

Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th February 2016 in the Church Rooms, New Street, Doddington at 7.00p.m.

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

1. Open Forum:-

The Parish Council had advertised the facility of a 15 minute Open Forum at the start of each Parish Council meeting to enable parishioners to raise matters of interest or concern. NO matters were raised.

2. Apologies:- Cllr D. Connor (District & County Councillor)

3. Sally Cross:-

Members held a minutes silence in memory of Cllr Sally Cross who had died recently.

4. Minutes:-

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 13th January 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

5. Matters Arising:-

- a. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the final date for nominations for the Pride in Fenland Awards was 15th February 2016.
- b. Pot holes in Hospital Road had been completed, pot holes in Bevills Close/Church Lane were due for completion next week but repairs to Eastmoor Lane and Turf Fen are not being undertaken as the road surface does not meet the pothole depth criteria.
- c. FDC have agreed to chase Mr Markham on the matter of his trees overhanging the footways.
- d. The Clerk reported that Mr Baker had verbally provided a number of options for supplying post and chain fencing around the grass area opposite the Bier House. Members agreed that oak posts and chains should be used but only on the road side in order to keep the appearance in line with the post and chain fencing near the Clock Tower. Members noted that to provide six posts and chains would cost £600. The Clerk would agree the length to be covered with Mr Baker.

6. Police Matters:-

- a. Apologies had been received from PCSO Carol Holloway for her non attendance. Police cover for Doddington had now reverted back to March. Her report was read out to the meeting which was noted.
- b. The Police had confirmed that they are investigating the activities reported in Ancaster Way.
- c. It was reported that plans were now in place to restart a Neighbourhood Watch arrangement in the village which was being supported by the Police.
- d. It was reported that a green coloured car appeared to have been abandoned in Hospital Road. It was agreed to report this to the police.

7. Highway Issues:-

- a. The 30mph road sign had been knocked down near the Kingsland development.
- b. There appears to be a dip in the road opposite the school so that when it rains, water remains in the road gutter and flows onto the footway.
- c. There is a road sign opposite the school that is sited on a post about 1 metre high and children have been known to knock themselves on it. Can the sign be fixed to a 2 metre post.
- d. The Clerk reported that essential refurbishment of Leonard Childs Bridge in Doddington Road, Chatteris was due to commence on 29th February for three weeks. Following these works the bridge surface together with the roadway at the junction of Forty Foot Road and Doddington Road would be resurfaced. Road closures would be set up for this period of time with diversions via the A141. On completion of these works it is planned to resurface Doddington Road North of Forty Foot Road to Doddington. These works are planned to start on 29th March to 1st April and will again entail a road closure.
- e. It was reported that a quantity of fly tipping had appeared in Hospital Road but this had been cleared by FDC today.
- f. It was reported that the street light near 26B High Street was not working.

8. Street Lighting:-

The Chair circulated members with the minutes of the meeting between representatives of the Fenland Parish Councils and Cllr King from FDC. Representatives from Skanska were also present. Members were advised that Cllr King undertook to investigate various matters that had been raised at the meeting and would respond in due course.

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

- a. Vacancy on the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that following the death of Cllr Cross he had discussed the arrangements required in order that the vacancy may be filled. FDC have advised that a "Notice of Vacancy" must be displayed within the village stating that should 10 local government electors give notice to the Returning Officer to fill the vacancy by election then a formal election must be held. If no notice is received by the Returning Officer then the Parish Council may fill the vacancy by co-option.
- b. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Local Government Boundary Commission had completed their review of CCC. A draft order will now be laid before Parliament for the new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the local elections in 2017. Doddington will now be part of the new Whittlesey South division that will have one County Councillor covering the district wards of Benwick, Coates & Eastrea, Lattersey and part of the St Andrews area. It also comprises Benwick and Doddington parishes and the rural part of March parish.
- c. Cllr Davis reported that FDC were reviewing the Concurrent Grant arrangements and may distribute the current grant on a population basis.
- d. It was reported that CCC were considering revising the value of grant that they pay towards the FACT bus arrangements thereby requiring the organisers to charge 50% of the fare to the passengers.

10. Planning:-

a. Planning Appeals:

Members noted that three separate appeals had been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of FDC to refuse planning permission. All the appeals are to be determined on the basis of written representation. The three appeals relate to the following planning applications:

- i. F/YR15/0460/F Erection of a 2 storey 3 bed dwelling on land north east of 7 Wimblington Road Doddington.
- ii. F/YR15/0725/O Erection of 4 dwellings involving demolition of existing garage, 9 Benwick Road Doddington.
- iii. F/YR15/0779/O Erection of 4 dwellings land north of Cathedral View Turf Fen Lane Doddington.

Members agreed that their initial comments on each of these applications should stand and no further comment need be made.

b. New Planning Applications:

i. F/YR16/0021/TRCA Fell a beech tree and fir tree within a Conservation Area, Weavers Cottage 4 Church lane, Doddington

No objection raised

ii. F/YR16/0042/F Siting of mobile home and erection of a side extension for ancillary equestrian use (retrospective)

Objection raised on the grounds that the document accompanying the application asks for “10 year temporary permission to avoid unnecessary uncertainty and costs for renewal” but they have already had it for 6 years without permission. The caravan is unsightly and can be seen from the road, which is contrary to their claim. They also claim that no comments have been made against the caravan but the PC made representations to FDC 6 years ago when it first appeared but no enforcement action was taken. The previous stable approval included a large hay store, yet the current application states “Hay Store”. We question why they need such large storage facilities. If, however, temporary permission was to be granted then this should be restricted to a maximum of 3 years to encourage a more permanent solution such as an extension to the existing stable block which would be a better “in keeping” solution and would discourage other temporary buildings appearing.

11. Doddington Village Action Plan:-

The Chair advised the meeting that the final proof was now with the printers and would be presented to the Parish Council before being made public. The Action Group will be asked to make a presentation to the Parish Council at the April meeting, with the public launch being made at the Annual Assembly.

12. Neighbourhood Plan:-

The Chair advised the Council on the outcome of the working party meeting with Mark Deas from ACRE on 3rd February 2016 and that an application had been made to FDC to designate the Parish as a Neighbourhood Area.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery:-

The meeting was advised that work on the detailed plans would start shortly but in the meantime members agreed to obtain a quotation for the grass to be sprayed to kill the large expanses of moss that were appearing.

14. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a. The Clerk advised the meeting that Benwick AFC had suggested that a meeting takes place with the Parish Council to discuss the areas of grass that they no longer use. It was agreed that the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Clerk seek a site meeting at the recreation ground to resolve this matter.

15. Website:-

The Chair advised the meeting that additional pages had been added to the website.

16. Financial Matters:

a. Receipts and Payments.

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

Receipts:-	£	Payments:-	£
Rent Benwick Ath FC	140.00	M R Baker – Works to Bier House	1,980.10
		E Mason & Son – Abbey Hedges	654.00
		Clerk's Salary	424.32
		Petty cash reimbursement to Clerk	117.62
		HMRC – Income tax on clerks salary	106.08
	<u>£140.00</u>		<u>£3,282.12</u>

b. Members agreed that the Council takes out “advanced” membership of CPALC which is currently being offered at a special price of £18.75 plus VAT.

17. Any Other Business:

a. Members were reminded that the Annual Assembly was due to take place on 5th May 2016.

b. Members were advised that the Ransonmoor Community Fund had agreed to make a grant of £5,000 to the Parish Council in line with the grants paid out to Benwick and Wimblington Parish Council's.

c. The Chair advised members that the Clerk was suggesting that an Asset Register be created in order that a full inventory can be made. This should enable monitoring of the condition of the Council's assets to take place. The meeting agreed with the suggestion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm.