

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 9 September 2020 at the Memorial Hall, Great Doddington.

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

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

20/24 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED to note that an apology was received from Mr Cunningham for the meeting.

20/25 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual meeting and the Annual Parish meeting both held on 8 August 2020 be approved.

20/26 POLICE MATTERS

Horse Fair

The chairman reported on the meeting that he, the clerk and Mr Kelly had attended with the police prior to the event taking place. Superintendent Murray had explained that legal advice had been sought by both the Police and Public Health England, particularly regarding the Covid-19 implications, input had also been received from Amnesty International, a global movement for injustice, the Equalities Council, whose vision is for an equal society where differences are respected and all people included, and Bristol University who advised on equality and diversity issues. He also explained how the policing operation would work over the weekend. He had additional officers in the rural area leading up to the event advising local businesses on security issues. Businesses would not be advised to close but to take precautions. He also believed that information being posted on-line about the potential of 20,000 travellers descending was not correct and the organiser had said that there would be between 150 and 200 travellers on site.

The event had proceeded without major incident, with considerable engagement from the police and local council, and thanks would be passed to the police in the way they had conducted and controlled the event. A number of issues reported on social media had been incorrect and whilst the concern were understandable this had created a lot of scare-mongering for individuals who were already anxious. A few crime issues had been reported in Great Doddington including theft from barns near to the club, an attempted burglary in John Gray Road, and

a man was seen looking into a window of a house in Chapel Lane, but there was no evidence that this was connected to the horse fair.

The parishioners had gone to a lot of trouble and expense in securing their homes and land at a personal cost to many. A number of businesses had made the decision to close and this had resulted in the loss of trade and revenue, in what had already been a tough year.

The concern was now over whether a request would be made for a licence to hold the event in 2021 and what the implications of this would be.

The clerk had invited the police to attend the meeting but the lead officer had been unavailable for the. He would respond to individual queries of ongoing concern and he asked that parishioners contact him directly.

Councillors asked if there were comparable figures available for the same period of time in 2019 and asked if they could have any more information about the crimes committed and whether these had been detected. The clerk would seek this information from the police.

It was reported that the Appleby Horse Fair for 2021 would no longer take place, but the clerk confirmed it was supported by the RSPCA and was being advertised for the period between 3 and 5 June 2021.

20/27 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Hardwater Crossroads - There was no further information about the white lining. It remained on the long-list for action.

1 The Ridge - Rubbish - The rubbish outside 1 The Ridge had been removed by the owner as requested.

Footpath next to Vineyard - It was confirmed that Mr Cunningham had spoken to the owner and he would be making arrangements to cut back the overgrown area.

Footpath through the churchyard

The specification for the required new footpath was awaited so quotations could be obtained. The county council had confirmed that they had no funding for a replacement footpath, this was part of the 'safer routes to school' but was of adequate width, for its requirements, so if this was to be made more suitable for users the parish council would need to fund this.

Amenity Garden

The clerk had received a report that a tree branch had fallen and that the amenity garden needed some pruning. She had asked for a

quotation from Dan's Trees and Gardens and would circulate it as soon as received.

Lamp at the recreation ground

Aylesbury Mains had been asked to provide some information on whether works could be carried out to the lamp at the recreation ground They had apologised for the delay, caused by a reduction in employees due to some being furloughed until the end of October. They would progress this as soon as possible.

20/28 FINANCE

The internal audit report was received along with recommendations including a review of standing orders and financial regulations that was required to be undertaken and the setting up of a payroll system with HMRC.

The following finances were approved along with the approval of the following invoices for payments:

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|--|--------|
| Auditing Solutions Ltd. Audit 2019-2020 | 444.00 |
| Aylesbury Mains Ltd. Invoice 19932 | 125.40 |
| E-On Street lighting | 420.53 |
| Mrs C A Mundy Salary/Acc fee Aug. and Sept. 20 | 579.42 |
| Wellingborough Norse August 2020 | 145.59 |
| Great Doddington Memorial Hall Hire of hall for meeting | 30.00 |

20/29 Planning

No applications had been received but the clerk referred to the consultation on the new planning guidance which she had circulated via email the day after the last meeting, from Robert Jenrick MP – this consultation proposed quite a number of radical changes to the planning laws to speed up the process with less local involvement. The borough council had sent a response but the parish council and individuals could also respond to the consultation before the end of October.

Mrs Ross did not recall seeing the original email, the clerk confirmed that she would resend this.

20/30 Health and Safety Issues

Some further issues had been reported about the play equipment and Timotay had been asked to make urgent repairs. They had suggested that it may be worthwhile for the parish council to consider a monthly

maintenance contract. Mr Cunningham would ask them to quote for this so the parish council could consider it further.

20/31 Social Media

The following issues had been referred to on social media:

Horse Fair Bank Holiday weekend - there had been a number of comments regarding concerns over the event, and the closure of businesses. Reports of someone taking water from water hydrants along The Ridge had proved to be false as this was someone who had a legitimate licence to clean the solar farm.

There had been fly tipping again at Hardwater, which Wellingborough Norse were aware of.

Some comments had been made on the legal challenge to G4S having been awarded the contract to run the Prison.

20/32 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gigaclear

A complaint had been received about the necessity of Gigaclear digging up Glenfield Drive to put in faster broadband. The clerk had contacted Gigaclear who had explained that they had been awarded the contract by the government who had pledged to provide faster broadband to rural communities. Some of the work being undertaken was government funding but Gigaclear was also funding areas not included in the government scheme to ensure that the whole of Great Doddington would have the option of choosing a faster broadband speed. Following a survey of those living in Glenfield Drive, 75% of residents had 'registered an interest' in receiving faster broadband. Local residents did not have to take up the faster broadband if they did not want to, it was a personal option and choice. However, it was noted that those working from home in the current climate would probably benefit considerably from the much faster speeds on offer.

Bench replacement, The Ridge

After a number of ongoing discussions it was agreed that two benches would be ordered from David Ogilvie, the Armed Forces Bench Seat and the WW2 Bench Seat. One would be placed outside 1 The Ridge to replace the one that had been removed and the other would be placed in the High Street where the former telephone box had been. The clerk would ask Mr Puttnam if he would be able to secure these with concrete blocks to ensure they were not moved or stolen, if David Ogilvie was unable to arrange this on delivery.

Heritage lamp opposite the shop

It was reported that the lamp would benefit from being painted.

Heritage Lamp opposite the shop and finger post at the village triangle

It was commented that the finger post needed some attention and that the heritage lamp near to the shop would benefit from being painted. The chairman asked if everyone would take a look and comment on the way forward. Quotations could then be obtained for whatever was required.

Double gates into the park from High Street

It was commented that potentially the gates into the park could do with being replaced or refurbished. Consideration was given about whether these should be relocated ensuring that access for emergency vehicles needed to be considered. Parish councillors would take a look and come back to the next meeting with their requirements.

Issues in John Gray Road

The clerk had reported the concerns of residents to Greatwell Homes who had given a contact name and number for tenants to ring directly with their concerns. Anti-social behaviour orders could be a way forward but these often took many, many years to be obtained, this in turn would lead to an eviction process that was also lengthy. The more valid complaints that were directly received, the more action could potentially be taken against these anti-social tenants.

Councillors asked how many houses in the village were owned by Greatwell Homes – the clerk would make enquiries about this.

Noticeboard replacement of 'glass'

The clerk would ask Mr Puttnam if he could replace the Perspex in the noticeboard as it was somewhat discoloured due to the sun.

Clarification

It had been mooted around the village that the pensioners flats in High Street were to be demolished. Nothing had officially been received about this and the clerk would clarify this with Greatwell Homes, though it was believed that this would be unlikely.

Future meetings

The chairman warned members that with the increase in Covid-19 restrictions it may be necessary to hold virtual meetings as the ability to hold physical meetings may be restricted.

A review would be undertaken nearer the date of the next meeting, and whilst he was aware that this was not the preference of the parish council it may be the only way forward.

20/33 CLOSE OF MEETING

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and for maintaining social distancing rules and regulations and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Chairman.....