

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 26 February 2024 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Scott Fuller, Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chair), Rory Lydon (Vice Chairman), Jonathan Shapiro and Jenni Schuett

In attendance: County Cllr Shirley Webb, District Cllr Kit Taylor, Clerk Kay Stone, and 8 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Scottie Sanderson

2. Declarations and Register of interest

- i. Cllr Lydon declared an interest in 6ivc.
- ii. None.

3. Dispensations

No dispensation requests received.

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public attending the meeting to raise matters of interest.

A resident brought to the attention of the Parish Council that when applying for additional solar panels he was told by National Grid that they are not able to accept additional solar panels as the infrastructure in Dodford is at its maximum. The Chair asked the Clerk to add this to next month's agenda for further discussion. The resident was asked to send correspondence to the Clerk between himself and Sajid Javid MP.

There were no other items raised and the meeting continued as follows:

4. Meetings

- i. Cllr Fuller proposed, Cllr Jennings seconded, and all approved the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 22 January 2024. The minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true record.
- ii. Suggested speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May are a National Grid spokesperson, West Mercia Police, Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways and Sajid Javid MP.

5. Reports

- i. County Cllr Webb reported that she had recently visited Dodford with WCC Highways and Traffic Management:
 - a. The one-way system suggested for Cockshutt Hill, Snakes Lake Lane and Bromsgrove Road will not work as it would encourage speeding and would need signs and lighting.
 - b. It is not possible to remove the island at the top of Alfreds Well because of the shape of the road. It has been proposed that WCC will shave a bit off the island opposite the houses, install verge masters and paint edge of carriageway white lines. It was also suggested that a solar light on a pole be erected on the island to brighten up the island. Initially Cllr Webb will let the Parish Council have the name of the company who has supplied the same in Catshill with costings. Cllr Jennings asked if the residents should be consulted as they are not used to having lighting. WCC also requested the Parish Council ask the Lengthsman to tidy up the island.
 - c. Damage to the footpath outside Whynot Cottage needs repairing.
 - d. The damage to the bridge on Church Road has been reported for repairing.

- e. Cllr Webb has an appointment with North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWW) to look at the Alfreds Well area as there have been reports of the brook being blocked. It is now free flowing, but NWWW still need to investigate.
- f. The issue of the brook being blocked behind property in Yarnold Lane is still being investigated.
- ii. District Cllr Taylor reported as follows:
 - a. The road sweeper has cleared footpaths on Priory Road of leaves but the sweeper was unable to get close enough with damage to the vehicle because of the hedges. Cllr Shapiro asked if the roads could also be swept.
 - b. He will speak to BDC about possibilities of permeable material at the reclamation site to avoid mud on Yarnold Lane.
 - c. He asked the Parish Council if they were aware of enforcement training by BDC on the same evening as the Parish Council meeting and the Clerk confirmed that she had not received any communication about this.
- iii. No social media report.
- iv. No Clerk's report.

6. Planning

- i. No planning decisions received.
- ii. An Appeal and Enforcement notice has been received for Caravan 1, Paddock 1, Bywater Farm in Berry Lane. The Appeal is being heard at Wychavon District Council offices on 9 April at 10am.
- iii. No enforcement updates received.
- iv. Items a, b, c, d, and e could not be discussed as they are enforcement issues.
- v. Further planning issues for information:
 - a. Proposed solar farm at Foxwalks Farm. The three-month consultation period officially ends at the end of March. Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) will inform the Parish Council when National Highways have responded to a request for further information.
 - b. A parish council planning committee meeting to be held on Monday 4 March to discuss the planning application consultation for the proposed conservatory at Croeso, Priory Road.
 - c. The Parish Council has received the BDC Planning Enforcement Policy document which the Clerk has circulated to Councillors.
 - d. BDC Conservation Officer has asked if Dodford is interested in nominating any buildings or structures for the Local Heritage List and the Parish Council could not think of any additional ones.

7. Memorial Garden

- i. For a stainless-steel lectern twin leg in black £1,249.50 + VAT to include delivery charge. For the same lectern in Oak £1,186.50 + VAT. The costs do not include installation and the Clerk to ascertain if this something the Lengthsman can help out with. The Clerk was asked to produce a leaflet showing both designs and costs for the Annual Parish Meeting for the residents to show their choice. The Clerk was also asked to ask for valid information board ideas via the usual channels.
- ii. The request for money not being used on the Memorial Garden to be put towards the maintenance of the Church and Village Hall to be deferred until decisions are made as to which type of information board is to be purchased.

8. Highways and footpaths

Items 8i, ii, iii, iv, v, and vi are all covered by reports from Cllr Webb and Cllr Taylor.

- vii. Cllr Taylor looking into who is the right person in BDC to contact about a bin in the Church grounds.
- viii. No applications received for Footpath Warden
- ix. Cllr Schuett raised an issue with the footpath leading from Priory Road at the side of the Village Hall to Whinfield Road. There is water running from a property alongside the footpath before reaching the field. Cllr Webb is meeting with a member of the Countryside Team on Thursday

and asked the Clerk to send her an email. Cllr Taylor highlighted a footpath at the side of his property which has collapsed.

9. Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2023-28 Publication

The publication of this document was noted.

10. Hereford and Worcester Fire Rescue Service

It was agreed that Cllr Jennings responds on behalf of the Parish Council.

11. First Aid Courses

The Clerk provided costs for three course providers and the Parish Council agreed to ask St Johns Ambulance as there was no charge. The Clerk to find out hall availability in April and let St Johns Ambulance know. The Clerk is aware of 6 residents who are interested, one resident wishing to include her two children. Cllr Jennings advised that the Village Hall Committee and the drama group are also interested.

12. Dodford Village Hall

- i. No updates.
- ii. No new issues.

13. Finance

- i. The February Financial Report:
 - Deposit account as at 31 January - £20,211.23
 - Current account as at 31 January - £176.74
 - Payments to be made by bank transfer on 27 February – Proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Shapiro:
 - a. Clerk’s salary - £597.17
 - b. Clerk’s expenses - £40.40 (Travel 12 miles @ 45p per mile £5.40; Storage £5.00; Use of telephone and internet line £20.00 and Heating £10.00)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £149.20
 - d. Lengthsman’s duties for January plus VAT and mileage - £153.00
 - e. Dodford Village Hall – hire of large hall for January meeting - £35.00

14. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted with the Clerk being asked to enquire from WCC if the Community Orchard and Mini Forest Funding could be used to plant 100 trees but at individual properties especially those properties with footpaths.

15. Councillors items

No Councillor items.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.25pm.

Signed.....Chair