

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 20 March 2023 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman), Scottie Sanderson and Jenni Schuett

In attendance: County Cllr Shirley Webb, District Councillor Drew Beaumont, Cllr Lynne Griffin, Clerk Kay Stone, and fourteen members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Jonathan Shapiro.

2. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

3. Dispensations

No dispensation requests received.

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

- i. Residents from Grafton attended the meeting to express their concerns about the speeding and the litter caused as a result of the Motocross meetings. After a great deal of discussion District Cllr Drew Beaumont offered to meet with the organiser of the Motocross and it was suggested by a resident that it would appear more supervised if a Marshall in a white coat was stationed at the Worcester Road end of Grafton Lane to remind drivers to drive slowly and take litter home with them. County Cllr Shirley Webb offered to speak to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways to see if anything could be done about the speeding in Grafton Lane.
- ii. Concerns about the proposed development of a solar panel farm at Foxwalks Farm was discussed and when the planning application is submitted to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC), and they in turn consult with the Parish Council, the Clerk will advise concerned residents. In the meantime, it was suggested that the residents form a working party similar to the working party at Whitford.
- iii. A Dodford resident spoke about her plans for a King Charles III Coronation Street Party in Priory Road.
- iv. The new Lengthsman introduced himself and explained his role. The Chair thanked him for taking on the role.

The meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Fuller proposed, Cllr Lydon seconded, and all approved the minutes for the meeting held on 23 January 2023. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. The Police are unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April but the Rector of Bromsgrove, David Ford, has accepted the invitation to speak. Cllrs Webb and Beaumont will also attend to give their annual report. The Clerk was asked to invite a representative from the company proposing to develop the solar farm park at Foxwalks Farm.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that:
 - a. the Yarnold Lane traffic count figures have been submitted to the Parish Council and that the five lanes are monitored again in two years' time, and
 - b. the Bournheath junction with Valley Road will be made one way one side of the island and two ways on the other to give better visibility (provisionally).

- ii. District Cllr Beaumont spoke about the need to take photo ID when voting in May.
- iii. Nothing to report on social media.
- iv. Cllr Fuller gave his report on the CALC Area Meeting held on 8 March. CALC has some concerns at the lack of Parish Councils attending these meetings and there was discussion regarding training for the local elections in May. Some Parish Councils who have Neighbourhood Plans feel they are ignored by the District and County Councils.
- v. The Clerk is also on the Fairfield Community Shop Working Party and asked if there would be an interest in the shop and also any support to help with running the shop. This to be mentioned again at the Annual Parish Meeting.

6. Planning

- i. Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Fuller seconded, and all approved the minutes for the planning committee meeting held on 6 March. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. To consider planning application consultations:
 - a. 23/00219/FUL – Parkhill, Monsieurs Hall Lane – Alterations to external walls, roof eaves, windows, and doors.
The Parish Council has no objections.
 - b. 23/00226/FUL – Woodside, Brimstone Lane – Extensions and roof alterations.
The Parish Council has no objections.
- iii. Single storey link extension at Rose Villa in Brimstone Lane granted by BDC.
- iv. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- v. The case has been closed for GraAnge as the building on site is a replacement building. BDC has not undertaken soil testing at Sumach as the matter was referred to the Environment Agency in August 2022. The Clerk to write to the Environment Case Officer asking for evidence of soil testing.
- vi. The Chair and Clerk are arranging a meeting with Ruth Bamford in April to discuss Sumach.
- vii. Cllr Fuller reported on his attendance at the online consultation with the developers of the proposed solar panel farm at Foxwalks Farm.

7. Memorial Garden

- i. The Parish Council agreed to a plaque on one of the benches to be in memory of the family who previously owned the patch of land.
- ii. The Clerk to obtain quotes for the cutting of the hedge by hand or machine.
- iii. Cllr Webb offered to speak to the family about writing information for the history board and then this can be turned into a QR Code to be put on display.
- iv. No costings yet obtained for the bound resin path, shrubs, and benches.
- v. Sponsorship and volunteering to be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Highways and footpaths

- i. A broken signpost has been reported and a review of others in the area will be undertaken to see if any need repair or replacement.
- ii. Cllr Webb confirmed the addition to the current village signs will be £300 per sign.
- iii. The planting licenses for the triangles in Alfreds Well and on Whinfield Road have been received from WCC and were duly signed by the Chair.
- iv. The Clerk still to meet up with Leon Hill (BDC) and contact the owner of the land opposite the driveway to the Church to see if a bin could be placed on his land.
- v. The earth on the damaged triangle on Whinfield Road has been flattened and a young tree and plants have appeared. Two or three kerb stones still need to be replaced. Cllr Webb to look at their replacement by WCC.
- vi. As reported earlier the traffic count for Yarnold Lane has been received and is available on the Parish Council web site.

9. Lengthsman

The new Lengthsman had introduced himself earlier in the meeting.

10. Grants

- i. A grant request has been received from a resident to hold a street party on the occasion of King Charles III Coronation. After discussion Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Sanderson seconded and all agreed to give a grant of £300 and the resident was thanked for organising the street party.

At this point, Cllr Schuett left the meeting.

- ii. Further information is still awaited from Dodford PCC.
- iii. No further information from Dodford Village Hall.

11. Training

The Clerk is not aware that Cllr Shapiro has passed on the information to BDC about the diversity and ethnicity training. Cllr Fuller suggested this item be taken off future agendas but Cllr Jennings wished it to remain for one more meeting.

12. Dodford Village Hall

- i. Cllr Fuller had met with the Police over the parking issues at the event in December who said the issue was not one for the Police and that whoever put up warning signs on the day could be in trouble for causing distress to drivers. After discussion the Clerk was instructed to write to the School to ask parents to leave spaces for residents to pass or arrange to park and share in the Church car park for future School events at the Village Hall.
- ii. No new updates from the Village Hall Committee meeting.
- iii. New issues and questions for the next Village Hall Committee Meeting:
 - a. Sharing with the pole dancers is still not acceptable due to the noise level and as this is attended by more pole dancers, parking in the Village Hall car park is becoming an issue.
 - b. The Clerk to ask what is the official start and end time for the pole dancing group.

13. King Charles III Coronation

This was covered by the grant given towards the cost of a street party in Priory Road.

14. Finance

- i. The February Financial Report was noted as follows:
Deposit account as at 31 January 2023 - £21,853.08
Current account as at 31 January 2023 - £106.19
Payments made by bank transfer on 21 February:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £569.50
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £107.58 (Travel 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5.00; Use of telephone and internet line £5.00; Heating £10.00; Colour printer ink £42.19 and black printer ink £39.99
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £142.20
 - d. Dodford Village Hall – hire of meeting room on 23 January - £25.00
 - e. Lengthsman duties for January - £153.90
- ii. The March Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 28 February 2023 - £20,864.38
Current account as at 28 February 2023 - £108.21
Payments to be made by bank transfer on 21 March – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Sanderson:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £569.50
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £25.40 (Travel 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5.00; Use of telephone and internet line £5.00; heating £10.00)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £142.20
 - d. Lengthsman duties for February - £127.80.

15. Correspondence received – for information

- i. Email from a resident in Grafton about the noise and litter left behind after a Motocross meeting.

- ii. Email from a resident about a vehicle parked illegally and causing obstruction at the top of Alfreds Well. The Clerk had advised the resident that this was not a Parish Council issue and to contact the Police.
- iii. Invitation to attend the BDC Civic Charity Dinner and Dance on 24 March.
- iv. Timetable received from BDC for election dates and information on the requirement of ID to vote.

20. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Beaumont announced he was not seeking re-election and that Kit Taylor will be standing for election. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Beaumont for his support and hard work.
- ii. Cllr Griffin mentioned the mud on Yarnold Lane from the reclamation yard. Cllr Webb offered to visit.
- iii. Cllr Jennings requested looking at other venues for meetings to be put on the next agenda.

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm.

Signed.....Chair