

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 26 November 2015 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Vicky Churchill (Chairman), Rachel Jennings (gave advance apologies for leaving the meeting at 8.45pm), Alwyn Rea, Christine Thomas and David Valentine

**In attendance:** District Councillor Karen May, Clerk Kay Stone and three members of the public

#### **1. Apologies**

County Councillor Sheila Blagg

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

- i. None
- ii. None

#### **3. Dispensations**

No requests received

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

- Concern was expressed about the speeding of vehicles and dangerous driving through the village. As a result, the Clerk was asked to put this on the January agenda.
- A resident is still not getting anywhere with the Enforcement Officer regarding enforcement issues in Yarnold Lane and District Councillor May informed the resident and the Parish Council that she is to meet with the Head of Planning at Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) and will report back.

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

#### **4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 October 2015**

After an amendment from District Councillor May, the approval of the amended Minutes was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Valentine, agreed by all and then signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

#### **5. Reports**

- i. The November report from County Councillor Sheila Blagg had been received and circulated to Parish Councillors with copies being made available at the meeting. The Clerk read out information from an email received from the County Councillor regarding the conviction of a Bromsgrove loan shark.
- ii. District Councillor Karen May reported that:
  - a. the bridge by the footpath in Rose Lane had been repaired;
  - b. she has called in the planning application for the Dodford Inn;
  - c. BDC have widened their car parking remit, and
  - d. she is planning to speak with the Head of Planning at BDC regarding enforcement issues.
- iii. No report from the CALC AGM as representatives were unable to attend.
- iv. No report from the Clerk.

## 6. Planning

- i. Planning applications:
  - a. 15/0906 – Oak Lodge, Dodford Court, Fockbury Road – proposed entrance canopy - The Parish Council has no objection to this application.
  - b. 15/0779 – Dodford Inn – refurbishment and extensions. The Parish Council has no objections but if the District Council are minded to approve the application then the Parish Council would recommend that the building remains a business and that a condition be applied that the property remains one property and cannot be split into two.
  - c. 15/0873 – Monsieurs Hall, Monsieurs Hall Lane – Certificate of Existing Lawful Use / Development for the use of Monsieurs Hall Farm dwelling house without compliance with Condition 2 attached to Planning Permission ref: B12.437 (agricultural occupancy) – The Parish Council has no comments to make.
- ii. The Clerk reported that BDC had
  - a. granted the Listed Building Consent for replacement of ground floors with limcrete flooring and alternation of existing opening to form new doorway to dining room at Woodhall Grange Farm, Woodcote Lane;
  - b. granted the menage / all weather turnout paddock on adjacent land to Camp Hill House, Woodland Road;
  - c. granted the planning application for a proposed general purpose agricultural and livestock housing building at Greenhill Farm, Kidderminster Road.The Clerk also reported that
  - a. the Planning Inspector had dismissed the appeal for prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to two residential units at West Lodge, Swan Lane;
  - b. and that the application had been withdrawn by the applicant for a cellar conversion to games room and laundry at Monsieurs Hall, Monsieurs Hall Lane.
- iii. Planning Appeal APP/P1805/W/15/3136033 – Land at Rectory Farm, Grafton Lane – Installation of a solar farm with an output of approx. 8.94MW on land adjacent to Rectory Farm (re-submission of application 14/0752 and planning application 15/0387). The Parish Council submitted the same comment as they had done so for BDC - The Parish Council has no objection but would like to see the part of the farm that falls within the Dodford with Grafton Parish Council area should be properly screened as outlined in the plan for the area which falls within Wychavon District Council. The land should also be put back to its original condition once the panels have expired.
- iv. There were no new enforcement/environmental issues.
- v. There were no other planning issues.

## 7. Highways and footpaths

- i. To discuss the possibility of a gate at the entrance to the walk close by Church Road / Woodland Road junction – County Councillor Sheila Blagg has this in hand but the Countryside team are not back in until 26 November.
- ii. Update on dog waste bins – The Clerk reported that
  - a. she had met with Graham Cutler from Environmental Services and BDC no longer require separate bins for dog waste and she had been given stickers to put on bins notifying the public of this. So far the bin by the notice board has one on and there is also a sticker on the notice board itself;
  - b. a new waste bin will be provided by Environmental Services to go outside the Village Hall and the old one will be positioned in Alfreds Well;
  - c. Environmental Services have also replaced the open waste bin outside the school;
  - d. Environmental Services from time to time have refurbished benches and one has been offered to Dodford with Grafton Parish Council and will be placed on the grass triangle at the start of the walk in Alfreds Well;

- e. Environmental Services offered to clear the start of the path at the side of the Village Hall, and
- f. she informed the Parish Council that she would put the Parish Council's thanks to Environmental Services in the Annual Report and also invite Graham o the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2016.

District Councillor Karen May asked if the Clerk would write to Guy Revans at BDC thanking the Environmental Team on behalf of the Parish Council and also copy in Graham Cutler and herself.

- iii. To discuss a dog register to be kept in the village – Cllr Jennings has contacted the Fairfield Community Facebook page for more information and is waiting to hear back.
- iv. Update on surface of Church Road – The Clerk has contacted Worcestershire County Council (WCC). Cllr Rea reported that there is a big hole in Church Road 20 yards from the Priory Road junction and that 50 yards up on the right hand side the gully is blocked. The Clerk to report this to WCC.
- v. A letter has been received from a parent complaining about the parking restrictions outside the School and the Nursery. The Clerk had drafted up an appropriate letter of reply which was approved by the Parish Council. Clerk to send to the parent concerned.

#### **8. Bromsgrove District Council Draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy**

This was considered but the Parish Council has no comment to make.

#### **9. Worcestershire Joint Health and Well-being Strategy Consultation**

After discussion it was agreed that the strategy was good but there was concern as to how it is going to be put into practice. Councillors to send their comments to the Clerk and the Clerk and Chairman will put together a response.

#### **10. Code of Conduct – gifts and hospitality**

It was proposed by Cllr Valentine, seconded by Cllr Rea and approved by all to adopt BDC's Code of Conduct – gifts and hospitality. Clerk to amend BDC version to be more appropriate to Dodford with Grafton Parish Council and then to circulate to Councillors and upload on to the web site.

#### **11. Defibrillator**

Cllr Valentine has applied for a free defibrillator to the British Heart Foundation on line. However due to a problem with having to wait for the East Midlands Ambulance Service to agree to the proposition, he has had to reapply and will report back at the next meeting.

#### **12. Broadband**

District Councillor Karen May and the Parish Council Chairman to meet with MP Sajid Javid at one of his Friday meetings in December.

#### **At this point Cllr Jennings left the meeting**

#### **13. The Safe Places Initiative for vulnerable adults**

Cllr Churchill explained how WCC recruit businesses like libraries, restaurants and pubs etc and train staff so that vulnerable adults can go there safely if they feel threatened. For more information <http://www.ourway.org.uk/> or [office@ourway.org.uk](mailto:office@ourway.org.uk) or 01562 820262. At the moment the scheme is in operation in Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport and there are plans to roll it out in Bromsgrove, but the date is unknown.

#### **14. Neighbourhood Watch**

- i. The latest reports were discussed and the Clerk will put a piece in the next Parish Magazine warning residents of bogus electrical websites.

- ii. The Clerk reported back that Judy Richardson no longer has any of the Neighbourhood Watch paper work but is happy for the Parish Council to advertise for a new Co-ordinator. The next CALC Area meeting on 9 December features Neighbourhood Watch and this item can be discussed further at the January meeting. In the meantime, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the area is more than happy to meet with anyone who is interested in becoming the Co-ordinator for the Parish.

#### **15. Finance**

- i. The draft 2016/2017 budget was discussed with no additions or deletions and will be discussed again at the next meeting when the Precept will need to be set when more information is received from BDC.
- ii. Deposit account as at 29 October 2015 - £14,424.77  
Current account as at 29 October 2015 - £333.47  
Cheques still to go through - £300.00  
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Valentine and seconded by Cllr Rea:
  - a. Clerk's salary - £300.65
  - b. Clerk's expenses - £27.55 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; storage £5; and travel 39 miles @ 45p/mile £17.55)
  - c. HMRC - £75.00
  - d. Allen Farnsworth (Lengthsman duties for October plus petrol) - £197.00
  - e. Worcestershire CALC (Clerk's Gathering) - £10.00
  - f. Bromsgrove District Council – printing of 260 Christmas newsletters - £41.76

#### **16. Councillor co-option**

No applications received and this item to remain on the next agenda.

#### **17. Correspondence received – for information**

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted. The Clerk was asked to put on the January agenda the item of setting up a village web site as suggested by a resident and to invite the resident to attend.

#### **18. Councillors items**

- i. Cllr Thomas reported on huge lorries trying to turn from Church Road into Woodland Road.
- ii. Cllr Rea reported he had spoken to the resident who cuts hedges in the village but he is not aware of who the phantom hedge cutter was in the Summer.
- iii. Cllr Churchill asked when the lights at the Whitford Road / Kidderminster Road would be set up and District Councillor May will keep the Parish Council informed of developments on this.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm

Signed.....Chairman