

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 23 September 2024 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chair), and Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman)

In attendance: Clerk Kay Stone, County Cllr Shirley Webb, PC Iain Smith and 10 members of the public.

1. Apologies

District Cllr Kit Taylor, Parish Cllrs Scottie Sanderson, Jonathan Shapiro, and Jenni Schuett for reasons given which were accepted by the Parish Council.

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. The Chair explained the flyers posted through letterboxes recently had not been issued by the Parish Council and a resident explained he had distributed the flyers as he was frustrated that he felt Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) were not listening to his concerns regarding an apparent breach of planning at Woodside Farm. Another resident felt there had been an increase in HGV traffic in Victoria Road. All the issues will be discussed under item 6iv.
- ii. A resident brought to the Parish Council's attention that a wooden box had appeared in front of the building line at a property in Yarnold Lane. The Clerk was asked to put this item on the agenda for the October meeting.

4. Meetings

Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 15 July 2024. The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported
 - a. that siding out still needed to take place in Priory Road, but she thanked the residents in Priory Road for cutting their hedges back, and
 - b. that the work on the Alfreds Well island has been finished and the Highways Officer will arrange for verge masters to be put on the island and the salt box will be replaced. Residents are happy for a solar light to be fitted on the island and the Clerk to obtain a cost and report back.
- ii. No report received from District Cllr Taylor.
- iii. Nothing to report on social media.
- iv. The Clerk reported:
 - a. that she had omitted to add to the agenda before publishing "To acknowledge payments made in August". Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the payments;
 - b. a breakdown of the costs of the Chartist Day has been received and is available for anyone to take a look, and
 - c. after a discussion It was decided to not produce a Christmas newsletter again for 2024 due to increase costs.

6. Planning

- i. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the minutes for the planning committee meeting held on 2 September 2024. The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record. The approval of the minutes for the planning committee meeting held on 17 September to be deferred to the October meeting in the absence of Cllr Shapiro who chaired the meeting.
- ii. BDC has refused the Prior Approval for the conversion of The Barn in Woodland Road (formerly known as The Stable) to a dwelling.
- iii. No planning appeals or appeal decisions received.
- iv. Enforcement and environmental updates:
 - a. BDC has investigated the report of land used as vehicle scrap hire and part of Pugh's Plant Hire at Sunrays in Warbage Lane and has concluded that the current situation does not warrant further action.
 - b. The Parish Council felt that due to the number of residents who had concerns about the increase of traffic in Victoria Road and the alleged breach of planning at Woodcote Farm, that the Clerk should log the issue with BDC. County Cllr Webb to ask if traffic strips could be put down in Victoria Road to record the number of vehicles and speed. It was recognised that as this had not been carried out before, there would be no comparison at this stage.
- v. The Local Heritage List purpose and impact had been left on the agenda in error from the July meeting.
- vi. Any planning issues:
Next planning committee meeting to be held on Monday 30 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. Alfred's Well island was discussed under County Cllr Webb's report.
- ii. The Clerk reported that she had not heard anything further from the resident who had shown an interest in the role of Footpath Warden and no other applications have been received.
- iii. No other footpath / bridleway issues have been reported.

8. First Aid Training

Age UK Hereford and Worcester branch has closed due to lack of funds although County Cllr Webb reported that the Bromsgrove branch is still going. Cllr Webb to make enquiries as to what is going to happen with the Hereford and Worcester branch and report back to the Clerk.

9. Motocross

District Cllr Taylor advised the Parish Council prior to this evening's meeting that he will be attending a Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) meeting on Thursday and will chase for an update to the noise testing request.

10. Memorial Garden

- i. The Clerk to still organise a Utilities Survey.
- ii. Cllr Lydon to speak to suppliers in Dodford regarding Corten sign and wooden bench.
- iii. Clerk is waiting to hear from RHS Wisley regarding their Corten sign.

11. Dodford Village Hall

- i. The Clerk has yet to officially ask the Village Hall Committee if they would be happy to display a framed portrait of the King if the Parish Council applied for one and to ask if they would be willing to display more historical information. Prior to the meeting the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee felt there would be no opposition but awaited the formal request.
- ii. The Village Hall Committee has issued an appeal for more volunteers as they are losing one Trustee at the AGM. They are held by the 1977 Constitution to have 10 committee members (7 elected and 3 non-elected). Representatives from the Parish Council, Women's Institute and Gardening Club have a right to sit on the committee. The finances of the Village Hall Committee are not an issue – it is the need for physical support to share the workload. If this is not forthcoming then the Village Hall will have to close. The Village Hall Committee AGM will be held on 22 October at 7.30pm and flyers are being distributed by the Village Hall Committee.

12. Parish Council Grants

A grant application has been received from the Citizen's Advice Bureau and County Cllr Webb declared an interest. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Webb would ask CAB to supply three years accounts and enquire about a speaker for the next meeting. In principle the Parish Council are in favour of a grant but need more information. PC Iain Smith reiterated the good work that CAB have been undertaking recently with the Police.

16. Finance

The September Financial Report:

Deposit account as at 30 August - £19,199.18

Current account as at 30 August - £461.97

Payments to be made by bank transfer on 24 September – Proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Lydon:

- a. Clerk's salary - £760.19 (made up of £780.34 plus back pay from 1 April to 31 August 2024 as per approval by the Parish Council at meeting on 15 July 2024 £169.85, less Tax of £190)
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £153.94 (Travel 8 miles @ 45p per mile £3.60; Storage for August and September £10.00; Use of telephone and internet line for August and September £50.00; Back pay for increase of £5 from 1 April 2024 for telephone and internet line £20.00; Heating for August and September £35.00; Back pay for increase of £7.50 from 1 April 2024 for heating £30.00 and Moonpig card for Phil Richardson Community Award 2024 £5.34)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £190.00
- For information:
- d. Cheque drawn on 10 August 2024 for the recipient of the Phil Richardson Community Award £75
 - e. Lengthsman duties for July 2024 plus VAT and mileage paid on 12 September - £209.10

14. Correspondence received – for information

No correspondence received

15. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Lydon reported he was delighted to present the Phil Richardson Community Award 2024 to Lorraine Smith at the Dodford Show.
- ii. After discussion on an alleged planning breach the Clerk was asked to first check the decision notice to see if the building work was being adhered to and then to add it to the October agenda.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.14pm.

Meeting held in Camera:

After discussion, the Parish Council voted not to proceed further with the maladministration complaint to BDC and the Chair thanked the Clerk for all the work in pulling together necessary documentation.

Signed..... Chair