

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Clerk Kay Stone and 11 members of the public

1. Apologies

County Cllr Shirley Webb, District Cllr Karen May, Cllrs Rory Lydon and Scottie Sanderson gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. Cllr Jennings – item 11 on the agenda

3. Dispensations

No requests received.

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

- A copy of the CPRE article on Losing Lanes to Lorries was presented to the Parish Council and the Clerk was asked to circulate it to Parish Councillors and add to the April agenda
- A resident volunteered to help with a possible road survey in Yarnold Lane
- Residents expressed interest in items 11 and 7vii

The meeting reconvened as follows:

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2019

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

5. Reports

- i. The monthly report from County Councillor Webb has been received, circulated and available at the meeting for residents.
- ii. No report received from District Cllr May but had said to let her know if the Parish Council needed her help with anything.
- iii. No social media report.
- iv. The Clerk reported that
 - a. she made representation to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) via County Cllr Webb that the Parish Council had not been informed of the Warbage Lane road closure and then received notification once the road closure had commenced. The Parish Council were pleased to see that the sets had been maintained but were disappointed as they felt there were more compelling places for footpath repairs;
 - b. the Parish Council has received the divisional funding of £500 from County Cllr Webb. As instructed at the last meeting, the Clerk asked County Cllr Webb if she was able to increase her grant from her divisional funding to cover the cost of the SmartWater Kits and she replied that she has no further divisional funding available for this financial year. The Clerk was asked to add a request for divisional funding at the start of the financial year on the next agenda. The Clerk was asked to write to Dodford Village Hall Committee to ask if they wish to use the £500 grant for to put broadband in to the Village Hall and if so to request they obtain quotes for the Parish Council to look at and

if the Village Hall Committee are unable to afford it then the Parish Council will underwrite the costs;

- c. she had received a response from WCC Highways and County Cllr Webb regarding a resident's email about the recent road closures to say that the closure was to repair a burst watermain and Severn Trent's contractor undertook a risk assessment and decided that for the safety of their workforce they needed the road to be closed and WCC would not be able to refuse the closure request. The response has been forwarded on to the resident;
- d. she reminded Parish Councillors who wish to stand in the forthcoming elections to deliver their nomination forms between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday from 22 March to Room 4 at the Parkside building at BDC. Closing time and date is 4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019, and
- e. she has, through Karen May, requested a bin at the start of the public footpath in Woodland Road by The Stable.

6. Planning

- i. No planning decisions received.
- ii. No planning appeals or decisions received.
- iii. Enforcement updates have been received from Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) and circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.
- iv. Planning committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 7.30pm in Dodford Village Hall.

7. Highways and footpaths

- i. Cllr Lydon was not at the meeting to discuss his meeting with the Footpath Officer at WCC. This item to be carried forward.
- ii. No response has been received from the letter to residents in Warbage Lane about the parking on the grass at the junction of Warbage Lane and Priory Road and it was agreed to see what the situation is in a month.
- iii. Update on speed checks:
 - a. County Cllr Webb has said she will reorganise speed checks in her district now the weather has improved.
 - b. WCC Highways has advised the Parish Council to contact Safer Roads Partnership to request their van at the Crossroads junction following recent accidents. The Clerk advised this was refused at the time the Parish Council requested the reduced speed limit on the Kidderminster Road a few years ago as Safer Roads Partnership said there was not a safe place for them to place the van. The Clerk was asked to request again suggesting the bathroom car park be used. Cllr Rea offered to meet them on site to discuss further.
- iv. Update on additional yellow lines in Fockbury Road:
 - a. The Clerk has sent two emails with no response from John Dobbs at WCC, except for a holding email from his PA after the second email.
 - b. Response from County Cllr Webb who was copied into the email to John Dobbs advised that the Parish Council and residents will have the opportunity to object once the proposals have gone forward in the normal way. The school first requested the yellow lines and WCC has a responsibility for the safety of the children.
- v. Two separate requests from residents for the Management Plan for the tree felling in High Wood have been received and the Clerk reported she had sent the Plan to them.
- vi. Dodford Day to be celebrated on Sunday 30 June 2019 and the suggestion is for a combined Treasure Hunt and boundary walk with participants bringing their own picnic / strawberry tea in the Village Hall with evening entertainment. This will be a free event and funds will be raised from the Parish Council or other sources. Next Dodford Day meeting to be held at 6.45pm on Monday 15 April in the Village Hall, prior to the Parish Council meeting.
- vii. The Clerk reported she has not had time to contact Men in Sheds regarding the phone box.
- viii. To update on requested vehicle strip in Yarnold Lane

- a. County Cllr Webb will speak to Richard Clewer about the requested vehicle strips in Yarnold Lane and advised they cost £300. The Clerk suggested to County Cllr Webb that the Parish Council could fund this but has not heard further.
- b. WCC Highways response to the vehicle strips and what is available to the Parish Council to reduce speeds but not introduce 30mph is that as there is such a difference of opinion amongst residents over new signs and road markings WCC Highways are not sure what the parish expects Highways to do. They will be putting down slow markings in Warbage Lane either side of The Chapel. The Clerk was instructed to ask what measures can be looked at which will legally be possible and to ask about the effectiveness of white gates and their cost.

8. Catshill Library

The Parish Council feels it difficult to apportion money to the upkeep of Catshill Library as only one person in Dodford uses the Library and they feel there are more relevant priorities relevant to the Parish. However, the Clerk was asked to put a piece in the Parish Magazine and on Facebook and if there are enough representations from residents to support Catshill Library then the Parish Council will do so.

9. SmartWater Kits Update

43 Kits were taken on 16 February and 43 on 2 March. Cllrs Griffin, Rea, Shapiro and Jennings to assist on 30 March.

10. Annual Parish Meeting – 13 May 2019

Speakers so far are Scott Fuller, Footpath and Tree Warden for the Parish, Barney Kelsoe from the Police, Karen May as outgoing District Councillor and County Cllr Webb. The incoming District Councillor will be invited after the Election on 2 May. The Clerk to ask Dodford Village Hall Committee if they would like to send a representative. Cllrs Griffin and Jennings agreed to bake cakes.

11. Lengthsman Scheme

After a great deal of discussion, led by a concerned resident on the cost of the Lengthsman, it was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Griffin and agreed by all to continue with the present arrangements and that the position be put out to tender for 2020/2021. The Clerk confirmed that she has not received a request for an increase in hourly rate from the current Lengthsman. The Clerk was asked to ascertain, if possible, from WCC, if there is anyone else other than the Clerk who reports drainage issues.

12. Safety Campaign

The Clerk to find out from RoSPA if they still provide fluorescent sashes / arm bands and the Parish Council to put out feelers for residents to sponsor if they do not.

13. Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Parish Council have noted their plan but do not have any consultation comments to make.

14. Phil Richardson Community Award 2019

The Clerk confirmed she has received one nomination.

15. Finance

- i. The March Financial Report:
 - Deposit account as at 28 February 2019 - £12,960.70
 - Current account as at 28 February 2019 - £200.01
 - Payments by bank transfer for March – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Shapiro:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £355.45

- b. Clerk's expenses - £398.27 (Use of telephone and internet £5; storage £5; travel 12 miles @ 45p/mile £5.40; postage for Annual Report and Christmas Newsletter mailings £377.00; and milk, cake and biscuits, etc for SmartWater roll out £5.87)
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £88.80

15. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted.

16. Councillor Co-option

No applications have been received.

17. Councillors items

- a. Cllr Griffin expressed concern on the state of the footpath in Priory Road; hedge cuttings on Priory Road and a hedge in Priory Road which needs cutting but the situation is sensitive and needs further discussion.
- b. Cllr Shapiro requested Dodford Day funding to be put on the next agenda.
- c. The churned-up condition of the grass area in Alfreds Well by the new bench and the entrance to the footpath.

The meeting was closed at 9.51pm

Signed.....Chairman