

## **Meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 in the Pavilion, Benwick Road, Doddington at 7.30p.m.**

Prior to the commencement of the Council's official business, the Chair welcomed Mark Bishop and Carol Forman (Chair and Secretary of Benwick Athletic Football Club) to address the Parish Council. There were two areas raised by BAFC; firstly they were concerned that children were climbing on their storage containers and risked injury and secondary they were experiencing financial problems due to diminishing memberships. They would like a new mower for cutting the grass and as present are having to pay another area that has floodlights in order that they could train in the evenings. Councillors suggested that suitable Disclaimer Notices are fixed to the containers. They also offered to assist the club in applying for a grant for a new mower. Members noted that the feasibility of installing flood lights on the Abbey Recreation ground may be considered under a section 106 arrangement. It was also suggested to BAFC that they approach Benwick Parish Council to see if they were able to assist.

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

**1. Apologies:-** Cllrs S Cross, V McDougall and Cllr M Davis (District Councillor for Wimblington)

### **2. Minutes:-**

Item 8b(v) was amended so that the wording "was prepared to cut" now read "had not". Following this change, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

### **3. Matters Arising:-**

- a. Cllr Mason advised that works to the large conifer tree near the Methodist Church Hall had been attended to.
- b. The Clerk advised the meeting that a grant application to cover the cost of repairs to the Bier House doors and brickwork had been submitted.
- c. It was reported that a second pothole required attention at the junction of Beech Avenue and Wimblington Road.

### **4. Police Matters:-**

- a. PC Rem Kajzer was not present but his report was read out to the meeting. The Clerk also read out to the meeting a letter from Inspector Will Davis who is the Operations Police Inspector for Fenland. He advised that they will be changing the way that they communicate with the Parish Councils. In future we will receive a brief summary on recent crime trends and policing activity in the area but this will not include crime statistics. In addition they will no longer routinely attend Parish Council meetings. Members felt that these changes represented a sad state of affairs between the police and local communities.
- b. The Chair advised the meeting that she had received a response from Sir Graham Bright, Police & Crime Commissioner but its contents provided little indication that the changes in police activity would benefit the village.

### **5. Highway Maintenance:-**

- a. It was reported that parts of Turf End Lane had been resurfaced.
- b. The Chair advised the meeting that she, and the clerk, had attended a CCC Highways Open Day during which they met the team responsible for the maintenance of roads in

Fenland. They were shown the reporting system used to record progress on reported faults and took the opportunity to report that Parson Lane Drove had numerous potholes and a damaged road surface. In addition, they reported that the footway along Benwick Road from Askham House to Washbrook Farm required resurfacing.

c. It was agreed that Askham House should be asked to ensure that their contractors who were building the major extension to the nursing home should be asked to ensure that they reinstated the footpath and entrance to the Home once construction work had been completed.

d. It was reported that a number of trees and hedgerows along Hospital Road needed to be cut back so that the road was clear of overhang.

e. It was reported that the hedge opposite 48 Benwick Road was encroaching onto the footway and needed trimming back.

f. It was agreed that a general request be published in “Doddington Doings” requesting owners of trees and hedgerows to ensure that they did not overhang footways and create a hazard to pedestrians.

g. It was suggested that an application be made for bus stops to be created on both sides of Primrose Hill.

h. It was reported that the Primrose Hill Road sign near 22 Primrose Hill needed repairing and clearing of undergrowth as motorists could not see/read the sign.

i. The Coney Wood footpath sign still needs to be replaced. It was suggested that there may be an unused sign stored in the gardeners shed in the Churchyard that could be used. Authority was given to the clerk to investigate the sign's potential use and if necessary ask Mick Baker to fix it in the Coney Wood area.

## **6. Local Highway Improvement Scheme:-**

The Chair and Clerk advised that they had discussed the feasibility of seeking agreement from CCC under the scheme to reduce traffic speed limits along all three routes into the village to 30mph. CCC advised that it was unlikely that the scheme would be supported by CCC as the police would potentially have difficulty in enforcing a 30mph limit as the areas along Newgate Street and Benwick, Road where we sought a speed reduction from 40mph to 30mph were predominately bounded by open fields and there would be no obvious grounds for supporting a speed reduction. They did suggest that traffic calming measures along stretches of these roads may be considered. With regards reducing the speed limit in Wimblington Road, there was a reasonable chance of this being supported. Members agreed to submit an application taking these suggestions into account.

## **7. Street Lighting:-**

Members had previously received a copy of FDC's financial offer dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015 together with the minutes of a meeting between representatives of various Parish Councils within the Fenland area. FDC has agreed to replace, at no cost to the Parish Council, the 10 category 1 street lights. Over the last two financial years, Doddington PC has increased its precept by £7,500 per year to finance any liability to replace the category 2 lights. The estimated cost to replace all category 2 lights is £56,400 and FDC is prepared to provide £7,102 towards this cost. Taking into account sums earmarked by the PC and FDC's contribution, the Parish Council will need to fund between £30k and £35k to fully replace the category 2 lights.

During the meeting of Fenland's Parish Council, it was suggested that each Parish Council agree to finance a structural inspection on a sample of lights to test the validity of the Balfour Beatty findings. Members agreed to this proposal and to formally write to FDC expressing their dismay at the limited offer that has been made to assist the Parish Councils in financing the replacement of street lights in their area.

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

CCC were proposing issuing, on a two month cycle, an information circular that could be of interest to residents. It was agreed to ask Doddington Doings if they are able to publish a summary of the CCC circular. Consideration should also be given to publishing the full circular on the Parish Council web site.

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

Members were advised that the village questionnaire had now been circulated throughout the village.

## **10. Developer Contributions:-**

- a. The Chair updated members on the meeting that took place with Sim Manley on section 106 contributions. It was noted that we should make a claim for a 106 contribution on each appropriate planning application even if we were raising an objection to the application.
- b. Following the granting of planning permission F/YR15/0077/O for 10 dwellings at Benwick Road for Mr Broughton, FDC are seeking the Parish Councils comments on potential schemes for a section 106 contribution. Members suggested the installation of floodlighting on one of the pitches at Abbey Recreation Ground and resurfacing works on pitches at Benwick Recreation Ground.

## **11. Neighbourhood Plan:-**

It was agreed to examine the feasibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Doddington and a committee was formed consisting of Cllrs Hufton, Whittaker, Shepherd and Gowler. The Clerk would also attend.

## **12. Planning:-**

### **a. Existing Applications:**

#### **i) F/YR14/0503/FDL 62 dwellings and access east of Bevills Close.**

The meeting was advised that FDC had formally refused planning permission for this proposal.

#### **ii) F/YR15/0489/F Erection of an anaerobic digester plant with associated items, land east of Fengrain Hook Lane Wimblington.**

The meeting was advised that FDC had deferred the application to allow sufficient time for a further public consultation exercise to be undertaken.

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

The meeting was advised that the application had been withdrawn.

#### **iv) F/YR15/0060/F Revised proposals to reinstate and refurbish abandoned dwelling at Tommys Forty Foot Bank Ramsey.**

The meeting raised no objection to the revision.

#### **v) Pre Application Consultation: Erection of 8 dwellings Wimblington Road Doddington.**

This revised plan sites the proposed units adjacent to Doddington properties rather than the earlier submission that had the development adjacent to the Wimblington boundary.

Members indicated their support for the development providing a guarantee was given that no further development would be made on additional land in that area. They also pointed out that the design of the properties should compliment the existing properties in that area and indicated that the Parish Council would seek a section 106 contribution. Finally they asked that two new street lights should be sited along the boundary of the site.

**b. New Planning Applications:**

**i) F/YR15/0676/A Display of externally illuminated fascia sign 41A High Street Doddington.**

The meeting raised no objection to the application.

**ii) F/YR15/0725/O Erection of 4 dwellings involving demolition of existing garage, 9 Benwick Road Doddington.**

Cllr Shepherd declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote. The Council objected to this application on the grounds that access is onto a very busy road and in proximity to the Village Hall, doctors surgery and hospital. This area of Benwick Road is heavily used for parking. The footpath is used by pedestrians visiting the above facilities and this additional access onto Benwick Road will add to the risk of accidents to pedestrians and traffic using the road. If permission should be granted then we would suggest that a condition is made that double yellow lines are made on one side of the road to reduce risks.

**iii) F/YR15/0735/A Removal of condition 2 of permission F/0367/80/F relating to the removal of an Ash Tree, 6 Eastmoor Lane Doddington**

The meeting raised no objection to the application.

**iv) F/YR15/0779/O Erection of 4 dwellings (outline application), land north of Cathedral View Turf Fen Lane Doddington.**

The Council had no support for development of this site at the present time unless adequate improvement to the road is made including provision of footpaths and lighting.

**13. Abbey Recreation Ground – Trimming hedges along the boundary:-**

The Chair advised members that an enquiry had been received from a resident over the cutting back of the hedges along the boundary with Holly Drive. It was agreed that an annual cut should be arranged and requested Cllr Mason to obtain a quotation for the work.

**14. Best Kept Garden Competition:-**

This matter was deferred to a later meeting.

**15. Financial Matters:-**

**a. Bank Account arrangements.**

The Clerk advised that he was still in negotiations with the bank over changes to the mandate.

**b.. Receipts and Payments.**

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

Receipts:-	£	Payments:-	£
Rent Benwick Ath FC	135.00	E Mason & Sons – grass cutting	60.00
		Clerk’s Salary	424.32
		Petty cash reimbursement to Clerk	91.00
		HMRC – Income tax on clerks salary	106.08
	<u>£135.00</u>		<u>£ 681.40</u>

**16. Correspondence:-**

The Clerk advised of an invitation to attend the next meeting of the Cambridgeshire Fens Leader launch. Cllrs Hufton and Gowler agreed to attend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25pm.