

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 2 December 2015 in the Chapel Rooms, Great Doddington.

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

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

Apologies were received from Mrs Smith.

15/46 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2015 were approved and signed.

15/47 DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations made.

15/48 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

It was reported that the housing needs survey had been delivered with the Village News but there had been insufficient copies to deliver to Glenfield Drive. The clerk would speak to the Borough Council and ask them to arrange to deliver this directly to all homes in Glenfield Drive.

15/49 POLICE MATTERS/HIGHWAY

PCSO Rachel Hayes attended the meeting and reported on the crimes which had taken place. There had been a total of eight crimes. Reference was made to the use of drones which whilst being legal if used properly could also cause problems and should be reported; double parking on the footpath near to the flats; and a car accident at the top of Hardwater Road where a car failed to stop at the junction.

In the case of the car accident the driver of the vehicle said that he had not seen either the 30mph sign or the give way sign. The clerk would see if highways could do anything about moving the 30mph sign a little further down the hill and whether a stop sign could be placed.

The subject of speeding was also raised following an email from a local resident of The Ridge who was concerned that driving speed was increasing.

The police did periodically carry out speed checks but most along The Ridge had indicated that people were not speeding. Obviously each check gave different results. The Village News had made a request some time ago for local residents concerned about speeding to volunteer to carry out speed

checks and the chairman would respond to the resident and ask if he would be interested in being trained.

15/50 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Highway signs

The highway signs had still not been removed and the clerk would chase this up directly with Helen Howard. With regard to the solar farm the clerk had been informed that the signage was still in place for safety as the entrance was on the bend and lorries were still occasionally accessing the site.

A councillor asked when the tree planting, gating and security fencing would be completed. The clerk would raise this with Lark Energy.

Safer routes to School

It was suggested that a safety check be carried out on the safer routes to school route in relation to the trees in the spinney. The clerk would arrange for Helen Howard to get this done.

Chapel Lane signage

Mr Crisp reported that the Chapel had noted the findings but wondered if a finger post could be placed in the garden pointing down to the chapel. The clerk confirmed that these were very expensive (around £1,000) and as this was the conservation area it would need the approval of both the borough council and the county council.

Lease of land for the football club

Discussions took place regarding the future use of the football hut. The building was owned by Great Doddington Football Club but was located on parish council land and a question was asked about whether the parish council could take the club over as a community asset and how it would legally be able to do so. Initially the clerk would contact the football club's solicitors, Scott Fowler to see if the football club would be willing for the hut to become a community asset and whether it would be possible or legal for the parish council to take this over, before any further decision could be made. The clerk would also contact the Football Association to seek their thoughts.

Fencing around the tennis court

The clerk had received a quotation for the repair to the fencing from A1 Fencing Limited who had originally put the fencing up. They had quoted for as existing, or a stronger alternative. Another choice would be to over clad existing chain link with chain link on new line wires fixed on the court side which was a cheaper option.

Some parish councillors thought this was quite expensive but the clerk confirmed that when the fencing had been installed some 15 years ago it had cost a considerable amount of money. It was also suggested that kick boards be placed around the bottom.

The clerk was asked to get additional quotations from other suppliers to compare.

It was also suggested that a request for financial assistance for the repairs be made to the Scarecrow Fund and to Friends of Great Doddington School, as the school frequently used the hardstanding.

Play Area – lottery funding

Mrs Sharp had forwarded a form to the clerk to apply for lottery funding towards the play area replacement equipment. The clerk hadn't completed the form yet but would do so and submit it. A further quotation had been received from Kompan and this had been extremely higher than the previous quotation.

If funding was available the preference would be to go with the original quotation for around £33,000.

15/51 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The financial statements and following invoices were approved:

E-on - electricity supply 1 7 15 to 31 8 15 (1506)	2723.74
E-on - electricity supply 1 9 15 to 30 9 15 (1507)	795.18
E-on - electricity supply 1 10 15 to 31 10 15 (1508)	821.68
E-on - repairs to lamp 88 Frost Court (1509)	73.81
E-on - repairs Drs Lane/Bus Stop (1510)	84.55
Mrs C A Mundy - Salary and accommodation fee (1511)	535.86
Wellingborough Norse - Grounds maintenance (1512)	918.00
Isams Website hosting (1513)	62.86
DATS - newsletter printing (1514)	540.00
Mr R Garon - grasscutting (1516)	597.35
Mrs J Judge - gardening club (1517)	300.00
Great Doddington British Legion - wreath donation	45.00

15/52 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fencing around the recreation ground

A further quotation had been received for the removal of the wire fencing, wooden and concrete posts and barbed wire around the recreation ground in the sum of £3500 plus VAT. Councillors would take another look at this to see if it really needed to be removed or whether it could be left as it is.

Cemetary

The clerk reported that concern had been raised that the ivy at the cemetery/church was overgrowing and that it may invade some grave spaces. Mr Sharp confirmed that the cutting back of the ivy was ongoing and that there was no damage to any of the graves in the vicinity.

Wollaston Recycling Facility

A request had been received for the parish council to support the above remaining open. The clerk reported that this was part of a bigger discussion between the county council and the borough and district councils to resolve.

Replacement laptop/computer

The clerk reported that the council computer was now in need of urgent replacement as the programme was no longer supported. She had asked Isams Computer Service to carry out some research in relation to a new computer system and ancillary items and there were some recommendations that she would pursue. There may be some funding available under the transparency code as parish councils were being supported to ensure that the clerk had the right equipment to enable the code to be complied with. The clerk would move this forward but the cost was expected to be no more than £700, and if possible this would be purchased in the discounted sales after Christmas.

Stopping up of highway 87 Earls Barton Road

The clerk reported that the above order had now been made.

Presentation by Aylesbury Mains

Mr Moore the Managing Director of Aylesbury Mains attended the meeting and explained that his company had been working with parish councils for many years to provide the best possible footpath lighting.

He explained the difference between street lighting and footway lighting and clarified that the lighting in Great Doddington was footway lighting. He also explained about the different styles of lighting that were available on the market and the efficiencies that the parish council could put in place by changing the current lighting which in time would be of great benefit cost wise with regard to the supply of electricity. He also informed the parish council that the Highway Electrical Association had produced a guide to public lighting asset owners should ensure that electrical testing had been carried out on the public lamps. There was also a legal requirement that the lamps be structurally safe. He gave some examples of the costings for different styles of lamps in different areas of the village. He also recommended that the first thing that should be done would be to get a full inspection and inventory produced of all the lamps which recommendations would then be put forward for styles of new lamp fittings.

He would send some information over to the clerk but stressed once again that initially there was an urgent need for inspection and testing to take place.

The chairman thanked him for attending the meeting.

Further discussions would take place regarding street lighting at the next meeting.

15/53 Next meeting

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Wednesday 5 January 2016 at 7pm.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9pm.

