

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 14 November 2013 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Rachel Jennings, Alwyn Rea (Chairman) and David Valentine

In attendance: District Councillor Brian Lewis, Clerk Kay Stone and three members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllrs Terence Lee and Richard Scott

2. Declarations of interest

- i. Cllr Valentine – item 5i
- ii. Cllrs Jennings and Rea – item 11

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

Steve Waring, Countryside Service, Worcestershire County Council spoke to residents and the Parish Council on options regarding the public footpaths at Greenhill Farm

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 24 October 2013

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

4. Reports

- i. No report had been received from County Councillor Sheila Blagg due to the earlier timing of the Parish Council meeting.
District Councillor Brian Lewis reported on the District Plan; problems with drainage in Bumble Hole Lane from the discharge from the tip and planning matters.
- ii. The Clerk gave her report resulting in the following actions to be taken:
 - a. Clerk to add possible expenditure on grit bins for Winter 2014/2015 to the Annual Parish Meeting agenda in May 2014 but in the meantime if there are problems with gritting routes in Winter 2013/2014 then Councillors to contact the Clerk who will report to the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) hot line.
 - b. Clerk to check in the archive chest for information of cost of speed signs in the village.

5. Highways and footpaths updates

- i. Greenhill Farm – public footpath. Steve Waring, Countryside Services, WCC to write to landowner to see if he will agree to a permissive agreed route across the hill.
- ii. A448 – speed restrictions:
 - a. WCC to investigate junctions at Fockbury Road and Woodcote Green.
Enforcement of double white lines opposite Park Gate is a Police matter and WCC will bring this to their attention. WCC will be reviewing the markings to ensure they comply with regulations.
 - b. Chaddesley Corbett happy to put A448 speed restrictions on their agenda once we have received a reply from County Councillor Stephen Clee.
- iii. Wayside, Valley Road – Clerk read out letter from Mrs Willis expressing her thanks to the Parish Council for their efforts. Clerk reported that the new owners of The Lodge had

requested a plan to see where the white lines will be painted and this has been requested from WCC. Still waiting to hear from WCC if lines will be reflective.

6. Councillor co-option

Bromsgrove District Council has advised the Clerk that the resignation of Cllr Dawson took place as soon as the Proper Officer received the resignation letter and as a result the Notice of Casual Vacancy has been posted on the web site and Village Hall notice boards. If after 26 November 2013 an election has not been called then the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option.

7. Election of Vice Chairman

Deferred to December meeting when there will be full attendance.

8. Planning

- i. It was proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Churchill and agreed that Cllr Valentine will be the Planning Committee Chairman
- ii. Planning application 13/0714 – Top House, Woodcote Lane, Woodcote Green – Side extension to dining room at ground floor – BDC have refused this application.
- iii. Closed enforcement on an unauthorised conservatory at Yeomans Barn, Fockbury Mill Lane.
- iv. Planning application 13/0541 – Park Farm, Kidderminster Road – Erection of an agricultural building for colony egg production – BDC have approved this application.

9. Mini Constituencies

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that mini constituencies are not practical for the size of the Parish Council but alternative ways of communicating with residents will be considered.

10. Christmas 2013 newsletter

Approved with the addition of a sentence to say that larger print copies are available by contacting the Clerk.

11. Grants for 2013/2014

Deferred to December meeting when there will be full attendance.

12. Standing Orders

Deferred to December meeting when there will be full attendance.

13. Code of Conduct

The Department of Communities and Local Government's new guide 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests' has been circulated and noted.

14. Finance

- i. The 2014/2015 draft budget was presented with no changes but the Precept will be discussed in full at the December meeting following the CALC Area Meeting on 4 December 2014.
- ii. It was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Jennings and agreed that Cllrs Valentine and Churchill will be the additional cheque signatories to Cllrs Scott and Rea.
- iii. Cllr Valentine was appointed the Councillor to oversee the quarterly bank reconciliations.
- iv. Deposit account as at 31 October 2013 - £12,650.31
Current account as at 31 October 2013 - £559.24
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Churchill:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £285.66
 - b. Expenses - £13.60 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; Storage £5; Travel 8 miles @ 45p/mile £3.60)
 - c. HMRC - £68.77

d. Allen Farnsworth (Lengthsman) - £198.80

15. Correspondence received – for information

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.

16. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Rea reported on his meeting with Roger Smalley and Richard Clewer (WCC) in Bungay Lake Lane regarding the ditches. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact contractor Robert Taylor to meet with Richard Clewer and give the Parish Clerk and WCC a quote for grading the ditches down.
- ii. Hedges had been cut in Priory Road which resulted in clippings left in the road and a resident complained of two tyre punctures. The Clerk was asked to point this out to the contractor.
- iii. There are trees and debris on the footpaths 518, 515 and 511 in High Wood. The Clerk to bring this to the attention of the Footpath Officer at WCC.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Signed.....Chairman