

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 26 November 2019 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: District Cllr Drew Beaumont, Clerk Kay Stone and 15 members of the public

1. Apologies

County Cllr Shirley Webb and Parish Cllr Lynne Griffin gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. None

3. Dispensations

No dispensation requests received.

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda, but no matters were raised. The meeting reconvened as follows:

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 October 2019

Approval of the Minutes held on 28 October was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Lydon, agreed by all and then signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

5. Reports

- i. The November/December report has been received from County Cllr Webb and has been distributed.
- ii. District Cllr Beaumont reported on
 - a. the planning application for 550 homes on Whitford Vale which has been put on hold for further clarification from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways
 - b. the reason for the delay on planning application 19/01023 for the erection of a stable building, including improvement of access, construction of driveway and laying of hardstanding.
At this point in the meeting the Chairman opened the meeting to allow residents to question Cllr Beaumont.
After a lengthy discussion the meeting was reconvened and the Clerk was instructed to write to Cllr Karen May to advise her of the meeting and also to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Planning Officer (Emily Farmer) to request the amended plans be sent to the Parish Council when received, and to advise that a Parish Councillor would like to make a three minute presentation at the BDC planning committee meeting.
- iii. No-one was able to attend the CALC AGM held on 20 November.
- iv. No recent activity on the Dodford Residents Facebook page of concern to the Parish Council.
- v. The Clerk reported that
 - a. she has purchased a new laptop on 2 November for £449.00 and that the old laptop was bought on 5 December 2009 for £429.99. The Clerk was instructed to pay to have the old laptop wiped securely and then to dispose of the laptop;
 - b. she had, last month, went round Dodford and Grafton with Tim Williams from West Mercia Police putting up SmartWater signs. He is willing to do another SmartWater rollout with the Parish Council. Mick Simpson, who assisted the Parish Council in the first instance is

now on the Rural Crime team and both Mick and Tim visit Parish Councils to talk about rural crime and how SmartWater helps;

- c. she confirmed the old Parish Plan is not on the Parish Council web site;
- d. she has written to PCC, Dodford Village Hall Committee and Dodford Children's Holiday Farm asking if they would like to request a grant and to send their request in by 20 January with their accounts and information on what they would spend the grant on – ready for discussion at the January meeting, and
- e. she has claimed a VAT refund from HMRC of £221.62.

6. Highways and footpaths

- i. The Clerk confirmed the Definitive Map is now on the Parish Council web site.
- ii. Cllr Jennings came up with an idea of free newspapers being put in the phone box and residents can collect them. The Clerk was asked to contact the Advertiser and the Standard to see if this is possible and if not, contact Martin the Newsagent in Bromsgrove High Street.
- iii. WCC Highways has informed the Parish Council through Cllr Webb that “the road layout on the Kidderminster Road does not meet the criteria for an additional double white line installation. They are recommending that if they are to pursue measures, Cllr Webb should approach maintenance on the feasibility of installing red screed within the hatching on the approach to the junction. Remarking of the existing lining in the area would also serve to highlight the junction.” The Clerk to thank WCC Highways and say they agree with their suggestions. The Clerk had asked Cllr Webb for a date when the speed reduction consultation around the School is to take place and WCC have said that both traffic items are on a list, but they cannot give start dates at the moment.
- iv. The Clerk has asked the Footpath Officer to arrange for the footpath sign to be moved from the back of the Village Hall to the hedge at the start of the car park and he has offered to do this himself. Cllr Lydon reported that the footpath from the Children's Holiday Farm which comes out at the Cactus Farm in Yarnold Lane has stiles that might need attention and a lot of the signage is missing. The Clerk to report this to the Footpath Officer.

7. CALC Model Complaints Procedure

It was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Shapiro and agreed by all that the CALC Model Complaints Procedure (slightly adapted for Dodford with Grafton Parish Council) be adopted.

8. Phil Richardson Community Award

The Parish Council accepted the changes to the wording of the nomination form for 2020.

9. Christmas Newsletter 2019

The Parish Council accepted the wording of the Christmas newsletter.

10. Junior Parish Council

Cllr Jennings produced a document on Worcestershire Youth Cabinet Information, which is a group of elected young people aged 11 to 18 who aim to provide all of the young people who live in Worcestershire with a voice, and so it was felt that there is not a need for a Dodford with Grafton Junior Parish Council. Contact details are youthvoiceteam@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 846498.

11. Finance

- i. Cllr Lydon proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all agreed the approval of the 2020/2021 budget and that the precept request should remain the same as 2019/2020. Now that the Public Works Loan Board loan has been repaid, the Parish Council to discuss how to spend the saved repayments.
- ii. The November Financial Report:
Deposit account as at 31 October 2019 - £19,443.74
Current account as at 31 October 2019 - £626.95
Payments by bank transfer for November – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Sanderson:

- a. Clerk's salary - £364.86
- b. Clerk's expenses - £514.65 (Travel 28 miles at 0.45p per mile £12.60; storage £5; use of telephone and internet £5; stationery – black printer ink £28.06, and purchase of a new laptop and mouse £463.99
- c. HM Revenue and Customs - £91.00
- d. Lengthsman – duties for November plus petrol - £215.00
- e. Dodford Village Hall – hire of hall on 23 September and 28 October - £28.00

12. Casual Vacancy

The resident who had applied has since taken on a voluntary role with a charity and has been told that it would conflict with being a Parish Councillor and so the application has been withdrawn. No other applications received.

13. Correspondence received – for information

- i. The Clerk was asked to find out from the Planning Officer what her monitoring request involved.
- ii. The Clerk to return to the resident regarding a petition in change.org organised by Whitford Vale Voice to say that it had been brought to the Parish Council's attention and that they will suggest individual comments should be made by residents to change.org.
- iii. The Clerk to ask the organisers of the Dodford Show to put in a formal request for a grant by 20 January to be discussed at the January meeting.
- iv. what3words information to be put on the January agenda.

14. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Shapiro reported that his and his neighbour's green bins have not been emptied for the last three collections. This was brought to Cllr Beaumont's attention.
- ii. Cllr Lydon reported that the new Dodford Inn website mentions that it is a hub for walks in the area.

15. Planning

- i. Planning application consultations received:
 - a. 19/01292 – The Tower, Bromsgrove Road – Alterations and the creation of a new link to incorporate the existing garage structure to form an extension at ground floor level including changes to the existing building materials and fenestration. The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application as long as the Conservation Officer, Environment and Highways are happy with it.
 - b. 19/01498 – The Latch, Brimstone Lane – Proposed single storey extension (amendment to refusal 1900543). The Parish Council has no objection to the general principle of the extension but feels that the flat roof and exterior is not in keeping with the original property.
- ii. Approval for single storey side extension at The Priests House in Grafton Lane.
- iii. No planning appeals or decisions have been received
- iv. No enforcement or environmental issues to be discussed.
- v. It was proposed by Cllr Lydon, seconded by Cllr Sanderson and approved by all that the draft official complaint letter be circulated to all Parish Councillors subject to approval. Once approved, the Clerk to send to Ruth Bamford, Cllr Karen May, Cllr Beaumont and a copy sent to Cllr Webb for information.
- vi. There were no other planning issues.

The meeting was closed at 9.37pm.

Signed.....Chairman