

**Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Monday, 20th April 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 present.

1. Apologies:- Cllr S Cross, Cllr D. Connor (District & County Councillor) and a Police representative.

2. Minutes:- The minutes of 16th March 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

3. Matters Arising:-

a. The Clerk advised that an order for appropriate “Keep of the Grass” signs had been placed. Cllr Mason agreed to arrange the fixing of the signs along the kerbing area of the grass opposite the clock tower.

4. Police Matters:-

a. In the absence of a representative from the Whittlesey Safer Neighbourhood Team their report on incidents within the village during March 2015 was read out by the Clerk. Following representation, the police confirmed that they would give more information on incidents if they were able to do so.

It was suggested that the Police be invited to the Parish Meeting

5. Highway Maintenance:-

a. Members were advised that pot hole repairs would not normally be repaired unless they were deeper than 2 inches.

b. It was reported that Rod Marshall would now be retiring in June 2015.

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

In the absence of Cllr Connor, no report was given.

7. Doddington Village Action Group

Cllr Hufton reported that the questionnaire was now being printed. She also advised that the group had appointed David Ison as the new treasurer following the resignation of the current holder.

8. Planning:-

a. New Applications:

i) F/YR15/0221/F Display of an externally illuminated fascia sign, an internally illuminated double sided projection sign, 3 x window graphics and 4 x frosted door/window vinyl's at 41A High Street, Doddington. Members supported the application.

ii) F/YR15/0222/O Erection of 2 dwellings involving demolition of existing stables. Land south of 32D-34H Newgate Street, Doddington. The Council agreed not to support this application on the grounds that the land is classified as flood plain. In addition, the planned access is by way of a single lane not wide enough for vehicles travelling in opposite directions to safely pass each other. In discussing this application,

members noted that application F/YR14/1014 for the erection of 4 dwellings on this site had previously been refused by Fenland DC.

iii) F/YR15/0257/F Variation of condition 10 (imposition of a condition listing approved plans relating to planning permission F/YR12/0408F in relation to minor material amendments for the erection of 2 x 2 storey 5 bed dwellings and 6 x 2 storey 4 bed dwellings with detached garages involving demolition of existing dwelling. 65 Newgate Street, Doddington. Members supported the variation. Members were also advised that the proposed site access is located right at the change of speed limit from 40mph to 30mph and a proposal had been submitted to move the road signs west along Newgate Street so that the 30mph length is increased by 12.87 metres and the 40mph length is reduced by 12.87 metres. Members agreed that the speed limit change point should be moved but asked that the change is moved significantly further westward down Newgate Street so that there is a reduction in speed limit along a greater length of Newgate Street.

b. Existing Applications:

i) F/YR14/0150/F Erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with integral single garage involving demolition of existing garage and lean-to, land west of 34 Newgate Street , Doddington. Members were advised that this application had been withdrawn.

ii) F/YR14/0503/F Erection of 62 x dwellings with associated garages and parking, consisting of 2 x 3 storey 3 bed, 23 x 2 storey 2 bed, 11 x 2 storey 3 bed, 22 x 2 storey 4 bed, a block of 4 x 1 bed flats, provision of landscaped public open space and a change of use from agricultural land to school playing field. Members were advised that Fenland DC had sold a small area of land at Bevills Place for an undisclosed sum that would give access onto the site.

c. Other Planning Matters:

i) Adoption of Developer Contribution Statement. The Clerk advised members that Fenland DC had adopted the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) under the provisions of Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on 26th February 2015. The SPD came into force on 6th April 2015 and sets out the criteria for requiring developers to make financial contributions that will be used to improve and enhance services, facilities and infrastructure.

ii) F/YR15/0077/O Erection of 10 x dwellings, land east of Askham House, Benwick Road, Doddington. The clerk advised members that he had received a telephone call from Mrs Morton requesting copies of Parish Council minutes relating to its deliberations on this planning application. In addition, she requested contact details of Fenland DC's Monitoring Officer. He confirmed that the requested information had been sent to Mrs Morton.

iii) Unfinished units Benwick Road. The Clerk and Cllr Connor had attended a site meeting with a representative from Fenland DC Environmental Health Department following a number of sightings of rats on the land. They were advised that there was little direct action that could immediately be taken unless the owner of the land invited the pest control unit to attend. As that was unlikely to take place the Council was proposing issuing a notice under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to take steps requiring the land to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area.

9. Abbey Field:-

The Clerk advised the meeting that Fenland DC were undertaking a playing pitch strategy review and had commissioned 4Global, a technical sports consultancy firm, to provide an objective overview of all rugby, football, hockey and astroturf pitches in the area. Cllr Hufton had agreed to meet the representative at the recreation ground on the appointed date as the Clerk was not available but unfortunately the meeting did not take place and a revised date was awaited.

10. Community Event to celebrate the end of WW2:-

The Clerk advised the meeting that our application for a grant under the County Council “End of WW2 Commemorative Small Grant Fund” had been unsuccessful. Members decided to continue with the organisation of a community event of a village tea and in addition plant a tree to mark the occasion.

11. Uncontested Parish Council Election on 7th May 2015:-

The Clerk advised members that there would be no Parish Council election on 7th May 2015 as only seven nominations had been received for the nine seats. The new Parish Council, that takes up office on 11th May 2015, will need to decide on a process for the co-option of people to fill the two vacancies.

12. Annual Parish Assembly:-

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 28th May 2015 in the Church Rooms, Newgate Street. It was agreed to invite specific speakers to update the village on various topics.

13. Financial Matters:-

a. Draft Final Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015.

The Clerk circulated the draft final accounts for the last financial year. Cllrs Welcher and Clapham proposed and seconded the adoption of the accounts which were unanimously agreed by the Council and signed off by the Chairman and Clerk. The accounts would now be submitted for audit.

b. Receipts and Payments.

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

Receipts:-	£	Payments:-	£
Rent Benwick Ath FC	135.00	Fenland DC – Street light	1,557.74
Fenland DC – precept	13,750.00	Cromwell Fire – maintenance	69.00
		Clerk’s Salary	424.32
		Petty cash reimbursement to Clerk	157.20
		HMRC – Income tax on clerks salary	106.08
		Doddington Village Hall – hire	100.00
		B Elmore – skate park repairs	210.00
	<u>£13,835.00</u>		<u>£2,624.34</u>

14. Correspondence:-

a. The Doddington Village Sports & Carnival were requesting the Parish Council’s agreement on road closure plans on the 4th July 2015 for the holding of the Village Sports day and Carnival. The Council agreed with the road closure plans.

15. Any Other Business:-

- a. Cllr Clapham was not standing for re-election onto the Parish Council and the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to him for his work during the time that he has been associated with the Parish Council. This was unanimously supported.
- b. It was reported that the Parish Church had no funds for the grass cutting of its cemetery. It was agreed to discuss this matter at the next meeting.
- c. It was agreed to discuss the condition of the hedging of the Benwick Road cemetery at the next meeting.

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