "Incorporating Greater Dodford" together with the Chartist trefoil. It was suggested that an information board be installed at the forthcoming Memorial Garden depicting the Chartist History with perhaps a QR code. To be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting – information boards around the villages.

There were no questions or matters of interest to Parishioners and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....Chair