

## **Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the Pavilion, Benwick Road, Doddington at 7.30p.m.**

Prior to the commencement of the Council's official business the two co-opted Councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office. They also passed over their completed Register of Members Interests.

**Present:-** Cllr R Hufton (Chair), Cllrs S Cross, I Gowler, P Jolley, R. Hufton, R. Mason, V McDougall, J Shepherd, J. Welcher and B. Whittaker. Cllr M Davis (Councillor for Wimblington) and PcsO Tracey Liano and the clerk, Mr R. Wilkin, were present.

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

**2. Appointment of Vice Chairman:-**

The Chair proposed Cllr B Whittaker as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Mason and unanimously agreed.

**3. Appointment of Committee Representatives:-**

The following members were appointed to the various Council committees:

Street Lighting	Cllrs Jolley and McDougall
Planning	Cllrs Gowler and Shepherd
Charity	Cllrs Welcher and Hufton
Risk Assessment	All
Abbey Rec Ground	Cllrs Whittaker and Hufton
Flag	Cllr Welcher
Clock	Cllr Mason
Website	Cllrs McDougall and Cross
Village Maintenance	Cllrs Hufton and Whittaker
Cemetery	Cllrs Mason, Gowler and Welcher

**4. Minutes:-**

The following alteration was noted in the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015:

“Cllrs D Connor and M Davis (FDC Councillors) were present at the meeting”

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

**5. Matters Arising:-**

- a. Cllr Mason advised that some cabling in the clock tower had been fixed in such a way that it was being compressed when the ladder, giving access to the top of the tower, was positioned. It was agreed to refer the matter for attention to the electrical contractor.
- b. It was reported that the owners of the George Pub had removed the skimmed surface that was coming away from their wall that adjoins the Church Rooms.

**6. Police Matters:-**

It was reported that PC Rem Kajzer was the police officer who had been given prime responsibility for the Doddington area. However, as he was currently on a public order course, PcsO Tracey Liano attended in his place. She gave an update on incidents that had occurred in the area over the last month. Members raised concerns over the increase in hare coursing that were occurring. In addition, reports of increased incidents of vandalism were occurring in the Abbey Recreation Grounds area including the skate park.

## **7. Highway Maintenance:-**

- a. The Chairman reported that a complaint had been received regarding people walking and exercising their dogs on private farming land instead of using the official public paths. She proposed that a suitable notice be published in the Doddingtons Doings to draw awareness of the problem and read a suggested form of wording to the meeting. Members concurred with the suggestion. Many footpaths were now badly overgrown. CCC had reduced the number of cuts to just 2 per year. The first cut had taken place in March when very little growth had taken place. It was agreed to press CCC to arrange a second cut as a matter of urgency.
- b. It was reported that pot holes were reappearing in Hospital Road and there were up to 12 large potholes each over 2” deep in Parsons Land Drove. ( CCC had announced that pot holes would not be attended to unless they were at least 2” deep).
- c. It was reported that a hedge in Harvest Close was encroaching over the footway. It was agreed to refer this to FDC for attention.
- d. Cllr Mason reported that 28 x 10 gallon drums of waste oil had been dumped in a ditch in Hospital Road. These had been removed by Cllr Mason with the help of Mr D Everett.

## **8. Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Matters:-**

- a. The Clerk reported that Fenland DC had appointed Cllr Carol Cox as Chairman of the Council and Cllr Kay Mayor as Vice Chairman.

## **9. Doddington Village Action Group:-**

Cllr Hufton advised that the group had agreed collation arrangements from the survey and were now proposing to issue the survey forms to all residents in September, after the holiday period.

## **10. Planning:-**

### **a. Existing 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.** The Clerk advised members that this application, supported by the Parish Council at last months meeting, had been withdrawn by the applicant.

### **b. New Applications:**

**i) F/YR15/0393/PNCOU Change of use from agricultural building to a single storey 4-bed dwelling (Class Qb). Elm Farm, Hospital Road, Doddington.**

Cllr Welcher declared an interest in this application as it was his neighbour and took no part in the discussion or vote. Members did not support this application as there was no evidence that the development is sustainable. The application does not preserve a building of significant interest.

**ii) F/YR15/0408/F Erection of a single storey side extension to existing dwelling. 18 Wimblington Road, Doddington.**

Cllr Gowler declared his interest in the application and took no part in the discussion or decision. Members raised no objection to the application.

**iii) F/YR15/0414/O Erection of 4 dwellings. Land north of Cathedral View, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington.**

Members objected to this application on the grounds that there is no evidence that the development is sustainable. It is outside the village development line and the roadway is unsuitable to take any further development. The development would create serious drainage and sewerage issues in the area. The roadway is a single track with no passing places, no footway or lighting. Complaints have been raised by residents on drainage issues and road conditions in the past.

**iv) F/YR15/0442/F Erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of a shed. New World Farm, Dykemoor Drove, Doddington.**  
Members raised no objection to the application.

**v) F/YR15/0443/F Erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling. 6 High Street, Doddington.**

Cllr Gowler declared his interest in the application and took no part in the discussion or decision. Members raised no objection to the application.

**c. Other Planning Matters:**

**i) F/YR15/0484 Development at 65 Newgate Street.**

It was reported that this application was recorded on the FDC website but no information had been provided by FDC to the Parish Council. It was agreed that an urgent chase would be made to FDC.

**ii) F/YR15/0460 Development north east of 7 Wimblington Road.**

It was reported that this application was recorded on the FDC website but no information had been provided by FDC to the Parish Council. It was agreed that an urgent chase would be made to FDC.

**iii) The Swan, Benwick Road.**

It was reported that a number of caravans were appearing on this site. It was agreed to refer the matter to FDC (Planning Enforcement).

**iv) Unfinished units in Newgate Street, section 215 notice.**

It was reported that there had been no sign of any improvement to the condition of this site following the serving of a section 215 notice on the owners. Reports were still being received that rats were seen in the area and nettles are now encroaching over the footway. It was agreed to press FDC to escalate action against the owner.

**11. Developer Contributions:-**

**a. Section 106**

Cllr Gowler reminded members that there were two planning applications currently being considered by FDC where a section 106 contribution will be required to be paid by the developer. He questioned whether the Parish Council would have any input into how the contribution should be allocated. Cllr. Davis advised that Wimblington had had a similar situation and had invited Mr S Manley from FDC who had provided some very useful points on how they may influence the wording of a section 106 condition. It was agreed to invite Mr Manley to address a future meeting of the Parish Council.

**b. Ransonmoor Environmental Fund**

The Chair had circulated a report from Fenland DC on a substantial amount of money in the fund which is to be allocated to community groups applying for funding where an environmental benefit results. FDC wish to create a committee consisting of residents living in either Wimblington or Doddington to promote and judge potential bids for funding. Members felt that the criteria being suggested by FDC by which this committee will be expected to judge the applicants is too restrictive and would wish to negotiate a more broader brief with FDC.

**12. Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire:-**

Members considered the draft proposals for changes to the electoral boundaries of Cambridgeshire as suggested by the Local Government Boundary Commission. They considered the reallocation of Doddington from March Rural & South into Whittlesey South was a retrograde step especially as Doddington is a rural village with close links to March and the neighbouring village of Wimblington. Members felt that the village has no connection with Whittlesey. The resent switch of Police administration from March to Whittlesey has left the village feeling neglected and if the recommendation on the new

electoral arrangements are implemented then rural Doddington, being sited on the very edge of the urban area of Whittlesey, will only compound the potential lack of support or consideration to rural needs which undoubtedly will ensue. Doddington wishes to remain with its neighbouring village of Wimblington in March South & Rural.

### **13. Abbey Skate Park:-**

The Chair reported that the vandalised picnic table had been removed and the Skate Park Management Committee were not proposing to ask for one to be installed as a replacement as they had concerns that the new one may suffer a similar fate. The Council noted the position.

Members also considered the points raised by a resident in an email of the spate of bad behaviour and acts of vandalism that had occurred within other areas of the Abbey Recreation Ground. This had been reported to the police and raised under Police Matters earlier in the meeting.

### **14. Benwick Road Cemetery:-**

At the last meeting Cllr Mason was asked to provide an estimate for the pruning of and the pruning of the hedgerows. He advised that two cut per year should take place at £100 per cut. This was agreed.

### **15. Community event to celebrate the end of WW2**

Members agreed not to pursue a local celebration as there appeared to be a lack of interest in supporting the idea.

### **16. Financial Matters:-**

#### **a. Receipts and Payments.**

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

Receipts:-	£	Payments:-	£
Rent Benwick Ath FC	135.00	E Mason & Son – village maintenance	156.00
FDC – Recycling credits	61.08	Recreation Cttee – recycling credits	61.08
		Clerk’s Salary	424.32
		Petty cash reimbursement to Clerk	231.42
		HMRC – Income tax on clerks salary	106.08
	<u>£196.08</u>		<u>£978.90</u>

### **17. Correspondence:-**

a. Members considered an invite that had been circulated from Cambridgeshire ACRE regarding a seminar they are holding on affordable housing. No member expressed an interest in attending.

b. The Clerk formally advised the Council that the Land Registry Office had completed the Registration of Land upon which the Village Hall is sited together with the strip of land that supports the public right of way from Benwick Road to the end of boundary of the garden and land belonging to 3 Benwick Road.

c. The Clerk reported that a funding request had been received from East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices (EACH). The Council respectively declined to make a donation.

d. The Chair reported receipt of a potential scheme that Vicky Lewarne of the Doddington’s Doings had for brightening up the village by siting floral displays around the village. Whilst members felt that the idea had merit there were a number of potential problems that such a scheme would create such as maintenance, insurance cover, vandalism and seeking agreement from owners for baskets and pots to be sited on or near their property. Members considered that a possible alternative idea was to organise a

competition whereby house holds decorate their own property. It was agreed to explore this idea in greater detail at the next meeting.

**18. Any Other Business:-**

a. Cllr Whittaker proposed that as the current arrangement banning dogs from the village recreation grounds was unenforceable that perhaps a revised arrangement whereby dogs were permitted in these areas providing they were kept on a lead and kept off of the various pitches. It was agreed to consider this suggestion in more detail at the next meeting.

b. A number of out of date posters are fixed to posts etc and should be removed,

c. A suggestion was made by Cllr Jolley that the Parish Council meetings should be moved from the Pavilion to the Church Rooms. It was agreed to consider this suggestion in greater detail at the next meeting.

d. It was reported that the Bier House doors appeared to be in a bad condition. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting and the Clerk was asked to review the quotation that Mr M Baker provided last year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.08pm.