

Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Monday, 19th January 2015 in the Pavilion, Benwick Road, Doddington at 7.30p.m.

Present:- Cllrs C Curtis, A Clapham, P Jolley, R. Hufton, R. Mason, J. Welcher and B. Whittaker. The clerk, Mr R. Wilkin, was also present.

Apologies:- Cllr S Cross, Cllr D. Connor (District & County Councillor) and PcsO S Mitchell.

Minutes:- The minutes of 15th December 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

Matters Arising:-

No matters arose that needed recording.

Police Matters:-

- a. In the absence of PcsO Sally Mitchell her report was read out to the meeting.
- b. The Clerk reported that as of February 2015, the local team servicing Doddington, Wimblington and Benwick will operate from Whittlesey Police station under the direction of Sergeant Paul Harris.
- c. The Clerk advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner was recommending a freeze to the police element of the council tax for 2015/16.

Highway Maintenance:-

- a. Cllr Connor is still to arrange a visit to Exmoor Lane to investigate a possible highway / planning issue that had been raised by a resident.
- b. The grass area opposite the clock tower had been damaged by deep tyre marks. Members suggested that the area may be better protected by the erection of low posts and “Keep of the Grass” signs.
- c. It was suggested that a request be made to the “Naughty Boys Co-ordinator” to clear up the quantities of rubbish deposited in Hospital Road, Ingles Lane and Eastmoor Lane.
- d. A quantity of scrap metal had been deposited near the new cemetery in Benwick Road.
- e. The “Caution, Childrens Play Area” street signs warning drivers approaching the Benwick Road play area had not been transferred to the new columns.

Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Matters:-

- a. The Clerk reported receipt of a meeting of the first working group on Cambridgeshire Future Transport project due to take place in March on 24th February 2015. Cllrs Hufton, Jolley and Whittaker were attending.
- b. The Clerk reported that CCC were making provision to award small grants to a maximum of £500 to local communities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. Members supported a suggestion that a village walk take place around the village culminating in a Village Tea. It was agreed to liaise with the British Legion to ensure that there was no conflict with any event that they were proposing.
- c. FDC in conjunction with the Fenland Citizen were seeking nominations for their “Pride of Fenland” award. It was proposed by Cllr Jolley, seconded by Cllr A Clapham and unanimously agreed that Mrs Evelyn Hamps be nominated for her help within the village on various charitable activities.

d. The Clerk advised that FDC were proposing ceasing sending out updates to the Register of Electors where these had been requested by individual Parish Councillors. In future these would be sent to the Clerk for direct distribution.

Parish Street Lighting:-

FDC, in a move to move this matter forward, had now proposed to replace at no cost to the Parish Council the 6 category 1 columns in the village. As this proposal had been circulated and agreed by members, the Clerk reported that the Parish Council's without prejudice agreement had been submitted to FDC.

Doddington Village Action Group

Cllr Hufton reported that printing and distribution of the village questionnaire was now in hand.

Planning:-

a. Applications

i) F/YR14/0748/O Erection of 4 dwellings at land north of Cathedral View, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington. The Clerk advised that this application had been withdrawn.

ii) F/YR14/0989/F Erection of a 2 storey 3 bed dwelling, 1.8m high wall/piers to entrance and the formation of a new access involving the demolition of existing outbuildings and wall within a conservation area. Land south west 12 Benwick Road, Doddington . The Council raised an objection against this application on the grounds that there is limited vehicle splays being proposed onto Benwick Road. In addition, the excessive parking along Benwick Road in the vicinity of this location will lead to dangerous access into and out of the proposed development.

iii) F/YR14/0997/F Erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling involving demolition of existing dwelling and rebuilding of barns to form car ports and storage. Post Mill Farm, Benwick Road, Doddington. The Council raised no objection to this proposal on the grounds that the application replaces an existing dwelling on the site.

iv) F/YR14/1014/O Erection of 4 dwellings (max) involving demolition of existing stables. Land south of 32D-32H Newgate Street, Doddington. The Council raised an objection to this application on the grounds that it is back filling development; there is limited access into the site such that two vehicles travelling in opposite direction to each other would be unable to pass. The erection of a further 4 units in this area is likely to bring addition drainage problems.

b. Street Naming

i) The Council had received a request from the daughters of the late Mr & Mrs Morley for a street to be named in the village after them. The Council was sympathetic to the request but advised that it was not Council policy to support application to name roads after family names.

ii) FDC were asking the Parish Council for their observations on road names being proposed for the proposed development on land south of 32 Wimblington Road. Of the four names suggested, the Council had concerns over two of them:

The Ponds could create confusion with Pond Close in Wimblington, Woodside Close would create confusion with Woodside, Wood Street in Doddington.

The Council suggested two alternative names, Crossweir Close and Burystead Close.

c. Developer Contributions

FDC, as part of its “Fenland Infrastructure Delivery Plan” has advised that it is not introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy for the next three years but will rely on developers contributions to improve local infrastructure needs in the area. This will apply where developments of more than 4 units are being proposed. Parish Councils are being asked to identify possible facilities that could be provided or improved within the village by developers contributions.

Members considered a briefing note prepared by the Clerk of possible areas and agreed that the following facilities should be included in the FDC “Infrastructure Delivery Plan”:

1. Replace village street lights at £1,200 per column
2. Provide a new heating system in the Parish Church
3. Provide a multi use sports surface at Benwick Recreation Ground
4. Possible repairs/upgrades to the Village Hall
5. Possible repairs/upgrades to the sports pavilions at Benwick Recreation Ground and Abbey Recreation Ground
6. Provide new kitchen facilities in the Parish Church Hall
7. Possible repairs/upgrades to the Methodist Church Hall
8. Rebuilding of the Scout Hall, Benwick Road

The above listing was proposed by Cllr Welcher and seconded by Cllr Mason.

10. Financial Matters:-

a. Annual Precept

The Council considered a briefing note prepared by the Clerk and resolved to raise a precept for the financial year 2015/2016 of £27,500 made up of two elements; precept £26,965 plus a Council Tax Support Grant of £535. The £27,500 represents a no change situation in the Parish Council levy on the village.

The precept calculation was proposed by Cllr Welcher and seconded by Cllr Clapham.

b. Receipts and Payments.

The following receipts and payments were presented and accepted as follows:-

Receipts:-	£	Payments:-	£
Rent Benwick Ath FC	135.00	Clerk’s Salary	424.32
FDC – Concurrent Grant	2,670.00	Petty cash reimbursement to Clerk	124.34
		HMRC – Income tax on clerks salary	106.08
	<u>£2,805.00</u>		<u>£654.74</u>

11. Correspondence:-

a. The Clerk advised that an application to sign a petition has been received from Cambridgeshire ACRE seeking support against a decision of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to withdraw funding for the ACRE Network of rural community councils. The petition details had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

b. The Fenland District Scout Association had issued an invitation to attend the Annual St. Georges Day Celebration Service on 19th April 2015. No representative was available to attend.

12. Any Other Business:-

- a. A suggestion was raised that the Council considers purchasing 30mph signs that residents can fix to their refuse bins as a reminder to drivers to reduce their speed along the main through roads of the village. The Clerk was asked to investigate costs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.