

## **GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 13 January 2021**

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

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

#### **20/54 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED** to note that an apology was received from Mr Crisp.

#### **20/55 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 December 2020 be approved.

#### **20/56 POLICE MATTERS**

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

The clerk had received a response from the planning department, who had informed that legal advice was being sought on a possible breach of planning. The council is only aware of three caravans being located on the site, if there is evidence of more this would be appreciated. The police had also responded obtaining comparable figures had not been as straight-forward as they had hoped due to the way of recording and a system change. Correspondence between the police and BCW had been held regarding the site, and from a police perspective there was no issue currently with no intelligence to indicate there was anything planned for the site regarding events in the future.

#### **20/57 HIGHWAY ISSUES**

##### **Hardwater crossroads**

The clerk had received confirmation that the white lining had been repainted before Christmas. The parish councillors had not been aware of any work taking place and the clerk thought it had been done but inevitably the gravel still covered it. She had made highways aware of this and they had arranged for the gravel sweeper to attend but had said that this would happen.

There had been a further accident at the crossroads on Sunday last and this had been reported to the police. Another accident had happened today, Wednesday, which again had been reported.

The clerk had been in contact with Councillor Jason Smithers the portfolio holder for highways and asked if support could be given to

further action being taken at these crossroads. All were aware that when travelling from Cut Throat Lane to the crossroads at certain times of day there was a mirage effect and it looked like it was a through road, however there were clear markings on the road and the signs were clear and not obscured at all - driver's needed to take notice of.

Highways were aware of the slight dip when travelling from Cut-Throat Lane, but the signage was adequate and had been placed within the legislation for this crossroads. Police reports were automatically sent to highways following each incident and would continue to be carefully monitored.

Parish Councillors asked if the words 'SLOW' could be painted further away from the junction to indicate to driver's that the junction was coming up quite quickly. The clerk would pass this request on.

### **Fly-tipping**

There was a considerable amount of fly-tipping and investigations on some bags deposited at Hardwater had led to a name being passed to WNorse who would investigate and prosecute if able to do so.

### **Amenity Garden**

The clerk had contacted two companies regarding the sycamore tree.

One had suggested the removal of the ivy and growth at the base.

The second had again suggested the removal of the ivy and other growth and gave two options for a crown reduction of 20% or a crown raise.

After discussion it was agreed that the work needed to be carried out on the sycamore to maintain it. It was decided that a crown reduction was the best choice and the clerk would give instructions for this to be carried out. She would also inform Mrs Webber of the Borough Council as the tree was in the conservation area in case there were any issues.

**1 The Ridge** – a quotation had been received for the tree work – it was recommended that the lower branches hanging over the road would be cut back. This was also agreed.

### **Gigaclear and footpaths**

The clerk had received nothing further from Gigaclear but work was ongoing and they had said they would do an inspection once everything had been completed.

### **Footpath through the churchyard**

The work on the footpath had yet to be commenced by Timotay.

## **Lamps**

Aylesbury Mains had faced a further furlough of staff but had been given dispensation by the government to continue with streetlamp repairs, they had a backlog of repairs to complete but would do so as soon as they could.

The following had been reported:

Two lamps between 38 and 42 Earls Barton Road;  
1 Magna Grove;  
13 Wilby Lane;  
123-125 The Ridge  
103 The Ridge;  
66 Glenfield Drive;

The following were also reported:

Outside 7 John Gray Road  
One lamp halfway up St Nicholas Road.

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** – there was no further information in relation to the overgrown conifers.

## **20/58 FINANCE**

The following invoices were approved for payment and the finance were noted:

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| E-On – Street Lighting 1 10 2020 (1794) | 400.73 |
| E-On – Street lighting 1 12 2020 (1795) | 400.73 |
| Mr F M Puttnam dog bins Inv 20 (1796)   | 52.30  |
| Mr F M Puttnam dog bins Inv 21 (1797)   | 52.30  |
| Aylesbury Mains (Inv 20193)             | 86.40  |

### **Projection for 2021-2022**

The clerk presented figures for the projection 2021-22 taking into consideration the current expenditure for 2020-21 along with any suggested projects to be considered for 2021-2022. There was no change to the number of band D properties in Great Doddington for this year (as at data provided by BCW for November 2020). Following the consultation on the draft budget for North Northamptonshire it was evident that there would be an increase in the council tax for those living in North Northamptonshire when the new unitary authority comes into force on 1 April 2021.

Parish councillors discussed the options before them to increase, reduce or remain with the current precept. There was some concern

that the parish council did not currently know what the new unitary council would wish to devolve to parish councils. The clerk reassured the parish council that whatever, if anything, was devolved would not happen in year one of the unitary authority. Considerable discussion and consultation would need to take place before this would happen. Budgets for 2021-2022 had already been, or were in the process of being set, as the unitary authority would be aware that finances would limit what could be devolved. There would need to be a lot of discussion and negotiations should the new North Northamptonshire Council wish to pass services to parish councils as they would need to also provide some form of financial incentive to do so.

It was unanimously agreed that the parish precept for 2021-2022 be agreed at £25,000.

**RESOLVED** that the precept for 2021-2022 be £25,000

### **20/59 Planning**

The following applications had been received:

3 Glenfield Drive - Permitted;

Manor House, Church lane – Permitted;

17 High Street - No issues raised;

Old Water Tower - Side extension - no issues raised, though it may be classed as over-development of the site as there won't be much garden left.

### **20/60 Health and Safety Issues**

**Covid-19** – Instructions from the government continued to be received about staying at home to protect the NHs; although the country was in lockdown the playground area at the recreation ground was permitted to remain open.

### **20/61 Social Media**

The following issues had been referred to on social media:

**Advert windows** - these had proved to be popular and had been well received;

**Flooding** – there had been some concern in the High Street area with the considerable rain over the Xmas period; fields lower down the village had also been flooded but this was not unexpected with the volume of rain experienced.

**Sheep** - Sheep had escaped, from a Farmer's field, and this had been raised as a potential issue.

### **20/62 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Housing Needs Survey**

The clerk had received communication from Midlands Rural Housing that they were carrying out a housing needs survey for Great Doddington and this had been sent to every home in the village with a

request that parishioners respond thereto, this would enable them to find out what the local housing need requirements would be for the future so they could plan - for example was there a need for bungalows to be built to free up three bedroom houses for families to live in. Responses needed to be returned by 30 January 2021.

#### **Drain – Earls Barton Road**

During the recent heavy rain, the drain cover had been lifted by the water in the drain – this indicated that the drain needed to be cleaned – the clerk would report this to Anglian Water.

#### **Water – Glenfield Drive**

It was reported there was a lot of water running down Glenfield Drive. This was confirmed to be from one of the natural springs and frequently happened when there was a lot of rain. This could not be prevented as it was from a natural source.

#### **Stonework at the Village Triangle**

It had been noted that the stonework needed considerable attention. The clerk would obtain a quotation for the work from a reputable stone specialist.

#### **Lamp post poppies**

The chairman would ascertain how many poppies would be required and let the clerk know so that an order could be placed for these in readiness for November 2021.

In relation to the 'Tommy' metal 'Lest We Forget' soldiers these averaged at around £85 depending on size.

It was agreed that one be placed in the amenity garden, one at the village triangle and possibly one at either end of the village – a final decision on this would be made for the next meeting.

#### **Painting of Footpath sign and heritage lamp**

Mr Puttnam would carry out this work when he was able to do so.

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

Mr Puttnam would arrange to replace the gate in due course.

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

These would be delivered in February.

#### **Noticeboard -**

The clerk had received a quote for the replacement of the noticeboard. To replace in the same style as existing would be £1200 to replace with a smaller version with one door opening would be £800. A modern style noticeboard which would not be in keeping with the conservation area was around £800 depending on supplier.

After a discussion it was agreed to go with the style that was already in situ. The clerk would place the order.

**Great Doddington Charity**

The chairman would arrange for Mr Smith to contact Mr Brown or his daughter to discuss this. The clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr Brown's daughter to explain that this may be an option for the charity to be transferred.

**Christmas Tree**

Mr Sharp asked if thanks could be passed to Dan Price for the removal and disposal of the Christmas tree, which had been much appreciated.

**Parking in High Street**

It was reported that cars were once again parking on the grass verge opposite the shop. It was particularly noted that a white car was repeatedly parked in this vicinity and that the grass was being churned up by this. The situation would be monitored previously large stones had been placed on grass verges to stop the issue of parking and it may be necessary to do this once again.

**Future meetings**

Meetings would continue to be held using Zoom until restrictions were lifted. Next meeting to be held mid-February 2021.

**20/63 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Chairman.....