

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 6 November 2019 in the Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington.

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

Apologies were received from Mr K Howes.

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk), one parishioner and Mr D Price for 19/51.

19/49 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting was approved as a true and correct record thereof and signed accordingly.

19/50 DECLARATION

Mr Sharp and Mrs Sharp made a personal declaration in relation to planning application for 36 Lower Street, Great Doddington, as the property was owned by Mrs Sharp's parents.

19/51 LIME TREES, EARLS BARTON ROAD

Mr D Price attended the meeting to give his expert advice in relation to the lime trees in Earls Barton Road. He advised that pollarding would be quite radical and not the best option for the trees. He suggested that the trees be crown lifted so that everything at the bottom of the trees was cut back. This could be done, on both sides of the road, without the need for a road closure. It would give an effect of an avenue of trees and would look clean and tidy. He brought along some photographs as an example of what could be achieved.

The chairman thanked Mr Price for his advice and opened the debate for discussion. Parish councillors considered this would be a much better option. The clerk cautioned that the trees were highway trees and as such authority would need to be sought from the county council about whether this work could be considered. The chairman asked when this sort of work would be best carried out and it was confirmed that anytime before March would be appropriate. Mr Price was asked to provide a quotation and the clerk would also seek two quotations from other providers for the work and seek authority from highways.

(Mr Price left the meeting.)

19/52 POLICE ISSUES

Burglary at the Shop, Chapel Lane

It was reported that there had been another burglary at the shop. No money or cigarettes were kept on the premises, so there was nothing to take.

19/53 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Hardwater Crossroads – Confirmation had been received from 'fix my street' that improvements to the white lining was programmed to be carried out. No date was given for this.

White lining High Street

The clerk had reported the faded lining some months ago. She had now been informed that this would be carried out in the next 28 days. This would be monitored.

A complaint had been received about parked vehicles on the bend by Goodens Lane and High Street, particularly when people attending funeral wakes at The Stag. Whilst appreciating that this was a sensitive subject the landlord would be asked to ensure that cones were placed on the bend to avoid people parking as it was particularly dangerous corner and had caused an issue with buses and coaches.

A resident had also raised an issue regarding his property, which was located on High Street near to the Lower Street bend, as his roof tiles had been hit by a vehicle (assumed to be a bus or coach which had caused damage as it was located very near to the highway. The clerk had given him details for the bus company and highways and it was hoped that the repainted white lining would ensure that driver's remained on the correct side of the road and not too near to his property.

1 The Ridge

The clerk had reported the issue with regard to tree branches and the general eyesore of rubbish on the verge outside 1 The Ridge. Fix my street had replied stating that they had not cut back any trees and that on inspection the branches were not from highway trees. The clerk was instructed to contact the owner/occupier of 1 The Ridge and ask them to arrange to clear the branches and builder's bag from the highway grass verge.

Speedwatch and speeding checks

The clerk had spoken with the Speedwatch organiser who confirmed that the recent speedchecks had been thought provoking as some were habitual speeders who lived in the village. Some drivers had even stated that their SatNavs showed that certain areas were 40mph when they were clearly 30mph. She would provide the parish council with figures in due course. The worst area was Earls Barton Road late

afternoon/early evening. There were also some issues around school times with parents entering the village along The Ridge speeding. The team suggested that the vehicle activation signs needed to be replaced with interactive signs which show both the speed of travel and give a 'thank you' if driving within the limit. She also asked for interim signs reminding drivers that it was a 30mph area. The group were commended for their work and enthusiasm in trying to prevent speeding.

The clerk had also contacted the Safer Roads Team asking what sort of VAS it would recommend and how we could try to reduce speed generally in the village. They responded and confirmed that the speedwatch team could have the camera for up to an additional four weeks beyond their planned enforcement period. This meant that the team had a further two weeks that they could book. Whilst being unable to recommend any particular VAS he did suggest that a good option would be to have a portable sign allowing it to be easily moved around from place to place and that a coloured unit was beneficial as it would display text. This does not require electricity and is used with batteries. A section 50 licence would also be required from the county council. Additional signage would not be permissible, but the co-ordinator had been provided with bin stickers which show 30mph and could be placed as appropriate.

A member of the speedwatch team spoke to the meeting and stressed his concern over the terrible driving and excess speed that some vehicles were driving through the village, which was of great concern to him. He also stressed that the faded white lining did not help. He also asked if the white lining at the Earls Barton Road/Wilby Lane area could be repainted.

The parish council noted his comments and would take as much action as it could but did point out that whilst responsible drivers would take notice of VASs others would not and that some drivers were persistent offenders who would ignore any deterrent that was put in place.

The clerk would contact the county council to find out about the Section 50 licence and would seek some quotations for an appropriate portable VAS, whilst awaiting the information. This could then be put forward for consideration for funding for the precept for 2020-21.

Hedge St Nicholas Road

The clerk confirmed that this was on the programme for Greatwell Homes but no date for completion had been given.

Request for dog bin at the Wellingborough end of The Ridge –

The dog bin had been received and would be installed by Mr Puttnam in the next week.

19/54 PLANNING ISSUES

WP/19/0053/FUL amended plans - 36 Lower Street – No objection. 12 St Nicholas Road had been permitted by BCW.

Enforcement action:

18 Glenfield Drive

It was commented that the tiles on the roof of 18 Glenfield Drive did not match other properties and that this was not in accordance with the approved plans. The clerk had contacted the planning department who had informed the complainant to contact the enforcement officer Lionel Harper, who would then investigate further LHarper@wellingborough.gov.uk

Enforcement – Land opposite 46 Hardwater Road

The enforcement officer had visited the site and was working with the occupier who was aware that the land needed tidying up. The occupier has confirmed that he would work with the council in rectifying the problem, though it may take some weeks to achieve this.

19/55 FINANCE

The financial details for the quarter and following invoices were approved.

Payments made:			
Name:	For:	Chq. no.	Amount
Glasdon UK Limited	Purchase of dog bin	1658	350.55
Aylesbury Mains Ltd	Inv 19454 – 74 Glenfield Drive and 29 John Gray Road	1659	86.40
Cobra Gardens	Purchase of mower	1660	499.99
F M Puttnam	Grasscutting invoice 07	1661	324.80
Mrs C Mundy	Salary/Acc fee Sept/Oct	1662	579.42
Mrs C Mundy	Salary/Acc fee Nov/Dec	1663	579.42
RBL	Donation S 137 for Wreath	1664	50.00
Currys	Computer maintenance	DD	7.50

19/56 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Matting for Zipwire

Mrs Sharp had obtained a quotation for the matting.

This was for rubber grass matting to 30sw.m including replacement of grass and top soil totalling £1,348.07.

Parish councillors thought this was a considerable amount of money but accepted it was quite a big area of land. Mrs Sharp was asked to obtain a couple of additional quotations for this work.

Proposal for artificial turf pitch (ATP)

The clerk confirmed that there was some grant funding that could possibly be available if a request was submitted but this would not be enough to cover the cost of this work. A business plan would need to be produced before any grant funding could be considered. The chairman would speak with the football club about this.

Tree outside 47 John Gray Road

One quotation had been received for the removal of the tree and others were awaited. When the quotation had been circulated some parish councillors had expressed concern over whether this tree should be removed by the parish council.

Mr Sharp had confirmed that the trees had been planted by the builders of the properties, Drurys, in the 1960's. Most of them had subsequently died or been removed. There was a suggestion that the trees may therefore be the property of the borough council, but there was no evidence to support this. Parish councillors were reminded that some of the other cherry trees had been removed by the parish council in recent years and had therefore a precedent had been set, It was also noted that the property had recently been sold.

Mr Crisp also mentioned that the owner of an adjacent property had also raised concern that the tree roots were invading his property.

The clerk had asked Mrs Webber at BCW to confirm who she thought owned the trees or had responsibility for them. It was agreed that this would be considered further once she had expressed her opinion.

Replacement mower

Mr Puttnam had purchased the Airmow 51 PRO as per the invoice paid above. This would be added to the asset register.

Complaint about the cemetery area

Mr Sharp had met the potential contractor on site and explained exactly what was required. This included the cutting back of ivy on the tree and on three walls, to cut back and top hedging and to shred and remove waste up to two tonne limit. It was expected that this would take two people up to a week.

It was agreed that two additional quotations would be sought for this work as a comparison.

The footpath through the churchyard, was part of the safer routes footpath, and this needed some remedial work doing to it as the path was no longer wide enough for wheelchair access. The clerk would raise this with the NCC.

Social Media

Mr Cunningham reported on the activity on social media:

- Naming of the Prison
- Dustcart breakdown along The Ridge;
- Higgins – the café was now open selling drinks and cakes;
- Grove Farm incident with tiled roof;
- Hardwater Bridge;
- Karin Brawn – Village News request for copy;

Mrs Sharp would check social media in November and report anything to the chairman or clerk.

Village News – December edition

Mr Sharp asked deliverers if they would include the Church Xmas Card when delivering. This was agreed.

Christmas Tree

It was confirmed that the parish council would fund this in line with S137 payments, as in previous years.

Approval for Circus Tent

It was agreed that a circus tent could be placed on the recreation ground overnight. This was for the use of the school for a circus themed evening for the children.

Projections for 2020-21

It was agreed that quotations for the following would be obtained:

- Cemetery Project;
- Lime tree crown lift;
- Vehicle activated signage;

Health and Safety Issues

Nothing was raised in this regard, other than as detailed above.

Elections 2020 - The clerk reminded parish councillors that there would be elections on 7 May 2020, so if they wished to stand again they would need to complete nomination forms in due course.

19/57 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

Chairman