

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 6 December 2017 in the Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington.

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

(Apologies were received from Mr Howes and Mrs Smith)

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

17/74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made.

17/75 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

17/76 POLICE ISSUES

It was believed that there had been a robbery at a house on Hardwater Road and a break-in at a shed along The Ridge. Crime reports were no longer being received from the police though access was supposed to be available through the police website which was often random.

The chairman had received an email from the Commissioner asking if consideration could be given by the parish council to sponsoring a PCSO in the region of £37,000 per annum. The chairman had responded to him and explained that as a small parish council budgets would not permit this sort of expenditure.

It was generally considered that the service from the police was disappointing and not as good as previously with regard to the dissemination of information. The link to the police website did not always work and was not particularly easy to navigate.

17/77 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Lamp Village Triangle Lower Street and High Street

The lamp was not working properly. The clerk would report this.

Lamp The Ridge

It was reported that the first lamp was often obscured by the highway tree. This would be monitored and reported should the tree need cutting back when it started to grow in the spring.

Electricity Pole – Goodens Lane

This had not been repaired despite repeated reminders.

17/78 PLANNING ISSUES

There were no further applications.

17/79 FINANCE

The following accounts and financial statements were approved for payment:

Perkins Florists – Funeral spray S137 – (1551)	50.00
Aylesbury Mains Ltd	
Repairs to connect DVO band to column (1552)	100.20
Parish Magazine Printing – Dec edition (1553)	349.10
Timotay – repairs to swing playground (1554)	1571.10
F M Puttnam – Xmas tree for amenity garden (1555)	150.00
S Cunningham – S137 donation for pensioners lunch (1556)	100.00

17/80 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Use of the Chapel Rooms

The clerk had received a draft of a licence to occupy to enable the parish council to use the chapel. It was agreed that this be signed by the chairman and that the parish council would abide to the rules of occupancy therein.

The chapel had also asked the parish council to sign a further licence to occupy in regard to the chiropody sessions held at the chapel and for which the parish council had historically assisted with the rental costs. The parish council considered whether we should continue to make this rental payment as we believed that the original chiropodist was no longer holding the clinic and it had been taken over by someone else. Whilst providing a service, particularly for the elderly of the village, this was in fact a business and as such a question was raised over whether we should continue to fund this through section 137 funding. The chairman would make some enquiries to see who used the service and bring back information to the next meeting in this regard when a decision could be made.

Appointment of External Auditor

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had appointed 'Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd' (SAAA) to carry out the external audit next year.

100th Anniversary of WWI

The borough council had written asking what plans the parish council or its historical society had considered to commemorate the anniversary.

To date there was nothing that the parish council was aware of.

Bin Recreation ground

The clerk was continuing to seek agreement from Norse for a wheelie bin.

Newsletter

The Winter 2017 edition of the Village News had been printed and distributed. Grateful thanks was extended to Karin Brawn for her editorial skills with this edition and for sourcing the new printers.

County Council budget consultation

The NCC was in severe financial difficulty and was currently consulting on their budget, which included cuts to library services, trading standards, children's centres and highway maintenance. The public could submit their feedback on line if they wished to do so.

Projects 2018-19

The clerk reminded parish councillors that in January the financial projections would need to be agreed to enable the parish council precept to be submitted. She asked if there were any specific projects that they wished to consider and get quotations for.

It was agreed that the fencing for the recreation ground/football area as per the quotation of £1476.00 would be preferable to do in the next financial year.

It was also considered that funding towards the replacement of play equipment should be prioritised. Consideration to any further replacement of lamps would also be given, particularly replacement of the lamp in the amenity garden if it continued to be a problem.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 10 January 2018.

The chairman wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

Chairman