

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 26 April 2012 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Vic Dawson, Richard Harper, Rachel Jennings, Terence Lee (from 7.45pm), Alwyn Rea, Richard Scott, District Councillor Brian Lewis, Clerk Kay Stone and six members of the public

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

None

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

- i. Personal interests – none
- ii. Prejudicial interests – Cllr Rea declared an interest in item 5.i - the Children's Holiday Farm planning application, which he had already declared at the Planning Committee Meeting and Cllr Scott declared an interest in items 6.ii and 6.iii on the agenda

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda

- Five members of the public attending stated their objections to the proposed parking restrictions outside the school and the nursery on the grounds of safety for the children, increase in traffic speed, urbanisation and moving the parking problem further up the roads with some members of the public not wanting their view interrupted by parked cars.

#### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 22 March 2012**

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Dawson and seconded by Cllr Churchill after which they were signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

#### **4. Reports**

- i. District Councillor Brian Lewis spoke about the Leader of the Council proposing an exercise to market some of the properties in Bromsgrove town centre. He also mentioned a programme he had heard where two Planning QC's talked about the Localism Bill and how, in their view, this hasn't changed anything as far as planning law is concerned. Councillor Lewis also reminded the Parish Council that once the District Council has received a planning application, he has 21 days in which to call the application in.
- ii. County Councillor Sheila Blagg's report was circulated.
- iii. The Clerk gave her report:
  - a. New external auditors for 2013 will be Littlejohn LLP and the threshold below which no fee for the audit will be charged is to be raised from an annual turnover of £1k to £10k.
  - b. Code of Conduct training sessions to be held on Wednesday 13 June at 6.30pm and Wednesday 20 June at 6.00pm at Bromsgrove District Council (BDC). The Clerk explained this training is not compulsory but it is in the Councillor's best interest to attend.
  - c. The Lengthsman has returned the signed contract for another year.

- d. BDC Local Validation Checklist has been approved by their Planning Committee and comes into force on 1 May 2012.
- e. Mary Worsfield (BDC Conservation Officer) is willing to attend a Parish Council meeting to talk about the Dodford Conservation Area appraisal and the June meeting has been penciled in her diary.
- f. Arrangements have been made for the previous Clerk, Katie Limm, to stand in for the current Clerk at the July meeting.

## **5. Planning**

- i. Minutes of the meetings held on 16 April had already been circulated to Councillors and copies were available at the meeting.
- ii. The Clerk had reported the fear of retribution by neighbours over The Stable planning appeal to the Police as requested at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 12 March. The advice to anyone who feels threatened is to call the Police on 101 and explain what has happened and they will monitor the situation.
- iii. It was proposed by Cllr Harper and seconded by Cllr Dawson that future Planning Committee Meetings will alternate between mornings and evenings on an ad-hoc basis. If the Village Hall is unavailable in an evening then the room attached to the Church could be available.
- iv. No other planning issues were discussed.

## **6. Queen's Jubilee**

- i. It was proposed by Cllr Harper and seconded by Cllr Dawson to accept the quote of £38.27 from Artyfacts Gallery in Bromsgrove for the framing of the reply from HM Queen but only after Cllr Rea has spoken to a resident in Dodford who may be willing to frame the reply.
- ii. Two formal applications have been received from members of the Village Hall Committee who are proposing a Jubilee Ball on 2 June and a village picnic, fancy dress and entertainments afternoon on 4 June. The other application has been received from the Dodford Inn for a grant towards the cost of the firework display on 3 June.
- iii. It was proposed by Cllr Harper and seconded by Cllr Churchill that the following grants should be given on the understanding that the Parish Council has sight of invoices and / or set of accounts following the events:
  - a. Members of the Village Hall Committee to receive £580
  - b. The Dodford Inn to receive £382The remainder of the allocated budget would be spent on framing the reply from HM Queen.

## **7. Worcestershire CALC**

It was proposed by Cllr Harper and seconded by Cllr Rea to renew the subscription for 2012/2013.

## **8. Electoral Review of Bromsgrove**

It was agreed to not make any comments on the proposal.

## **9. Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document**

It was agreed to not make any further comments on the update to comments made in October 2011.

## **10. Think Local in Worcestershire**

Cllr Rea gave a report on this topic which was discussed at the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Annual Parish Conference held the previous night and it was agreed that views made at the meeting during the workshop sufficed the comments back to WCC. At this point Cllrs Churchill and Rea gave a short report on the introduction of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) which will replace Section 106 and which Cllr Harper was able to expand upon.

## **11. Social Media Networking**

It was suggested by the Clerk that the Parish Council may wish to consider having a page on Facebook as another way of communicating with parishioners. After a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Churchill that the Clerk should set up a page.

## **12. Annual Parish Meeting**

- i. After a discussion it was agreed that the Annual Report should include a sentence on the proposal by BDC to update their Public Access database enabling residents to submit their postcode and receive notifications of planning applications within a stated radius. It was also agreed to add a sentence stating that the document can be made available in large print by contacting the Clerk. The Clerk agreed to amend the document and re-circulate to the Councillors. If there were no objections then the Clerk would arrange to have the Report printed and mailed to parishioners before the Annual Parish Meeting.
- ii. It was agreed to invite a representative from the Village Hall Committee and the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator to give a report at the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **13. Bromsgrove Area CALC**

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to suggest the following should be put on the agenda for the 6 June meeting:

- i. Procurement from local businesses
- ii. Problems with Anti Social Behaviour in Bromsgrove

It was also agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator should attend the meeting and Cllr Rea will contact him.

## **14. Finance**

- i. Acceptance of the final quarter reconciliation was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Churchill. It was agreed that a variance column would be inserted in future quarterly reconciliations.
- ii. The Clerk notified the Parish Council that she had inadvertently overpaid Stewart Vick, Planning Consultant, by £250 and that he had sent a cheque for the overpayment back to the Clerk which has been banked.
- iii. Approval of the payments due for April set out in a schedule circulated by the Clerk were proposed by Cllr Harper and seconded by Cllr Rea.

## **15. Correspondence received**

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting was noted from which the Clerk was asked to:

- i. Accept the invitation for Cllr Scott to attend the buffet supper following the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16 May.
- ii. Contact PC Kelso to police offending cars parked in Fockbury Road and Priory Road.
- iii. Write to the owners of Yarnold Lane Nursery following a parishioner notifying the Parish Council of an incident where a lorry blocked Yarnold Lane for a time.
- iv. Following correspondence received by Cllr Rea from a resident concerned about an incident with a large lorry in Priory Road the Clerk was asked to contact Belbroughton

Parish Clerk regarding change of use at Owens Logistics in Warbage Lane as it is thought the recent activity of large lorries in the village are going to and from this property.

**13. Councillors items**

- i. Cars are still being parked on the verge and entrance to Countryforge on the Kidderminster Road obstructing the line of vision exiting Fockbury Road.
- ii. The drain opposite the golf driving range in Kidderminster Road is still flooding and needs rodding.
- iii. The hardcore in the bank at Tower House has been washed away. The Clerk was asked to see if the Lengthsman could take a look as it is believed to be WCC responsibility.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm.

Signed.....Chairman