

## **GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 24 March 2021**

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

**Also present:** Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

#### **20/74 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies were received from Mr Crisp and Mrs Sharp.

#### **20/75 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 February 2021 be approved.

#### **20/76 POLICE MATTERS**

No issues were raised.

#### **20/77 HIGHWAY ISSUES**

##### **Hardwater crossroads**

There were no further developments on this. It would continue to be monitored with continued discussions with highways.

##### **Fly-tipping**

The Great Doddington volunteers had cleared a large part of Hardwater and down near Summer Leys of the huge amounts of fly-tipping including numerous tyres that had been found in the ditches. The volunteers were commended for their work and the support they were giving to Norse.

##### **Sycamore - Amenity Garden**

The approval from Mrs Webber at the Borough Council was awaited before Mr Price could undertake the work on the Sycamore.

**1 The Ridge** – the work on this would be done at the same time as the sycamore.

##### **Gigaclear and footpaths**

The clerk was still awaiting a response from Gigaclear about the footpaths.

### **Footpath through the churchyard**

The contractor was due to commence work shortly on the footpath.

### **Lamps**

Lamps that needed bulb replacements had been reported at:

21 Wilby Lane

Bus Stop, Earls Barton Road

84 Glenfield Drive.

### **Grass verge High Street and bottom of Lower Street**

Parking on grass verges continued to be monitored, those parking near to Redden's Farm on the verge appeared to be dog walkers visiting from other areas.

## **20/78 FINANCE**

The finances were noted for the quarter, and the following invoices were approved for payment:

Mrs C A Mundy Feb and March 2021	579.42	(1686)
Mrs C A Mundy Pay Award 2020-21 £7.96 x 12	95.52	(1687)
Mr M Puttnam Inv. 22	97.30	(1688)
Mr M Puttnam Inv. 23	52.30	(1689)
Zoom – reimbursement to clerk x 2 months	28.78	(1690)
Aylesbury Mains Inv. 20349	70.20	(1691)
David Ogilvie – 2 x benches	2373.60	(1692)
E-On Feb 2021	361.94	(1693)
Mr D Kelly purchase back of grave space	230.00	(1694)
Greenbound – Noticeboard	1385.35	(1695)
M Puttnam Fencing reimbursement	216.44	(1696)
M Puttnam Gate & Bench installation	543.56	(1697)

The clerk also confirmed that the asset register, risk assessment and other documentation had been updated to incorporate any in year changes. The governance questionnaire had been commented on by the chairman and signed. A review of the constitution and financial regulations would be carried out in the new financial year. It was also noted that this would probably be the last meeting to held using the Zoom platform as there was an expectation that physical meetings would resume post-election.

## **20/79 Planning**

It was reported that the application for the Water Tower had been withdrawn.

## **20/80 Health and Safety Issues**

**Covid-19** – The Government's roadmap would continue to be followed with various restrictions being lifted as and when instructed to do so.

**Future meetings and purdah period:** The clerk reminded councillors that they were now in the purdah period and advised them what this referred to. With regard to future meetings the current Covid legislation would last until 7 May 2021 and then it was proposed that meetings would once again be held in person, taking into account social distancing. A number of organisations were appealing this legislation and the clerk would let members know any outcome.

### **Elections 6 May 2021**

Elections would be held for the Police Crime & Fire Commissioner, the North Northamptonshire Council and the Parish Council, if contested. Great Doddington fell into the Earls Barton ward for the NNC elections. The Memorial Hall would be the Polling Station and social distancing would be in operation with additional cleaning to ensure the safety of voters and election staff.

### **20/81 Social Media**

The following issues had been referred to on social media:

**New benches** – there were many compliments about the benches as a new addition to the village, which had been appreciated.

**Litter pickers** – again their hard work had been much appreciated.

One complaint about social distancing had been raised but on speaking to the organisers all participating were socially distancing other than those that were in their own personal 'bubble'.

**Council Tax increase** – there had been several negative comments about the increase in council tax due to harmonisation with other councils.

**Dog bin bags** – several comments made about the disposing of dog bin bags and people leaving them at the top of footpaths or in trees. This was particularly an issue near to Lower Street.

### **20/82 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Lamp Post Poppies**

The chairman suggested that 30 remembrance poppies be purchased along with two of the 'Tommy' soldiers. The clerk would place an order with the RBL.

#### **Bins in amenity area**

The bin lids had been replaced.

#### **Hardwater – houseboat**

There was ongoing work being undertaken by the Enforcement Officer which would be reported when concluded.

#### **Recreation ground**

There was still concern about the barbed wire adjacent to the recreation ground. The clerk had raised this with Hampton Brook and

had received a response that the barbed wire had been there for a long time presumably placed by the previous owners. A considerable amount of barbed wire had been removed from the fencing immediately adjacent to the park. This has been placed in a single location within the Top Farm land. Hampton Brook is aware that there is still some barbed wire on fencing on Top Farm land and advised that users of the park should not enter Top Farm land from the park.

This would continue to be monitored.

**Dog bin – Lower Street**

Discussions took place regarding the possibility of installing a dog bag disposal bin near to the footpath at the end of Lower Street. There were several differing opinions regarding this option with some councillors feeling that walkers should be encouraged to take the bags home or dispose in dog bins already available through the village. Others believed that at least if there was a bin available it would give an option for disposal. Mr Puttnam had confirmed to the clerk that all the dog bins were well used and that it would be difficult to move the one in Earls Barton Road to this location. Historically all the dog bins had been provided by the same supplier to ensure they were all the same style. One councillor said he had found one that was considerably cheaper and suggested that this be installed to see how well it was used. He would circulate details following the meeting.

**20/83 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm. The next meeting would be held after the election.

Chairman.....