

**Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Monday, 18th May 2015
in the Pavilion, Benwick Road, Doddington at 7.30p.m.**

Prior to the commencement of the Council's official business all Councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office. They also passed over their Declarations covering any Election Expenses and their completed Register of Members Interests.

Present:- Cllrs S Cross, I Gowler, P Jolley, R. Hufton, R. Mason, J. Welcher and B. Whittaker. The Chairman, Mrs C Curtis, was present solely for the purpose of appointing a new Chairman. The clerk, Mr R. Wilkin, was present.

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

2. Appointment of Chairman: Mrs Curtis called for nominations for the post of Chairman of the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Jolley and unanimously agreed that Cllr R Hufton be elected Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Hufton accepted the nomination, signed the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Chairmanship and took the Chair. Mrs Curtis left the meeting.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman and Committee Representatives: It was agreed to defer these appointments until after the co-option process to fill the remaining two vacancies on the Parish Council had been completed.

4. Co-Option Arrangements: The Clerk advised that 5 residents had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. Members agreed to interview the candidates on 2nd June and requested the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

5. Minutes:- Two alterations were made to the minutes of 20th April 2015:

Item 8c(iii) Change Benwick Road to read Newgate Street
Item 12 Change Newgate Street to read New Street.

The minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

6. Matters Arising:- Any matters arising were due to be dealt with on the agenda.

7. Police Matters:- No report was received. It was agreed that a complaint should be sent to the Safer Neighbourhood Team expressing our disappointment in the lack of their presence at Parish Council meetings.

8. Highway Maintenance:-

- a. It was reported that a pothole at the corner of Wood Street (near the lay bye) had appeared.
- b. It was reported that repair works had taken place in Hospital Road.
- c. It was reported that grass verges in Primrose Hill needed cutting.

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

- a. It was reported that FDC were proposing issuing a section 215 notice on the owners of the land in Newgate Street where the unfinished units were sited.
- b. The Clerk reported that CCC were making no change in the value of grant that they pay the Parish Council to maintain grass verges within the village. The sum involved was £1,217.99.
- c. The Clerk reported that CCC were due to commence a public consultation exercise on the plans for the Local Government Boundary Commission's review of County Council seats. It was agreed to consider this matter in more detail at the next meeting.

10. Doddington Village Action Group:- Cllr Hufton advised that the group were currently reviewing the potential costs of collating the results of the survey. Distribution of surveys forms was on hold pending the outcome of this review.

11. Planning:-

a. Existing Applications:

i) 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 there was still no news on when FDC may be considering this application but considered that it would be prudent to arrange a leaflet drop within the village and hold a second public meeting, in possibly the Village Hall, when information became available.

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 of 12 Benwick Road, Doddington. Members were advised that following FDC's refusal to grant planning approval, the applicants had appealed to the Secretary of State. The appeal will be heard by written representations.. It was agreed to reiterate our objections to the application.

b. New Applications:

i) F/YR15/0312/F Siting of a 2 bed mobile home to form annexe ancillary to the main dwelling involving demolition of outbuildings. Thackers Farm, Parsons Land Drove, Doddington. Members raised no objection to the application.

ii) F/YR15/0343/F Erection of a single storey side extension (incorporating a garage) and 2 storey rear extension to existing dwelling. 3 Church Lane Doddington. Members raised no objection to the application. Cllr Gowler declared his interest in the application and took no part in the discussion or decision.

12. Abbey Skate Park:-

Cllr Hufton advised the meeting that one of the picnic tables had been vandalised. The police had been advised and it was agreed that a comment should be placed in the "Doddington's Doings".

13. Benwick Road Cemetery:-

Members agreed that weeds in the gravel area at the entrance to the cemetery and the pruning of the hedgerows needed to be undertaken. It was agreed to ask Cllr Mason for an estimate of the works.

14. Parish Council Website:-

The Department of Communities and Local Government have issued guidance notes for all Local Councils to have a website. This is an extension of the requirements under the Localism Act 2012. Members agreed to reinstate and update the draft website that had been archived.

15. Parish Annual Assembly:-

The Clerk updated members on the arrangements for the Annual Assembly that was due to take place on May 28th 2015.

16. Financial Matters:-

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

The Clerk advised the meeting that the internal audit on the council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 had been concluded. He read the auditors report to the meeting in which he advised that there were no specific issues that he needed to draw to the member's attention. The accounts will now be sent to the Government's external auditors for final sign off.

b. Annual Insurance Cover.

The Clerk advised the meeting on the terms of the insurance cover being offered with effect from renewal on 1st June 2015. It was agreed to take the Long Term Agreement arrangement thereby reducing the annual premium by 5%. In addition it was agreed to review the property valuations especially the clock tower value that appeared to be low.

c. St Mary's Church.

Members discussed the condition of the churchyard and the difficult financial position that the Church is finding itself in. In the circumstances members agreed to increase the annual grant that it makes towards the upkeep of the churchyard from £600 to £1,000.

d. Receipts and Payments.

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

Receipts:-	£	Payments:-	£
Rent Benwick Ath FC	135.00	J O Cutteridge – grass cutting	744.00
		Aon UK Ltd – Insurance premium	3,113.76
		I Cooper – Internal Audit	120.00
		Clerk's Salary	424.32
		Petty cash reimbursement to Clerk	89.00
		HMRC – Income tax on clerks salary	106.08
		St Mary's Church – grant	1,000.00
	<u>£135.00</u>		<u>£5,597.16</u>

17. Any Other Business:-

a. It was agreed that a suitable letter should be sent to the owners of the George Pub expressing concern over the condition of their wall that adjoins the Church Rooms

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.