

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 13 February 2019 in the Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington.

Present: C Davies (Chairman), Mr P Cunningham, Mr J Crisp, Mrs L Ross, Mr J Sharp, Mrs S Sharp and Mrs A Smith.

Apologies were received from Mr Howes and Mr Kelly.

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

18/77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made.

18/78 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2019 were received and approved as a true record other than Mr Sharp referred to the need to obtain a quotation for work to be carried out at the cemetery. Mr Sharp and the chairman would take a look at what was required.

18/79 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Fenner and a colleague attended the meeting and spoke about the number of offences that had taken place during December and January. They appreciated the concern of local residents and believed, though there was no proof that an offender had been apprehended for other crimes and the issues in Great Doddington had subsequently ceased. The crime statistics for January had included a burglary in Glenfield Drive, a breach of a restraining order and a burglary of a non-dwelling along The Ridge. A vehicle had also been pursued by police through Great Doddington ending up in Wollaston where three males had been apprehended and charged with a variety of offences. The police had sent an invitation to the parish council for representatives to attend a Community Awareness Session – a hall would need to be hired along with the event being advertising via the parish council. It was suggested that weekends should be avoided and that an early evening session would be best. Details of local groups were also passed onto PCSO Fenner.

The parish council agreed that a Community Awareness session would be useful and they would obtain a suitable date for this with PCSO Fenner's availability and hall availability. It was suggested that the Memorial Hall be used as there was parking and that early summer would be a good time.

18/80 HIGHWAY ISSUES

The clerk had heard back from highways apologising for the poor workmanship, the white lining will be monitored and repainted free of charge when it next needed to be done. The white marking of the bends are programmed to start after April 2019 and are subject to budget funding from the NCC.

Hardwater crossroads - there continued to be regular accidents at the crossroads and parish councillors were adamant that this would be helped with a clear 'STOP' sign at either side of this junction. Driving from Wilby in the afternoon sunshine, the crossroads looked like a continuous road, similar to a mirage. Drivers travelling from Hardwater Bridge either fail to see the 'Give Way' sign or don't realise that the front of their vehicles are infringing over the white lining causing frequent accidents. There had been a fatal accident near to 'Summer Leys' already and this needed to be avoided at the crossroads if possible. The clerk, though aware that there were legislative reasons why this was 'Give Way' rather than 'STOP' would again contact Helen Howard to see if anything could be done about this.

Street lamps - the work on the street lamps in High Street would be carried out in the near future. It should be noted that it is only the lamp part that was being replaced and not the post so the lamps will look the same but would then be compliant with legislation.

Cut Throat Lane - it was reported that large potholes were now becoming impassable – the clerk would report once again.

The Ridge - a number of small potholes had appeared near to the bus stop and Ridge Gardens - the clerk had reported these.

18/81 PLANNING ISSUES

12 St Nicholas Road - the borough council had permitted this.

18/82 FINANCE

The following invoices for payment and the quarterly financial position were approved and noted:

Payments			
Name	Details	Chq no.	Amount (£)
Aylesbury Mains	Repairs to lamps invoice 18828	1609	76.08
Eon	Street lighting 1 1 19 to 31 1 19	1610	415.33

18/83 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Play equipment replacement

Mrs Sharp clarified that she was in talks with the approved supplier 'Timotay' and was meeting with them at 1pm on Friday to discuss various points raised over the proposed play equipment to make sure that we were getting the most suitable equipment and value for money. Mrs Smith and Mr Davis confirmed they would attend the meeting with her.

She would report back at the next meeting or via email if an urgent decision was required. She also asked if there was any guidance of CCTV being used to protect the equipment from vandalism. The clerk said she would make some enquiries, but raised some concern regarding the safeguarding of children and CCTV and the monitoring thereof.

Health and Safety

No issues were raised.

Social Media

There was nothing to report.

Planting of a permanent Christmas Tree in amenity garden

Mr Sharp raised the option of planting a permanent tree for the Christmas lights rather than purchasing one each year. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and he would liaise with the gardening team and see if this was a project they could take on so it was placed in a suitable area of the amenity garden.

Proposals for Top Farm

The land at Top Farm was in the ownership of Hampton Brook, who intended, at some point in the summer, to hold a public meeting about any future development of this site. Any development would be done in conjunction with the housing needs survey carried out by the Borough Council in 2015.

Fencing on top of Wall Memorial Garden/Rectory

Mr Kelly had notified the clerk of an issue with the fencing on top of the wall. Mr Sharp noted that this was not on the parish council's land.

Isham Parish Council - Appeal

The clerk reported on a letter received from Isham Parish Council requesting support following on from the planning application to develop land at Kettering South off the A509. The application had been refused and was now going to appeal to be heard in May 2019. IPC were asking GDPC to support them in fighting the appeal.

Parish Councillors discussed this and concluded that whilst have every sympathy for the residents of Isham and those who travel through

Isham each day with regard to the volume of traffic, there were no grounds to give the support of the parish council to it as generally this would not affect our parishioners.

Monthly report from County Councillor Gough

This had been received - other than the reopening of Hardwater Crossing bridge there was nothing further to report.

Street Watch

Mr Kelly had referred to the Street Watch scheme and the clerk had received some information thereon which she had circulated. It was agreed that whilst this was a good idea in principle it would be very difficult to commit too in a small village like Great Doddington.

Local Government Reorganisation

There were no further developments. Information was awaited from the SoS expected in early April 2019.

Invitation to Buckingham Palace

Mr Sharp had been invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace for his services to the parish council for over 40 years via NALC and had been delighted to accept.

Grass cutting contract

The clerk had heard from the contractor appointed to carry out the grass cutting from April 2020 who had a query about the use of the parish council equipment. The clerk informed the meeting that after discussion with the contractor his quote had been based on the use of the parish council's equipment, whilst the other quotations received were based on the individual's/or company using their own equipment. The tender documentation had not stipulated that your own equipment was required, though the assumption was that whoever quoted would have their own equipment as the documentation did not make reference to the use of parish council equipment. Mr Sharp confirmed that he had spoken directly with the contractor and had informed him to base his quotation on that of the current contractor Mr Garon who had used the parish council equipment. The clerk sought clarity on this from the parish council as she was concerned the tendering process could be criticised for not awarding the contract fairly. A discussion ensued, the contractor's quotation had been considerably lower than any of the other quotations received and even though he wished to use the parish council equipment it was still extremely competitive. It was therefore agreed that permission be given to the contractor for the use of the parish council equipment, however all disbursements would need to fall within the contract price quoted and that he would need to make his own arrangements for tax and national insurance etc. It was noted that there would be financial implications in regard to maintaining and servicing of the equipment which hadn't been taken into account when setting the budget. The clerk would let the contractor know.

18/84 Next meeting date:

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

