

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on **13 April 2016** in the Chapel Rooms, Great Doddington.

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

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk) and one parishioner.

Apologies were received from Mrs Griffiths and Mr Howes.

16/01 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2016 were approved and signed.

16/02 DECLARATIONS

No declarations were made.

16/03 Items raised on the minutes

Planning application for 57 The Ridge - this had been approved.

Health and Safety issue - access from Magna Grove was discussed. The people who lived on this small estate were cutting through by the trees on Earls Barton Road to leave the estate rather than crossing the road and then crossing back again. When the estate had been built this had been highlighted as a concern but the Highways Authority had been unable to agree to a footpath being built because of the trees and the width that would have been required. The clerk would refer this again to highways from the safety point of view.

16/04 POLICE MATTERS

It had been reported that there had been nine crimes had taken place in the village. These crimes had mainly been burglary related with break-ins to dwellings and sheds and items being stolen. There had also been a vehicle theft and a couple of domestic abuse incidents.

This would continue to be monitored.

Lower Street residents

The chairman had received an email about various crime and general issues in Lower Street. These included speeding cars using Lower Street as a short cut avoiding High Street at busy times. Parking on pavements, which meant that pedestrians had to walk on the roadway. Planning issues with regard to applications for driveways and re-siting of garages being refused and the general increase in crime levels.

Members discussed these concerns. With regard to the planning application e this had been refused by the Borough Council of Wellingborough, even though the parish council had not made an objection. The resident involved would need to deal directly with the Borough Council over this issue.

With regard to speeding vehicles parish councillors were surprised that cars could speed along Lower Street because of the parked vehicles. The road was narrow and as such a vehicle would need to slow down. Previous issues had been raised regarding parking on pavements and accessibility for wheelchair users and those with buggies having to walk on the road. It had been appreciated that due to the narrow roadway it was the only alternative to allow vehicles to park. It was considered that it would be unlikely that any improvements could be made as the road was a public highway and not a private roadway, but the clerk would pass this onto Helen Howard at Highways to see if there was anything that she could suggest. With regard to the speeding incidents these needed to be reported to the police giving details of registration numbers etc. Also a reminder about the community based speed watch volunteers could be placed in the Village News to see if anyone wished to get involved as this always acted as a deterrent.

16/05 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Pothole

- **Glenfield Drive**

It was reported that there was a large pothole located by the salt bin on the pavement/road.

- There were large holes on the roadway near 80 Glenfield Drive that needed filling. This was also the case near 22,44 and 46 Glenfield Drive.

Temporary Footpath Closure

The clerk reported that a temporary closure order had been made for Public Byway TB15 and TV15 from 3 March 2016 for a period of six months.

Enhancement Gangs

The clerk had submitted a request for the following works to take place:

- Cleaning of signs at either end of the village
- Cutting back of tree shoots from the Lime Trees in Earls Barton Road
- Cutting away of vegetation at either end of the village
- Clearance of the land opposite The Stag
- Bus Shelter in Earls Barton Road a general tidy up of the area and clearance of moss from the pathway.

Our requirements had been acknowledged and would be programmed in.

Tree in the amenity garden.

A request had been made from a parishioner for the tree in the amenity area to be cut back to stop it invading the gardens of adjacent properties. It was agreed that the tree had grown quite a lot and the Clerk would contact a tree surgeon for a price for the work.

Solar Farm

Following the concern over the horses at the Solar Farm, the clerk had contact Whitworth's, who owned the land, and the horses were no longer on the site. Remedial works would be carried out to the fencing to prevent the horse returning to the site. With regard to the hedging this would be planted at the most appropriate time. For information purposes the Borough Council had purchased some land and would be screening the solar farm off from the crematorium.

16/06

The Football Hut

The clerk reported on the information received from the Football Foundation which she had circulated. This confirmed that the Foundation had agreed to a grant to Great Doddington Football Club to fund new changing facilities. The trustees of the Great Doddington Football Club were James Dryden, Robert Law, Robert Digby and Robert Langley. The parish council had given them a lease of part of the recreation ground (2.08 acres) to enable the hut to be built at the recreation ground.

Ian Tinto had therefore concluded the following:

- The building belongs to the club (trustees) and due to the loan the terms and conditions indicated that the hut would default to the Football foundation if it was unable to meet such terms and conditions. The original trustees would still be liable for the building and should ensure that it was insured and that bills were paid. However, in reality the terms and conditions were old and it was unlikely that the Football Foundation would be interested in having the hut returned to them. There were two options open, whereby the hut was demolished or it could be transferred to another body.
- The recommendation was that the hut be transferred to the junior club that was currently in existence and this would ensure that it remained as a community asset.
- Suggestions in relation to an Asset transfer had also been provided.

Parish councillors discussed the detail of the information received and all concluded that the hut was an asset which if possible the parish council would like to remain in situ. There was some doubt that the junior club would want to take over the hut as the Junior team tended not to use the facilities. The clerk had been approached by James Dryden junior who wished to establish a senior football team and she had advised him to get in touch with the foundation or Association to see how he should do this. He would be speaking with Mr Howes and the chairman regarding this. An alternative was for the parish council to take the hut on and then lease it out. Legal advice would be needed before this could be considered as some concern had been expressed over certain health and safety legislation.

Mr Kelly said he knew a Solicitor who may be able to give his expertise on this and he would contact him.

Advice would be reported back to the next meeting.

16/07 STREET LIGHTING

The clerk circulated the information received from Aylesbury Mains along with the options available for the lamps.

After a lengthy discussion It was agreed that a quotation for the replacement of all the lamps in John Gray Road that were no longer working. This area was of particular concern as it was very dark and a number of lamps were broken in the same vicinity making it extremely dark.

The clerk also made reference to the various issues with lamps in Glenfield Drive, which were of a similar age and style to those in Glenfield Drive. These would be looked at in due course.

The Director of Aylesbury Mains would also be happy to attend another meeting should parish councillors feel that it would be beneficial.

The clerk would contact Aylesbury Mains.

16/08 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The financial statements and following invoices were approved:

E-On maintenance to 31 3 16 (1324)	364.51
NALC membership subs (1325)	451.48
E-On street lighting (1326)	2412.02
Aylesbury mains (1327)	1123.20
E R Davies – updating od website (1328)	20.00
R Garon – grasscutting (1329)	610.70

16/09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fencing around the hardstanding/tennis court

The clerk confirmed that a quotation had been received for the fencing of the hardstanding in the sum of £3,300.19. This was slightly cheaper than a previous quote and parish councillors wondered if a contribution towards the cost could be made by Friends of Great Doddington School as the school children used the facility.

It was considered that this needed to be done as soon as possible and that Lee Brothers be offered the contract.

Play Area – lottery funding

The clerk had heard back from the Lottery Fund who had informed her that the application was not suitable for funding. They had recommended alternative forms of funding but the maximum amount available was £10,000 and the project had to be less than £25,000.

The clerk had been informed that some funding would be available from Stanton Cross, though she did not know how much. The 'carrier bag' fund had been over-subscribed and as such it was anticipated that only a very small amount would be forthcoming. There was also a sum of £1,000 in budget from the Empowering Councillor fund.

It was suggested that there may need to be some form of fund raising towards the improvements to assist with the cost. Alternatively the scheme could be done in stages. Some further investigations would take place on alternative funding, such as a 'Just Giving' site and investigations with other parish council's as to where they got their funding from. Consideration would be given to the scheme being done in different stages.

The Emerging Local Plan

The clerk reported that the emerging local plan would soon be available on the council website for comment. Investigations had indicated that the green open space along Earls Barton Road had not be included and therefore comment would be made about this regarding its value to the village. This comment would be submitted.

The clerk urged all parish councillors and parishioners to comment on anything they considered to be incorrect to ensure that the plan truly reflected the village of Great Doddington.

Fence at the Recreation Ground

The clerk was awaiting confirmation from Mr Puttnam that his original quotation still stood and that he still wished to carry out the work.

Wicksteed Playground - Annual Inspection

The clerk confirmed that she had booked the annual inspection of the playground equipment which would be carried out in June 2016.

Calendar of meetings

The following dates were confirmed:

11 May 2016 starts at 7pm - Annual meeting

8 June 2016

20 July 2016

No meeting in August

7 September 2016

5 October 2016

9 November 2016

14 December 2016

Request for dog bin

A request had been received for a dog bin to be located at Kale Lane (The Slade) off The Ridge in Great Doddington.

It was agreed that the clerk would source a bin, once installed Mr Garon would need to empty this so there would be an additional fee for him doing this.

Extension Glenfield Drive

There was some concern over the erection of a single garage and extension at 34 Glenfield Drive. The clerk would contact the planning office to see if an application was needed for such a development.

16/10 Next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be 11 May 2016 at 7pm.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.