

Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Monday 14th December 2015 in the Pavilion, Benwick Road, Doddington at 7.30p.m.

Present:- Cllr R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs I Gowler, P Jolley, R. Mason, V McDougall, J Shepherd, J Welcher. Cllr D. Connor (District & County Councillor) and the clerk, Mr R. Wilkin were also present.

1. Apologies:- Cllrs.S Cross, B. Whittaker and Cllr M Davis (District Councillor for Wimblington)

2. Minutes:-

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 16th November 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

3. Matters Arising:-

- a. The Clerk formally advised the Council that future meetings of the Parish Council would be held in the Church Rooms, New Street. The first meeting would take place on Wednesday 13th January 2016 commencing at 7.00pm
- b. Parish Council Annual Dinner. The Clerk advised the meeting that he had provisionally booked dinner at The Three Tuns on Thursday 11th February 2016. As a number of members were unable to make that date it was suggested that the dinner be booked for the 18th February.

4. Police Matters:-

PC Rem Kajzer was not present but his report was read out to the meeting which was noted. Members discussed a break in of the Football & Cricket Club container and the outside storage areas at The Pavilion, Benwick Road, a break in on a caravan in Hospital Road and hare coursing in some length. Cllr McDougall advised members that there had been instances of bad car parking in Childs Lane and had pointed this out to the local PCSO at the time. It was agreed to ask the Police that when they were present at the school entrance that they check the nearby roads for car parking issues as well as patrolling the area immediately outside the school.

5. Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Matters:-

- a. Cllr Connor provided an update on various matters to the meeting:
 - i. Partially built units Newgate Street: Section 215 notice had been served and Mr McGarvie had until 28th December 2015 to reply.
 - ii. FDC members were currently commenting on various spending review options. The meeting was also informed that there had been a 14% feed back from residents which was a higher percentage than expected.
- b. Members were advised by Cllr Connor that following consideration of various Local Highway Improvement Schemes by local communities, Doddingtons proposal, that was presented by the Chair and the Clerk to CCC members, was favourably received and we may receive funding to provide speed calming measures on two of the three roads servicing the village. A formal decision is unlikely to be made until March 2016.
- c. Cllr Connor raised the CCC spending review in which the question of local communities taking on the financial cost of the school crossing patrols. Members considered that in the case of Doddington it was of the utmost importance that this facility remained in place to ensure the safety of children and families when crossing the High Street near the local primary school. The chair advised the meeting that she had written to the headmistress of the school suggesting that a meeting be arranged early in January 2016 between the headmistress, the school governors, PTA, Parish Council and Cllr Connor to

consider the matter. The Clerk advised that CCC were offering two options to local communities:

- i. The existing arrangement remains within the control of CCC but the local communities reimburse CCC for the annual cost of running the service estimated at £4,250 per annum,
- ii. The CCC maintains administrative control at a cost to the local community of £800 per annum but in addition the local community pays staff to man the crossing or provides volunteers to undertake the work.

The Council felt that option one was the safest and easiest method of maintaining the service with the proviso that the Parish Council enters into a contract with CCC that ensures an adequate service is maintained and future costings are controlled. Members agreed that suitable financial provision be provided in any precept consideration even though there may be contributions from the school and/or other interested parties to help offset the cost.

6. Highway Maintenance:-

- a. It was reported that two road closures were due to take place in the village in February:
 - i. Closure of part of Benwick Road from 9th February 2016 to 12th February 2016. This date had been brought forward by one day in the light of representations made by the Parish Council in the interests of local businesses operating on the Saturday.
 - ii. Closure of part of Wood Street from 9th February 2016 to 11th February 2016.It was agreed to publicise these closures in the “Doings” and on the Council website.
- b. It was reported that the guttering on the roof of one of the bus shelters was overgrown with weeds and needed clearing out. Cllr Mason undertook to attend to this.

7. Street Lighting:-

- i. The meeting was advised that FDC had reaffirmed their position over the Parish street lights and had not improved on their offer. In Doddington’s case they were prepared to pay for the replacement of all the cat 1 lights and make a financial contribution of £7,102 towards the cat 2 lights. The Chair advised that the Skansa report was likely to be issued before Christmas.
- ii. The Clerk reminded the members that they had increased the precept by £7,500 per year for the last two years in order to provide a fund for street light upgrades. This sum had not been expended and was therefore available from reserves. The Parish Council owns 78 street lights; 10 have a cat 1 classification, 47 have a cat 2 classification and there are 21 with a cat 3 classification. The last survey was undertaken by Balfour Beatty in April 2015.
- iii. As a prelude to any precept considerations for 2016/2017 the Clerk had prepared two suggested replacement programmes: a rolling programme with a fixed precept contribution of £7,500 per year would take 8 years to fully replace all the cat 2 & cat 3 lights, a rolling programme with a fixed precept contribution of £18,000 per year for 3 years plus a £4,000 precept contribution in year 4 to fully replace all the cat 2 & cat 3 lights. He advised that these calculations had been done on the basis of looking at a “worse case” scenario. Some lights may be suitable for removing, a number of cat 3 lights will have been replaced in the last 5 years and will not require replacing at the present time, others may be bracket lights and could be replaced at a cheaper rate than the £1,200 current estimate. A detailed location review will be required in due course.
- iv. Cllr Gowler suggested that an interim value £10,000 should be considered. The Clerk advised that at the January 2016 meeting, the Council will need to fix its total precept requirements for 2016/2017 and would arrange for more detailed options to be available at that time.

8. Planning:-

a. Existing Planning Applications:

i. F/YR15/1009/TRCA Works to 1 poplar tree at 3 Church Lane Doddington

Application has been withdrawn

ii. F/YR15/0489/F Erection of an anaerobic digester plant, land east of Fengrain Hook Lane Wimblington

FDC have refused planning permission for this development.

b. New Planning Applications:

i. F/YR15/1026/F Variation of condition 13 on planning permission

F/YR14/0311/F (Erection of a 2 storey 24 bed care home) relating to minor design changes. Askham House 13 Benwick Road Doddington

No objection raised

ii. F/YR15/1027/F Variation of condition 14 on planning permission

F/YR14/0312/F (Erection of a 2 storey 20 bed care home) relating to minor design changes and installation of solar array on part of the roof. Askham House 13 Benwick Road Doddington

No objection raised

iii. F/YR15/1028/F Erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with detached double garage. Plot 6 site of 65 Newgate Street Doddington

No objection raised

iv. F/YR15/1047/F Erection of a 2 storey rear extension to existing dwelling. New World Farm Dykemoor Drove Doddington

Cllr I Gowler declared an interest. No objection raised

c. Other Planning Issues

i. Land at Wood Street. A question had been raised by a resident on whether the land was being prepared for development although no planning application appeared to have been submitted. The land in question was believed to be owned by Mrs Morton. Cllr Connor was asked to investigate the matter.

ii. 6 Fen View Doddington. It appears that the double garage at this property has been converted into living quarters and renamed The Annex, 6A Fen View. The property was owned by Mr McGarvie. Cllr Connor was asked to investigate the matter.

iii. The Chair advised the meeting that Lou Mason-Walsh, Principal Transport Officer at CCC was happy to address Parish Councils on Transport matters as they applied to planning applications. Members agreed to issue an invitation for her to address the Parish Council in the spring.

iv. Middle Level Commissioners have recently undertaken a review of their consultation process in order to try and encourage an early engagement with developers and agents. The Council noted the report.

9. Doddington Village Action Plan:

The Chair advised the meeting that the collation exercise had now been completed and the Action Group would be considering the results shortly.

10. Abbey Recreation Ground :

The meeting was advised that the boundary hedges were currently being cut. The Chair informed members that she had received a thank you from an adjoining owner on the work already carried out.

11. Website:

The Chair congratulated Cllr McDougall on the work undertaken and hoped that the website would be able to go “live” in the new year.

12. Financial Matters:

a. Annual Precept.

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget for 2016/2017 which was based on holding the precept at £27,500. However this was based on members making no additional provision towards the cost of replacing the street lights. He did advise members he had built into the calculations a number of general provisions that allowed for some additional flexibility of the amount of reserves being projected. The Chair suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan budget should be increased from £1,000 to £2,000 and members had earlier considered making provision to cover the school crossing service. No further alterations were suggested by members. The Clerk proposed that he updates the report taking into account the changes plus the various options for financing the street lighting as discussed earlier and circulate a fresh paper in readiness for the January meeting. Members thanked the Clerk for his work and agreed with his proposal.

b. Receipts and Payments.

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

Receipts:-	£	Payments:-	£
Rent Benwick Ath FC	140.00	E Mason & Son – Cemetery maint	60.00
		Clerk’s Salary	424.32
		Petty cash reimbursement to Clerk	87.62
		HMRC – Income tax on clerks salary	106.08
	<u>£140.00</u>		<u>£677.94</u>

c. New printer for the Clerk.

Members agreed that the Clerk could purchase a replacement printer as the old one was faulty.

13. Neighbourhood Plan:-

The Chair advised the Council that a second meeting of the working party took place on 1st December 2015 during which, on the advice of FDC, the working party had increased the size of the footprint that would be under consideration. Members also agreed to seek the assistance of Cambridgeshire ACRE in the preparation of the plan which could cost up to £10,000 although £8,000 of grant funding was available.

14. Correspondence:

a. An application for grant assistance had been received from Cambridgeshire Hearing Help but the meeting regretted that it did not have funds available.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.