

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the virtual meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 9 July 2020 using the Zoom platform

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

Apologies were received from Mr Crisp and Mr Kelly.

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

The chairman welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of the parish council.

20/01 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 February 2020 were approved as a true record.

20/02 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

20/03 POLICE ISSUES

No issues were reported.

20/04 HIGHWAY ISSUES

White Lining

The white lining through the village had been completed in March 2020. The clerk had thanked highways for completing this long outstanding job.

Hardwater Crossroads – traffic calming and white lining

There was no definitive date for this work to be completed. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, highways was working approximately three months behind on their programme of works.

Hardwater Bridge repairs

The repairs to the bridge had been undertaken in June. One councillor commented that the repair works had made it difficult to see oncoming traffic. This would be monitored.

Footpath A45 overgrown

There were branches infringing the footpath from Great Doddington to the A45. These had been reported via Street Doctor on a previous occasion and were programmed to be cut back. No date for this as yet.

Land opposite The Stag

This land is in the ownership of highways and needed to be maintained as it was becoming overgrown; the clerk would report this to Street Doctor.

Drains/Manhole covers Earls Barton Road

The drains appear to be blocked this could be due to the work recently undertaken by the gas board with debris shifting. The clerk will report this to Anglian Water. It was also raised that the contractors had not cleaned up very well following the work the clerk would ask if the street cleaner could visit the village.

Highway clearance Earls Barton Road to Magna Grove

Following the work undertaken by Land Prune on the Earls Barton Road trees the company had been asked to quote for the clearance work of all the self set trees and overgrown vegetation along the above area. This area formed part of the highway but no work had been carried out for many years, despite requests for this to be done, to highways. Highways had given approval for the tree and ancillary work to be undertaken by the parish council earlier in the year.

The quotation was to clear the area at a cost of £350.00 and then to carry out monthly routine maintenance. A discussion took place about this and it was agreed that Dan's Trees and Gardens be instructed to carry out the clearance of the area, but that at the current time the monthly maintenance was not required. The clerk would pass this instruction to Mr Price.

Wheelie bins on pavement - WNorse had asked parishioners to ensure they were moved if it was not bin collection day. Whilst understanding that the bins were left out to prevent parking at the school this should not continue.

Street Lamps

A number of lamps had been reported and repaired during the last few months. The following also needed attention:

19/21 The Ridge lamp was out.

Lamp 96 Lower Street was not working again.

111 The Ridge lamp was out.

Lamp half way along Goodens Lane was also out.

1 The Ridge

The issue regarding the rubbish outside of 1 The Ridge was raised. There was a considerable amount of rubbish including tree branches and builders bags in this vicinity. The clerk had previously written to the owner of 1 The Ridge who had said that the rubbish was not from their property but from 3 The Ridge (property was currently on the market). She had, however admitted that the builder's bags were from her property and they were awaiting collection from the builder's

merchant. In the circumstances WNorse had removed some of the other rubbish on the parish council's behalf at that time. The current rubbish all appeared to emanate from 1 The Ridge and the clerk was asked once again to write and ask that it be removed within the month and the area cleared and made good.

20/05 PLANNING ISSUES

Prison Site – Variation to condition

This had been approved by the borough council planning department and was to change the entrance from a roundabout to a signalled junction with pedestrian crossing and bus stop.

WP/20/00358/LBC

3 Church Lane – Removal of windows and replacement as per other windows in the property – there were no objections to this.

20/06 FINANCE

The following invoices were approved for payment – it was also noted that some invoices* had been agreed via email when meetings could not take place due to Covid-19:

| Payments made: | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------|--------|
| Name: | For: | Chq. no. | Amount |
| Mr F M Puttnam* | Invoices 11 and 12 – including grass cutting and repairs to strimmer | 1743 | 373.10 |
| Mr F M Puttnam* | Repainting of Village Sign | 1744 | 110.00 |
| Mr F M Puttnam* | Invoice 13 – Grasscutting, removal of memorabilia and dog bins | 1745 | 279.80 |
| Aylesbury Mains Ltd | Invoice 19539 78 and 63 Glenfield Drive lamp repairs | 1746 | 114.60 |
| Aylesbury Mains Ltd | Lamp repairs 25 and 84 Earls Barton Road, 95 John Gray Road | 1747 | 146.28 |
| Aylesbury Mains Ltd | 48 and 49 John Gray Road – Replacement lamps | 1748 | 984.00 |
| F M Puttnam | Inv. 14 – Grasscutting and Dog Bins | 1749 | 234.80 |
| F M Puttnam | Inv. 15 – Grasscutting, hedge cutting & dog bins | 1750 | 284.80 |
| F M Puttnam | Inv. 16 – Grasscutting, dog bins, Bus shelter cleaning | 1751 | 279.80 |
| E-On | 1 3 20 to 31 3 20 | 1752 | 421.36 |
| E-On | 1 4 20 to 30 4 20 | 1753 | 406.97 |
| E-On | 1 5 20 to 31 5 20 | 1754 | 420.53 |
| E-On | 1 6 20 to 30 6 20 | 1755 | 406.97 |
| Markel Insurance | Gardening Team annual insurance | 1756 | 100.80 |
| BHIB | Annual Insurance | 1757 | 975.48 |
| Wellingborough Norse | Grasscutting – Rec April 2020 | 1758 | 145.59 |

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| Wellingborough Norse | Grasscutting – Rec x 2 May 2020 | 1759 | 291.17 |
| Wellingborough Norse | Grasscutting – Rec x 2 June 2020 | 1760 | 291.17 |
| NALC | Subscription 2020-2021 | 1761 | 475.57 |
| Grt. Dodd. Chapel Rooms | Hire of hall for meetings x 10 | 1762 | 180.00 |
| C A Mundy | Salary/Acc fee – April/May '20 | 1763 | 579.42 |
| C A Mundy | Salary/Acc fee – June/July '20 | 1764 | 579.42 |
| Currys | Insurance computer equipment April to June @£7.50pm | DD | 22.50 |
| | | | |

20/07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Replacement Bench, The Ridge

The clerk and Mr Cunningham had made some enquiries about VE Memorial Benches to replace the rotten bench at The Ridge which Mr Crisp had kindly removed. The details of options had been circulated to parish councillors and it was considered that a VE Bench would be a good choice. It was, however, noted that since the bench had been removed a telephone cable box had been placed in the vicinity, which may make it difficult to site a new bench. The chairman suggested that parish councillors consider before the next meeting where a bench would be best sited. It was, however, noted that this particular style of bench would be better where it would be seen and used and that a bench was needed along The Ridge. Consideration would also be given to the requirement for other additional benches if required. Discussion took place over the recreation ground, though it was felt that there were sufficient seating areas already in this vicinity.

Cemetery

Concern had been expressed by a grave owner that there was still overgrown areas in the cemetery. Mr Sharp had taken a look at the particular issue and said he would cut some of the area back to make it look nicer. It was, however, noted that grave spaces were purchased and keeping them tidy was down to the owner of the plot and was not the responsibility of the parish council.

Grasscutting at the recreation ground

WNorse were complimented on the excellent way they had cut the grass in the recreation ground over the last three months. The clerk would pass this on to them.

Social Media

Mr Cunningham reported the following:

Party at the Rec – a lot of litter had been left behind which had been cleared and placed into the wheelie bins. The clerk reminded everyone that the current guidelines due to the pandemic encouraged people to take home their own litter and not clog up litter bins or wheelie bins that others had to empty for everyone's safety.

Rave - It was reported that there had been a 'rave' between Great Doddington and Wilby, which the police had stopped. One person had been arrested.

Great Doddington Club was open for business and had been redecorated during the pandemic.

Great Doddington Gardening Team had been complimented on the lovely hanging baskets.

VE Day celebrations had continued in the village although everyone had socially distanced and celebrated in their own gardens.

Fly Tipping – there had been an abundance of rubbish during April but this had eased off since.

Petition – Hardwater Lakes - There was some concern over Hanson 'emptying the lake' but following investigations it had materialised that this was part of an old planning consent and was not as had previously been mooted in the petition.

Emptying of bins

There had been various problems with bins being emptied particularly at Frost Court. WNorse had said they could not gain access to particular roads due to parked vehicles. This had been raised directly with Norse who had said that it was up to individual refuse driver's to make a decision as to whether it was safe to enter a street and collect the bins. Parked cars were frequently an issue and if the driver did not feel that they could pass them safely they would not do so.

Signs – Fingerposts

The chairman commented that the fingerposts looked like they needed maintenance and suggested that councillors take a look and this could be discussed further at the next meeting.

Flats High Street

Mr Howes was praised for the way he had cut the grass at the flats in High Street. The grasscutting was the responsibility of Greatwell Homes who during 'lockdown' had been unable to do this. The issue was raised about the Health and Safety of the path leading up the flats which was in a very poor condition with a number of potholes. The clerk would report this to Greatwell Homes and ask that this be dealt with as an urgent health and safety issue.

Bus Stop High Street

When Mr Howes had been cutting the grass he noted that the bus stop was in a poor condition. He volunteered to repaint this and the parish council thanked him for this and would pay for the products he would need to use.

Superfast Broadband

A company called 'Gigaclear' would be working in the village during the autumn to put in superfast broadband.

Date of next meeting

The chairman proposed that the next meeting would be a socially distanced face-to-face meeting and would be for the postponed annual council meeting. It was agreed that subject to government guidelines and the availability of a suitable venue that this be held at **7pm on Wednesday 5 August 2020.**

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

Chairman