

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 27 March 2014 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Rachel Jennings, Terence Lee, Alwyn Rea (Chairman) and David Valentine

In attendance: County Councillor Sheila Blagg, Worcestershire County Council Highways Customer and Community Manager Jon Fraser, Clerk Kay Stone and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies

Cllrs Vicky Churchill and Richard Scott gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted. District Councillor Brian Lewis also gave his apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. Cllr Lee – item 12 ii as the planning application is in his name
- ii. None

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

- i. None raised

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

3. Jon Fraser, Worcestershire County Council Highways Customer and Community Manager

- i. Road surface by the bridge on the A448 in winter conditions – Jon Fraser happy to have the road surface evaluated and will report back to County Councillor Sheila Blagg the findings before next winter.
- ii. Drainage on the A448 – Richard Clewer is in consultation with Cllr Lee. Jon will speak with Richard to see if the pipe system needs an inspection and will report back to the Parish Council via Cllr Blagg. The Parish Council was also reminded about the North Worcestershire Water Board based in Kidderminster who may also be able to assist with the flooding from the fields on the Kidderminster side of the bridge.
- iii. Work on the bridge on the A448 – Jon unable to give an update on when the work will be completed but will report back to Cllr Blagg
- iv. Speed limits on the A448 – National guidelines have changed over the years and realistically a reduced speed limit of 50mph is not going to happen. It may be possible to show Community Concern at a PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting and it may also be possible to contact the local Police and name days where speeding is prevalent for them to undertake Speedwatch. Jon offered to arrange for a particular spot, to be identified by Cllr Lee, on the A448 to be monitored over a week and the speed figures will be made known to the Parish Council. It is also possible that a vehicle speed activated sign could be installed at the Fockbury Road junction which will trigger flashing at a lower speed to warn of “The Crossroads” junction. Jon and Richard will look again at potential signage.
- v. In thanking Jon for his time, the Chairman said he will report on what Jon had told the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 27 February 2014

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

5. Reports

- i. The March report received from County Councillor Sheila Blagg had been received and already circulated to Parish Councillors. Copies were available at the meeting for members of the public. Cllr Blagg also updated the Parish Council on her portfolio and the Chairman expressed his delight on behalf of the Parish Council that Cllr Blagg has accepted the invitation to be the guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting. No report from District Councillor Brian Lewis.
- ii. The Clerk reported that
 - a. Cllr Churchill had written a report on the CALC Area meeting held on 12 March which had been circulated to Parish Councillors;
 - b. CiLCA registration fee was to be increased by £100 to £250 on 1 April 2014. It was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Lee and approved that the Clerk should register before 31 March 2014 to sit the Clerk's Qualification Exam over the next two years;
 - c. the Parking Team at Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) have their own email address – bdcparking@bromsgrove.gov.uk;
 - d. the Clerk is waiting for a starting date from the contractor for the Bungay Lake Lane work
 - e. there will be a stand manned by the Health & Wellbeing Team, Adult Services and Health at the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Parish Conference on 30 April 2014 and one of the presentations will be on the latest developments by WCC Broadband Project Manager. The Parish Council's concerns about digital implications should be covered. Cllr Churchill and Cllr Rea will be attending.
 - f. problems with footpath 539 have been reported to the Footpath Officer who will include it in his report to WCC.
 - g. grant acknowledgement letters have been received from all the recipients except Dodford PCC.

6. Lengthsman

- i. It was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Jennings and approved that the Parish Council will pay the Lengthsman £12.00 per hour for 16 hours per month.
- ii. It was agreed to renew the WCC Lengthsman contract.
- iii. It was agreed to renew the contract with the Lengthsman for 2014/2015.

7. Highways and footpaths updates

- i. The Clerk reported on work carried out by the Lengthsman during February.
- ii. The work on the Priory Road footpath has been delayed as BDC Conservation Officer insists on Conservation kerb stones being used but this adds an additional £7,500 to the WCC / Cllr Blagg budget of £17,000 for concrete kerb stones.

8. Finance

- i. The new legislation regarding electronic payments was noted and the Clerk will report back to the Parish Council after training in June.
- ii. Deposit account as at 28 February 2014 - £8,302.34
Current account as at 28 February 2014 - £3,096.17
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Valentine and seconded by Cllr Lee:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £285.66
 - b. Expenses - £73.60 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; Storage £5; Travel 34 miles @ 45p/mile £15.30; Postage £2.60 and Stationery £45.70)
 - c. HMRC - £71.40
 - d. Allen Farnsworth (Lengthsman duties) £188.80
 - e. SLCC-CiLCA registration fee £150.00

9. Councillor co-option

No applications received.

10. Correspondence received – for information

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.

11. Councillors items

- i. Footpath opposite Rose Lane is slippery with green mould. The Clerk to ask the Lengthsman to clean it.
- ii. The edge of Priory Road is falling into the brook by Rose Lane. The Clerk to report this to WCC Hub.

12. Planning

- i. Planning application 14/0159 – Monsieurs Hall, Monsieurs Hall Lane – Refurbish pig sty garden building to provide music room / WC and tack room
The Parish Council have no objection.

At this point Cllr Lee left the meeting and the room and did not return

- ii. Planning application 14/0115 – Woodcote Golf Driving Range, Kidderminster Road – Demolition of part of redundant driving range building and the change of use of the retained part of the building to a small dwelling
The Parish Council agreed that in circumstances where the building is no longer viable commercially it is not unreasonable for the owner to look for another use. Conversion to residential use requires consideration of the implications for the green belt and this is something which the Planning Authority will need to address when considering the application. This application has been considered on its individual merit with relation to the history of the property but the Parish Council are concerned that approval for this application should not set a precedent for future similar applications.

- iii. Any other planning issues:
 - a. Planning application 14/0077 – Woodcote Farm, Kidderminster Road – Erection of steel portal frame stock shed – Granted by BDC
 - b. Minutes for the Planning Committee Meeting 3 December 2013 were signed by the Planning Committee Chairman as being a true record and the Minutes for the Planning Committee Meeting on 4 March 2014 was signed by the Parish Council Chairman as being a true record.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Signed.....Chairman