

## **GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 16 February 2021**

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

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

#### **20/64 APOLOGIES**

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

#### **20/65 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2021 be approved.

#### **20/66 POLICE MATTERS**

Comparison figures were received for 2019 which showed one theft and for the same period in 2020 there were four thefts and one criminal damage. These were undetected.

Figures for the last three-month period indicated there had been 21 crimes reported. One criminal damage, six public order offences, one robbery (this was on the border with Wellingborough), five thefts and five violence against a person (Rugby Club).

#### **20/67 HIGHWAY ISSUES**

##### **Hardwater crossroads**

Mr Kelly had provided some photographs travelling in the direction from Cut Throat Lane to the crossroads, the clerk had forwarded these to County Councillor Smithers. A request for consideration to be given to the installation of flashing slow down signs had been made – the parish council may consider paying for installation if it was permissible.

It was also suggested that a sign stating 'Accident Hotspot' be installed. This would have to be done by the highway authority as it would need appropriate legislation. The clerk would make this request.

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

This continued to be a dreadful issue in various parts of the Village including Hardwater Road, Cut Throat Lane. Opposite Summer Leys and the A45. Wellingborough Norse was aware of the issues and would clear the fly tipping where they are able to do so. To clear the A45 a road closure had to be requested, at a considerable cost. This

was therefore arranged quarterly, and one would be carried out in March.

### **Amenity Garden**

Approval had been sought for the Sycamore tree to be crown lifted from Mrs Webber at the Borough Council. Until this was received the work couldn't proceed. She was in contact directly with the tree surgeon.

**1 The Ridge** – the tree branches would be cut back when the tree surgeon attended to cut back the tree in the amenity garden.

### **Gigaclear and footpaths**

A report of damage to the grass at Magna Grove had been reported to Gigaclear. Once the work in the village was concluded Gigaclear would carry out an inspection. Generally, they only arranged for the areas to be patched and it was unlikely they would cover with the golden gravel to match the conservation area, but this would be pursued.

### **Footpath through the churchyard**

Work would commence on the path at the end of February 2021.

### **Lamps**

Aylesbury Mains had attended and replaced several bulbs. The clerk asked for anyone who was aware of a streetlamp being out to contact her immediately to avoid a long delay.

**Conifers outside 10 Glenfield Drive** – the conifers had been trimmed back by the occupiers.

**Natural spring – 19 Glenfield Drive** – Mr Kelly reported this again and showed parish councillors photos of how icy the roadway had become and asked what if anything could be done. Parish councillors were aware of these longstanding issues in Glenfield Drive, the springs were natural and appeared to come from one of the gardens and were therefore on private land and nothing could be done by the parish council. It was assumed that those that lived in this vicinity were aware of the issue and would take care and avoid walking on this part of the pathway/road.

Repairs to the stonewalling at the **Village Triangle** – the work had been completed and several compliments had been received about how nice the area now looked.

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

Complaints had been received about the parking on the grass verge in High Street and at the bottom of Lower Street near to the footpath entrance.

Councillors had discussed the issue with the High Street previously and agreed that large stones could be placed on the verge to avoid anyone parking on it. Once the area had recovered grass seed could be put down, so it grew. This would be considered in late spring. There was one car that frequently parked on the verge, but ownership was not known.

The vehicles parking on the grass verge outside Rodden's Farm appeared to be walkers taking their dogs across the field. There was also a complaint that dog bags were being left at the top by the gate for 'someone' else to dispose of, instead of people taking them home to dispose of. This was not acceptable. A lengthy discussion took place regarding this the existing dog bin were well used. Many parish councillors felt that irresponsible dog owners would still not use a bin even if it was provided in this area. It was also noted that the dog bags were being left on private land and a dog bin could not be placed by the parish council in this vicinity. Regarding the parking on the grass verge, again it was suggested that if this continued large stones could be placed on the verge, so people were unable to park.

## **20/68 FINANCE**

The finances were noted for the quarter, the clerk confirmed the precept had been submitted for 2021-22, and the following invoices were approved for payment:

Mr K Howes – Reimbursement for materials	(1681)	93.72
Mr L Prickett – Stonewall Refurbishment	(1682)	660.00
Aylesbury Mains – Street lamp repair	(1683)	130.08
Aylesbury Mains – Street lamp repair	(1684)	86.40
E-On – Lighting 1 1 21 to 31 1 21	(1695)	400.73

## **20/69 Planning**

The following applications had been received:

NW/21/00123/FUL – 36 Lower Street – No objection

NW/21/0156/FUL and NW/21/00157/LBC – 3 Church Lane – No objection

NW/21/00121/FIL – Hardwater Mill – No objection.

## **20/70 Health and Safety Issues**

**Covid-19** – Lockdown instructions remained in place for the foreseeable. It was noted that there had been a large increase in dog walking, with people appearing to be travelling into the village to walk on the footpaths leading to the Valley. Mr Kelly raised concern that some parishioners weren't following social distance when using the footpaths and instead of respectfully waiting were walking by each other. Members considered that there was considerable publicity around social distancing and those involved if made aware would probably apologise and step back.

**20/71 Social Media**

The following issues had been referred to on social media:

**Horses** – it was reported that some horses were loose at Summer Leys.

**Delivery van** – it was reported that a delivery van had reversed into a wall along The Ridge.

**Gigaclear** – were advertising their broadband speeds which were considerably higher than currently available.

**Countryfile** – the programme would be coming from the Nene Valley on Sunday.

**Recreation Ground** – it had been noted that the barbed wire fence believed to be part of the farm was down. Mr Sharp thought that this had been down for a long time. There was some concern that children could fall on this and hurt themselves. The clerk would speak with Hampton Brook and raise it as a health and safety issue.

**20/72 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Lamp Post Poppies**

The chairman asked if the parish council would be able to put the poppies on telegraph posts. The clerk would make tentative enquiries about this.

**Bins in amenity area**

It was reported that the lids from both bins had been removed. The clerk would report this to Wellingborough Norse and ask that they be replaced.

**Hardwater – boat**

There appeared to be nothing further happening with the unsightly mess surrounding the boat and associated area. The clerk would chase up the Enforcement Officer to see if there were any further developments.

**Future meetings**

Meetings would continue to be held using Zoom until restrictions were lifted. Details of whether the election would take place in May 2021 were awaited from the government. It was therefore suggested that in case the March meeting which would potentially be the last one for this parish council that it be held on 24 March at 7.30pm.

**20/73 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Chairman.....