

## **GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 15 December 2020**

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

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

#### **20/44 APOLOGIES**

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

#### **20/45 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 4 November 2020 be approved.

#### **20/46 POLICE MATTERS**

##### **Travellers site – Hardwater Road**

Comparable figures were still awaited and had been chased up by the clerk on numerous occasions with the officer involved sending apologies for the delay due to workload. This would be escalated to the Chief Inspector if nothing was forthcoming.

The new hardstanding and additional caravans now located on the site had both been queried with the planning enforcement officer at the borough council and this was being investigated. There were currently no environmental health issues with the site. The housing team were also involved from the 'suitable housing' perspective.

The clerk had asked the police if they regularly liaised with the owner to gather intelligence to find out if there were any plans for the site in the future.

The clerk would chase for responses and keep an eye on further developments.

#### **20/47 HIGHWAY ISSUES**

**Hardwater Crossroads** – The painting of the white lining remained on the long-list for action and was not listed as priority. The clerk would, however, contact Cllr Jason Smithers to see if there was anything he could do to escalate this.

### **Gigaclear and footpaths**

The clerk had spoken with Gigaclear who would look at this once all the work in the village was completed. They did inform her that it was not their current practice to place 'golden gravel' on tarmaced strips. The clerk had expressly asked them to consider this and to match 'like for like' particularly in the conservation area.

### **Footpath through the churchyard**

The contract had been awarded to Timotay, the work had not yet commenced on site.

### **Amenity Garden**

The clerk had confirmed to the owner of the adjoining property that inspection of the site had indicated that the issues referred to were not related to the Sycamore tree and that foliage near to the wall had recently been cut back and there was no intention to carry out any additional work. A surveyor should be able to access the wall.

The clerk had also spoken to an Arboriculturist working for the owners of the property regarding the leylandii trees invading the footpath to the front of the house, which the parish council had asked to be cut back on a number of occasions. He had himself noted that these needed attention and had previously raised with the owner and would do so again.

The clerk had also instructed two separate companies to carry out an independent survey of the Sycamore tree and would report back in due course.

### **Lamps**

Aylesbury Mains had faced a further furlough of staff with the November/December lockdown but were doing as much as they could with the reduced staffing levels. One councillor asked if there was a duty of care to get lamps working within five days. The clerk confirmed that this was not the case.

**Glenfield Drive** – the councillor who had raised this had taken another look at the location of the lamp and had some concerns over where it could go and also whether if it was moved that it would cause disturbance and damage to the wall. The clerk had already asked Aylesbury to make suitable suggestions for an alternative location.

**Conifers outside 10 Glenfield Drive** – the councillor who raised this had spoken with the owner's gardener and he would raise it with the owner's daughter who dealt with anything to do with the property.

**Tree 1 The Ridge** – a quotation for cutting back the branches invading the highway was being sought.

## 20/48 FINANCE

The external audit had been completed and comments thereon would be actioned for the future. The following invoices were approved for payment and the finance were noted:

|   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| Great Doddington PCC – Reimbursement for floodlighting of the church footpath | (1785) | 400.00 |
| Wellingborough Norse – Rec. ground to 30 10 20                                | (1786) | 145.59 |
| E-On Street lighting 1 11 20 to 30 11 20                                      | (1787) | 387.79 |
| E-On Street lighting 1 9 20 to 30 9 20  | (1788) | 387.79 |
| Aylesbury Mains - Lamps Inv 20140   | (1789) | 118.80 |
| Aylesbury Mains – Lamps Inv 20112   | (1890) | 86.40  |
| Mr J E Sharp - Refund Xmas Tree   | (1891) | 90.00  |
| Mrs C A Mundy – Salary/Acc fee Oct and Nov.                                   | (1892) | 579.42 |
| Mr J E Sharp – Delivery of Xmas tree – refund                                 | (1893) | 15.00  |

## 20/49 Planning

The following applications had been received:

The Mill, Hardwater - this had been permitted

3 Glenfield Drive - rear extension - no issues raised;

Manor House, Church lane - listed building consent - no issues were raised.

## 20/50 Health and Safety Issues

**Covid-19** – Instructions were coming from the government daily on restrictions particularly over the Christmas period; it had been intimated that the proposed five days of Christmas would be reduced to stop the spread of the virus but if this happened there would be a national campaign publicising this.

## 20/51 Social Media

The following issues had been referred to on social media:

**Poppies in the village garden** – there had been many comments and praise for this initiative. The clerk had contacted the RBL and the lamp poppies could be ordered for the conservation area at £3 per lamp – it was agreed that this would be arranged for 2021.

**Green bins** – there had been some complaints about green bins not being emptied.

**Stolen Car** – the police had stopped a stolen vehicle which had crashed just outside the village.

**Recreation ground** – again complaints that people weren't picking up after their dogs.

## 20/52 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Lamp post poppies

The clerk had obtained a quote for the above at £3 per lamp – it was agreed that these be ordered in the New Year. A councillor mentioned

the 'Tommy' metal 'Lest We Forget' soldiers for the amenity garden or elsewhere in the village. The clerk thought these were around £25 but would obtain a quotation for consideration.

**Painting of Footpath sign and heritage lamp**

A quotation had been received for the lamp and finger post repainting at £175.00. This was agreed and the clerk would ask Mr Puttnam to proceed with this.

**Gate to the recreation ground off High Street**

Mr Puttnam had taken a look at the gate and concluded that it would be more prudent for the parish council to consider replacing this rather than to carry out repairs which were quite extensive. A replacement gate would cost £525.000. The parish council considered this and agreed that Mr Puttnam be asked to replace the whole gate.

**Heritage benches outside 1 The Ridge and High Street**

The heritage benches were being made and would be delivered to Mr Puttnam by prior arrangement. Mr Puttnam would install these at a cost of £235.00 with the fittings ordered from the company making the benches.

**Noticeboard** - it was agreed that the noticeboard near the amenity garden needed to be replaced rather than it being repaired. Mr Puttnam would be asked to provide a quotation for a new noticeboard.

**Great Doddington Charity**

Mr Smith as chairman of the Scarecrow Fund had agreed to consult with Mr Brown and his daughter on the transfer of the charity.

**Christmas Tree**

The Christmas tree had once again been placed in the amenity garden. The thanks of the parish council were extended to Mr Sharp for arranging this.

**Future meetings**

Meetings would continue to be held using Zoom until restrictions were lifted.

**20/53 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The chairman thanked everyone for their virtual attendance, wished everyone a merry Christmas and confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 13 January 2021.

Chairman.....