

**The minutes of the Annual Meeting of
Great Doddington Parish Council held on 19 May 2021
at the Chapel Rooms, Great Doddington.**

Present: Mr C Davies (Chairman), Mr J Sharp (Vice-Chairman) Mr P Cunningham, Mr D Kelly, Mr K Howes, Mrs L Ross, Mrs S Sharp and Mrs A Smith.

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

21/01 Welcome form the Chairman and Annual Report

The chairman welcomed everyone to the annual meeting of the parish council.

He commented on the the interesting and difficult year that all in the community and country had faced during 2020 and into 2021 brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. This had resulted in meetings being held using Zoom technology, sometimes successfully and other times no so successfully with difficulties with connectivity. Meetings were now able to be held face to face with social distancing in place and there would continue to be various concerns over the need to avoid the spread of the virus, despite the vaccination programme.

At the start of the pandemic the play equipment had been closed off for use, this has now reopened and this and the recreation ground continue to be well used. A new footpath was to be put through the churchyard to help for wheelchair users, completion of this had been delayed due to the pandemic.

Elections had taken place and eight of the nine former parish councillors had put their names forward and been successfully elected. One further councillor would need to be co-opted in due course.

Mr Crisp had decided to retire and the thanks of the parish council were extended to him for all his hard work over the years and knowledge of the village, which had been invaluable. He was wished well for the future.

Work was ongoing at the Prison and this had caused a complete road closure earlier in the year. It was hoped that a further road closure would be avoided for the highway works taking place over the summer to create a new roundabout as it had been promised that a three-way traffic light system would be put in place.

The travellers fair had been held on land at Hardwater Road and there was concern that arrangements would be put in place for this to be an annual event. The event had been well managed by the Police and the

chairman and clerk had attended briefings which were highly informative. There has been no further information about future events at the current time.

The continuing issue of dog fouling has been discussed on many occasions, with more and more people walking around the village and across the footpaths. Many complaints have been received about bags being left in the countryside rather than the public disposing of them in their own bins or dog bins. A further bin had been placed at the end of Lower Street in the hope that common sense prevails, and people dispose of bags properly.

Two memorial benches have recently been installed and have become a welcome asset to the village.

Street lamps have continued to be repaired and those beyond repair have been replaced.

The chairman thanked all his fellow parish councillors, and the clerk for their hard work, patience and flexibility and all the wonderful volunteers in the village from those helping to support everyone during Covid, those who have kept the groups and clubs running and to those who have cleaned the rubbish from our streets. He hoped that as a new four-year term of office for parish councillors commences that the village remains a great place to live.

21/02 POORS LAND CHARITY

The vice-chairman reported that the charity account had a considerable amount of money in it and that the giving of book grants appeared to no longer be of interest. Members wondered if the charity could be used to assist those in education with possibly the purchase of school uniforms or for them to go on educational trips. Mr Sharp would give some additional publicity to the availability of the grant.

21/03 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 7.15pm.

Chairman