

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 25 February 2019 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chairman) Rory Lydon, Alwyn Rea and Jonathan Shapiro

In attendance: District Cllr Karen May, Clerk Kay Stone and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies

County Cllr Shirley Webb and Cllr Scottie Sanderson gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

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:

- The Parish Council were congratulated for their initiative with the SmartWater roll out.
- Concern was expressed over the HGV vehicles in Yarnold Lane and a request was made for a proper survey to be carried out as to who and what the traffic is.

The meeting reconvened as follows:

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 January 2019

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Lydon and seconded by Cllr Shapiro, agreed by all and then signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

5. Reports

- i. No report had been received from County Cllr Webb, but the clerk reported that Cllr Webb had sat on a working party to maintain services at Catshill Library and has requested financial assistance from local Parish Councils from 2020 onwards. To be discussed further at the next meeting.
- ii. District Cllr May reported
 - a. that Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) budget meeting was taking place the following evening and talked about the cost of parking. Cllr May also informed the meeting that annual parking permits can be purchased on the BDC website - Churchfields Multi Store annual price £215, quarterly price £53.75. All long stay pay and display car parks annual price £320, quarterly price £80. More information available on their web site:
<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/my-place/parking/parking-permits-annual-and-quarterly.aspx>
 - b. and that there are many companies wishing to develop in Bromsgrove and the site next to Waitrose will be brought back in to BDC to develop.
- iii. No social media report.
- iv. The Clerk reported that
 - a. Worcestershire CALC's new Executive Officer from 29 April will be Chris Wayman;

- b. she has received a response from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways to say that our Lengthsman has been issued with some equipment, although second hand, considered to be serviceable. Cllr Webb has agreed to fund some replacements through Catshill Parish Council and so has Cllr Potter through Feckenham Parish Council (both use the same Lengthsman). The Clerk is waiting to hear the new hourly rate proposed by the Lengthsman. The Clerk was asked to write to the other Parish Councils for whom the Lengthsman has a contract with and suggest that the cost of the safety equipment and clothing spent by the Lengthsman be divided by the number of Parish Councils he has a contract with, and each Parish Council make him a one off payment over three years – ie £30 for three years;
- c. as postage is going up on 25 March and the Annual Report needs to be sent out in April / May, the Clerk requested permission to purchase stamps in advance. It was proposed by Cllr Lydon, seconded by Cllr Rea and agreed by all that the Clerk should purchase enough stamps for the Annual Report mailing and the Christmas mailing;
- d. the reclaimed VAT on the SmartWater kits has been received, and
- e. she has received a phone call from BBC Hereford & Worcester for information on a house fire on Kidderminster Road to help with a programme on the work of the Fire Service.

6. Planning

- i. No planning applications received.
- ii. Planning Appeal APP/P1805/W/19/3219844 – Battlefield Cottage, Kidderminster Road. The Clerk was asked to reiterate the Parish Council's comments to the Planning Inspector. It was noted that WCC Highways have revised their comments.
- iii. No enforcement / environmental issues and no update on current enforcements.
- iv. Other planning issues:
 - a. BDC are currently processing large number of responses to the District Plan consultation and will update as soon as they are able
 - b. BDC are unable to offer any planning training to the Parish Council but the clerk has received documents from the last training which she has circulated to Parish Councillors
 - c. As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk reported on the history of the planning applications for West Lodge Barn.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. It was agreed that Cllr Lydon will arrange to see the Footpath Officer at WCC for further information about Witness Statements.
- ii. The Parish Council are delighted that Scott Fuller is taking on the role of Tree Warden and Footpath Officer and the Clerk was asked to write and thank him and invite him to the Annual Parish Meeting in May.
- iii. The Clerk was instructed to write to residents where vehicles are being parked on the grass triangle on the corner of Warbage Lane and Priory Road to ask that they request contractors / visitors not to park there.
- iv. County Cllr Webb had arranged with the Police to carry out further speed checks at 8am in January but this was cancelled due to icy conditions and is looking to rearrange. Following a resident's query at the last meeting about the slow down signs to be painted on the road, the Clerk reported that WCC Highways says that to ensure longevity of any lining or road marking it is best done in ambient temperatures and will be left until April. The resident has been advised. It has been noted that pink slow signs have appeared in Warbage Lane.
- v. Extra safety signs have been put up in High Wood whilst the tree felling is in progress.
- vi. The Clerk has written to County Cllr John Hobbs about the proposed additional yellow lines in Fockbury Road but has not heard anything back and the Clerk was asked to write again.
- vii. The Clerk has emailed residents and put a message on Facebook for residents to report rubbish / beer cans in hedges to BDC with a photograph at:

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/my-place/street-cleaning/fly-tipping.aspx>

The Clerk was asked to include the information on the use of CCTV discussed at the last meeting in the Parish Magazine, which she confirmed she has already done.

- viii. A public meeting to be held on Wednesday 13 March at 7.30pm in Dodford Church to discuss ideas for "Dodford Day" and the Clerk was asked to promote this meeting on Facebook and email residents. Cllr Shapiro agreed to spearhead this initiative.
- ix. The phone box, in its current state, is too damp for books and the gap between the ground and the phone box requires filling in. The Clerk was asked to approach Men in Sheds.
- x. A resident has written again to BDC, WCC, County and District Councillors and the Parish Council about the ongoing HGV problem in Yarnold Lane. BDC has confirmed that the plant yard in Yarnold Lane has lawful use following the granting of a Lawful Development Certificate in March 2000 and Cllr May confirmed there is nothing that anyone can legally do and that she is still assisting the plant yard owner to find alternative land. The Clerk was instructed to write to WCC Highways to see what options would be available to the parish without having a 30mph limit. The Clerk was also instructed to request, via Cllr Webb, for a strip to be put down in Yarnold Lane that would show the number of types of vehicles.

8. SmartWater Kits Update

The MP was invited to attend but was unable due to illness and will be in London for the next two roll outs. 43 Kits were taken on the first roll out on 16 February. 80 Kits need to be handed out before being eligible for SmartWater signs. It was suggested that the larger of the two signs be placed on the Kidderminster Road either end of the Parish Boundary.

9. County Councillor Shirley Webb Divisional Fund

£500 has been offered by Cllr Webb from her Divisional Fund and Broadband into the Village Hall was discussed. The Clerk was instructed to ask Cllr Webb if she would be willing to fund the cost of the purchase of the SmartWater Kits - £1,441.80.

10. District and Parish Council Elections – 2 May 2019

- a. Election information packs will be emailed to Parish Clerks in March.
- b. Completed nomination forms to be delivered to the Returning Officer at BDC between 22 March and 4pm on Wednesday 3 April. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure their nomination form is delivered by hand to the Returning Officer or his / her member of staff. The form must be signed by two people eligible to propose and second the candidate and they must be included in the Electoral Register for the area in which the candidate is standing.
- c. BDC are holding an election briefing at Parkside on 13 March at 6pm prior to the CALC Area Meeting.

11. Annual Parish Meeting – 13 May 2019

The Clerk to invite Cllr Webb and the Tree Warden / Footpath Officer District. Cllr May asked if she could speak at the meeting as the outgoing District Councillor.

12. Safety Campaign

To be deferred to the March meeting.

13. Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Development Plan

To be deferred to the March meeting.

14. Finance

- i. The February Financial Report:
 - Deposit account as at 29 January 2019 - £13,460.01
 - Current account as at 29 January 2019 - £1,135.19
 - Payments by bank transfer for February – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Jennings:

- a. Clerk's salary - £355.45
- b. Clerk's expenses - £254.98 (Use of telephone and internet £5; storage £5; travel 24 miles @ 45p/mile £10.80; envelopes and labels for SmartWater mailing £28.22; postage for SmartWater mailing £174.00; coffee, tea, cake and biscuits, etc for SmartWater mailing £27.94 and postage £4.02)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £88.80
- d. Lengthsman duties for January and February - £400.00
- e. Dodford Village Hall – hire of hall for September 2018, October 2018 and January 2019
- f. Payment already made by bank transfer on 4 February as authorised in advance at the January meeting - Parish Magazine Printing – printing of SmartWater mailing - £49.60
- g. Payment already made by bank transfer on 8 February as authorised in advance at the January meeting – Dodford Church – hire of Church for November 2018 meeting £14.00

15. Correspondence received – for information

- a. Correspondence received was noted.
- b. The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint from a resident about dog fouling near the gates to the woods in Woodland Road. The Clerk has responded that there is a report it section on BDC website and will let the resident have dog fouling signs:
<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/my-place/street-cleaning/litter,-street-cleaning,-dead-animals-and-street-name-plates.aspx>
 Cllr May offered to contact BDC to request a black bin be placed at this site. The Clerk to take a photo and send to Cllr May.
- c. An email from a resident complaining about the number of recent road closures has been sent to the Clerk and the Clerk was asked to forward this on to the appropriate authorities.

16. Councillor Co-option

No applications have been received.

17. Councillors items

- a. Cllr Lydon reported seeing cars overtaking on the white lines outside the Crossroads Garage. The Clerk was instructed to contact WCC Highways and request the Community Safety Partnership vehicle to come out following four recent serious road accidents on Kidderminster Road.
- b. New drain kerbs have been put in Woodcote Lane which appear to be dangerous when two cars meet.
- c. Cllr Griffin reported on the amount of car remains on the A448 following the recent accidents and Cllr May offered to ask BDC to clear it. The Clerk confirmed that she had received photographs of the damaged road signs from the Lengthsman and these have been reported on the WCC Report it website.

The meeting was closed at 9.53pm

Signed.....Chairman