

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 28 January 2016 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Vicky Churchill (Chairman), Rachel Jennings, Christine Thomas and David Valentine

**In attendance:** County Councillor Sheila Blagg, District Councillor Karen May, Clerk Kay Stone and four members of the public

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Alwyn Rea gave his apologies, reasons for which were accepted

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

- i. Cllrs Rea and Jennings for item 11
- 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:

None raised

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

#### **4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 November 2015**

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Valentine, seconded by Cllr Thomas, 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.
- ii. District Councillor Karen May reported that:
  - a. she hoped to have the plans for Perryfields shortly and will share them with the Parish Council;
  - b. there is a five-year land supply issue with the Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Local Plan;
  - c. a PACT meeting was held in Bournheath last month and a report had been sent to the Clerk who had distributed it to Parish Councillors;
  - d. there is a Bromsgrove and Redditch traffic review ongoing, and
  - e. she is keeping an eye on enforcement issues within the Parish.
- iii. The Clerk reported on the CALC Area meeting held on 9 December focussing on the Neighbourhood Watch discussions.
- iv. The Clerk reported that she had asked the Lengthsman to help with flattening out a grass verge in Cockshutt Lane after a lorry had churned it up. The Lengthsman had flattened it as much as he could but advised it needed top soil. The Clerk reported this to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways who responded to say there were no safety issues and that slippery road signs are displayed. County Councillor Blagg asked the Clerk to let her have the report number and she will follow this up.

## 6. Cyber crimes

- An email has been received from County Councillor Blagg to inform the Parish Council that WCC are leading a County wide initiative on digital inclusion, so that people are supported to be safe on-line based by recruiting and training volunteers to support those who do not easily access the internet, and to make sure that they can stay safe on-line. Libraries should have digital champions available at some point during the week and WCC are working with 12 GP practices and 19 pharmacies so that they can offer safe internet access for the general public in 2016. The Police have put some money into this work, to support the availability of open access in places like digital cafes in community venues to widen safe access to the internet and they will be working on awareness campaigns as well as investigating criminal activity and direct contact with both the police and trading standards.
- After discussion the Clerk was asked to enquire how WCC are going to log any unmet needs and how are they going to review that it is open and inclusive to all.
- The Clerk was asked to put a piece on this subject in the next Parish Magazine and inform residents that AgeUK (include telephone number) are willing to come out to residents to help them.

## 7. Broadband

This is progressing forward in a positive manner with the Parish expected to be able to receive superfast broadband in early 2017. The Chairman has asked Superfast Worcestershire to advise residents when superfast broadband is available.

## 8. Highways and footpaths

- i. Update on a gate at the entrance to the walk close by the Church Road / Woodland Road junction - WCC Countryside team has been to look at the site but they have not received any reports requiring the need for a gate previously. The remit the team work on is to make rights of way more accessible and they do not think a gate will make this route more accessible and believe it could make it less so. The path has two boundary hedges which are not maintained as regularly as they should which left in the state they are would interfere with the gates operation. The Parish Council has been advised to make the land owners aware of the need to maintain the hedges and to consider how the Parish Council will maintain the gate long term. The Clerk was asked to write to the landowners.
- ii. Update on surface of Church Road – The Clerk had reported this on WCC report it page and had received a report back saying that the pot hole had already been marked for work but there was no mention of the general surface of the road. County Councillor Blagg asked the Clerk to let her have the Report number and she will follow this up.
- iii. Update on new bench and bin – The Clerk reported that the stand for the bench has been put down in Alfreds Well and that the bench to be put on the stand is currently being refurbished by BDC. The new bin will be placed at the same time.
- iv. To discuss speeding and dangerous driving through the village
  - a. County Councillor Blagg advised the Parish Council to request, via WCC Hub, a speed check be carried out in Fockbury Road from the A448 towards the school.
  - b. After discussion it was agreed to put this item on the Annual Parish Meeting agenda to gauge the feeling of residents as to whether there should be a speed limit in the village.
- v. To discuss the road surface in Fockbury Road
  - a. County Councillor Blagg informed the Parish Council that the verge and service road is owned by BDHT with WCC being responsible for the highway and pavement.
  - b. WCC would be happy to tarmac the small pavement and the Clerk was asked to check with the Conservation Officer if this would be acceptable to her.

- c. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the next main road sweep in Fockbury Road is scheduled for 4 April. District Councillor May offered to speak to the road sweeping team leader.
- d. It was brought to the Parish Council's attention that the road surface by the school needs looking at and the Clerk was asked to report this to WCC and to let County Councillor Blagg have the report number for her to follow this up.
- e. District Councillor May offered to contact BDHT to arrange a site meeting.

**County Councillor Sheila Blagg and District Councillor Karen May left the meeting after this item on the agenda**

**9. Planning**

- i. The minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 15 December were not commented on and this will be put on the February agenda.
- ii. Planning applications:
  - a. 15/1056 – Manor Hall, Swan Lane – proposed rear single storey toilet block - The Parish Council has no objection to this application.
  - b. 15/1073 – Hayden Oakes, Newhouse Lane – Two storey extension to dwelling. The Parish Council has no objections as long as it doesn't exceed the 40% rule.
- iii. The Clerk reported that BDC had
  - a. granted the extension and refurbishments for the Dodford Inn
  - b. granted the demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage and agricultural store at Sunday Hill.
- iv. No planning appeals received
- v. 2015/0152/ENF – Woodcote Driving Range, Kidderminster Road – 2.5m fence and gates to front adj highway. The Enforcement Officer has been in negotiations with the land owner and the planners and has settled on a compromise of reducing the fence to 1m as per permitted development fallback – but has allowed a further 1m of trellis on the top arranged so it slopes up to the existing posts, then down in the middles in a wave.
- vi. There were no other planning issues.

**10. Defibrillator**

Cllr Valentine is having to apply again due to not being able to speak to anyone direct and the web site not being user friendly. The Clerk was asked to ascertain how Bournheath managed to obtain theirs.

**11. Grants**

The Clerk is waiting on grant applications and so this will be discussed at the February meeting.

**12. Bromsgrove and Redditch Local Plans**

Dates for the next hearings of the Local Plans Examination in public were noted which will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> and potentially 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**13. Village Web Site**

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would continue to publicise the MyParish Council web site and email address as much as possible.

**14 Queen's Birthday Celebrations**

The Clerk was asked to write to the new owners of The Dodford Inn to ask if they are going to organise a community celebration event and if so would they like to request a grant.

**15. Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2016**

Suggested speakers Rob Stiepinski from Worcestershire Broadband and David Rischmiller, Rural and Business Crime Coordinator, West Mercia Police. The Clerk to ask County Councillor Blagg who to invite to speak about speed limits and to invite the Bournheath Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator to be a speaker.

#### **16. Neighbourhood Watch**

- i. No reports relevant to Dodford.
- ii. Nobody has come forward to fill the vacancy and the Clerk was asked to continue to advertise.

#### **17. Finance**

- i. The quarterly reconciliation as at end of December 2015 was presented by the Clerk and Cllr Valentine agreed he had looked at the accounts and agreed them.
- ii. The draft 2016/2017 budget was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Valentine, seconded by Cllr Jennings and agreed by all to increase the Precept for 2016/2017 by 10% to allow for the drain on reserves to cover the loan taken out for the Village Hall refurbishment grant in 2009.
- iii. Deposit account as at 30 December 2015 - £13,725.96  
Current account as at 30 December 2015 - £86.51  
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Valentine and seconded by Cllr Thomas:
  - a. Clerk's salary for December and January - £601.10
  - b. Clerk's expenses - £86.08 (Use of telephone and internet line for December and January £10; storage for December and January £10; travel 74 miles @ 45p/mile £33.30 and Stationery £17.00)
  - c. HMRC - £150.20
  - d. Allen Farnsworth (Lengthsman duties for December) - £192.00

#### **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.

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

- i. Cllr Jennings reported that footpath 525 needs steps or hand rails and footpath 519 going in to footpath 516 side of the footbridge needs steps.
- ii. Cllr Valentine brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the wall at the rear entrance to the school car park is collapsing and that he has reported this to WCC.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed.....Chairman