

## GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 7 October 2015 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 Miss Y Markie, Borough Council of Wellingborough.

Apologies were received from Mrs Griffith and Mr Howes.

### 15/37 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2015 were approved and signed.

### 15/38 DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations made.

### 15/39 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The meeting was attended by Yvonne Markie, Housing Officer at the Borough Council of Wellingborough. She explained that under the Housing Act 1985 it was necessary to carry out a housing needs survey of the village every five years. The last survey for Great Doddington was conducted five years ago and had resulted in the development of an exemption site at Magna Grove. The council was seeking the help of the parish council to circulate the housing needs survey with the Village magazine.

Miss Markie was informed that the next Village News would be distributed in mid-November. She was hopeful that she would be able to meet this deadline date and would contact the editor directly to discuss dates and requirements.

The chairman asked if it was possible to look at the questionnaire and add anything if the parish council wished. She confirmed that she would circulate this for comments.

**RESOLVED** that a housing needs survey would be circulated with the village news.

### 15/40 POLICE MATTERS

The police were unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report. There had been a total of 10 crimes for the village in September as follows:

- Burglary other – High Street, shed / barn break, lawn mower and mountain bike stolen.

- Burglary non dwelling – The Ridge – items taken after garage doors forced open.
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- Attempted burglary non dwelling – John Gray road, garage door forced but not fully open, no entry gained.
- Burglary non dwelling – The Ridge – shed break, garden equipment taken.
- Criminal damage – The Ridge – garden gate damaged.
- Theft of pedal cycle – St Nicholas road.
- Theft from motor vehicle – Hardwater road, whilst completing work for customer, male challenges offenders on entering vehicle and removing gardening electrical items, offenders make off, items recovered at scene.
- Assault with injury – Taxi collects male and female from rugby club cutthroat lane, is assaulted whilst taking them to destination.
- Making off without payment – The Stag public house, High street, three persons order food and drink on night out, then distract staff and make off without offering to settle bill.

## 15/41 HIGHWAY ISSUES

### Highway signs

It was reported that following some work in the summer diversion signs had been left in various places in the village. The clerk would contact highways to get these signs removed. Of particular concern was one at the bottom of Wilby Lane that was large and particularly obstructive. There was also still signage at the Solar Farm which needed to be removed now this had been completed.

The clerk would report all these.

### Chapel Lane signage

Mr Crisp had referred the findings to the Chapel.

### Lease of land for the football club

The clerk had found a local government solicitor who was able to represent the parish council in relation to the surrender of the lease for the land which the football club had taken some years ago. All documentation had been forwarded to her.

### Street Lamps

The clerk had reported all street lamps that were not working, where possible these had been repaired but there were issues in that some of the lamps which were now beyond repair.

The quotations to replace some of the lamps were in the region of £1,000 each. A decision was now required on how we dealt with the replacement of the lamps. Previous discussions had indicated that the replacement

programme would begin with the main roads through the village and that it would start with The Ridge.

The clerk had been in contact with the county council who specialised in street lighting and had asked whether we could get our street lighting adopted or replaced, what the costs and timescale would be and whether there would be any funding available as currently the costings were prohibitive to the budget held by the parish council.

Until this information was known the street lamps would continue to be repaired where possible but those that were beyond repair would remain unlit. Whilst the parish council was not obliged to provide street lighting it was well documented that parishioners felt more secure with lighting throughout the village. It was, however, noted that the street lamps were for the lighting of footpaths and roadways and not for the lighting of driveways; home owners needed to provide their own personal lighting for the curtilage and security of their home. Advice on this could be sought from Northamptonshire Police.

The clerk would continue to speak with the county council and Balfour Beatty and seek out other companies who provided a similar service to compare what was on offer during the next few weeks and report back to the next meeting.

#### **15/42 PLANNING**

WP/15/00576/FUL - 89 The Ridge - there was no objection to this.

#### **15/43 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The clerk reported on the findings of the External Audit which had now been concluded. To ensure that the transparency code was complied with the clerk suggested that the parish council have a Governance Working Group of three members plus the clerk to review the various documentation and policies that had been in place for some time to see if they needed to be updated. Any changes would be recommended to the parish council. There would also be a need to update the council computer and ancillary equipment. The clerk would ask Isams for recommendations in this regard. The clerk would also get together all the paperwork and convene a working group.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

E-on	
Maintenance (1504)	364.51
BDO Stoy Hayward	
Annual Return to 31/3/15 (1505)	168.00

#### **15/44 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Play area at the recreation ground**

Mrs Sharp reported that she had met with play specialists and the clerk had received a quotation and plans of what they could supply.

Parish councillors reviewed the plans and considered that the equipment shown catered for a variety of age groups. The quote was for £33,000. Other quotations had been sought as well and this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Parishes Forum – Wednesday 18 November**

The next Parishes Forum would be on 19 November at 7pm in the council chamber.

**Council Tax Support Scheme 2016/17 Consultation**

The council was consulting on the Council Tax Support Scheme 2016-17.

The information could be found on the council's website

[www.wellingborough.gov.uk](http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk) and would last until 30 November 2015.

**15/45 Next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Wednesday 2 December 2015.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

