

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 6 January 2016 in the Chapel Rooms, Great Doddington.

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

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

Apologies were received from Mr Howes.

15/54 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

15/55 DECLARATIONS

Mr Crisp made a personal declaration in relation to planning application WP/15/00765 60 High Street.

15/56 PLANNING ISSUES

19 Lower Street WP/15/00627 – this had been refused by BCW and the applicants intended to appeal.

99 The Ridge – WP/15/00767 - there were no objections.

60 High Street – WP/15/00765 – there were no objections.

15/57 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Donna Fenner attended the meeting. She clarified that there had been six crimes, two relating to burglaries in Earls Barton Road and at the Rugby Club; a theft from St Nicolas Road and three burglaries at the allotment sheds where the offender had accessed from The Ridge by cutting a security chain.

She referred to ongoing issues with school parking and confirmed that tickets would be issued for obstruction and this would be monitored. There would be more frequent speeding action days and checks through the village following ongoing complaints, particularly from residents along The Ridge. Officers had attended on the afternoon of 31 December 2015 and were located at The Ridge but nobody had been caught speeding.

Thanks were extended to PCSO Fenner for the information. Parish councillors confirmed that there was a lot of concern particularly regarding school parking and access for fire engines/ambulances around school times. Frequently cars were parked in such a way that access was impossible and with the farm located at the top of the Lane this was not acceptable.

15/58 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Highway signs

- **Hardwater Road**
The clerk had contacted Mrs Howard regarding additional or improved signage at the top of Hardwater Road. Mrs Howard had carried out a site inspection and the signage was the maximum that it could be.
- **Solar Farm**
The clerk had contacted Lark Energy. There were still some works that were taking place at the site such as the planting and the street signs would not be removed until everything was complete. There was no set date for the work to be completed.
- **Earls Barton Road** - the signs had still not been removed by the builders. The clerk would see if Wellingborough Norse would remove them.

Safer routes to School

The clerk had forwarded the request for an inspection to Mrs Howard who in turn had sent it onto the Rights of Way officer with a request that this be carried out and any remedial works undertaken.

Lease of land for the football club

The clerk was awaiting feedback from the Football Association. In the meantime it was suggested that Mr Howes and Mr Davies arrange a meeting with Mr Laws, Mr Catling, Mr Digby and Mr Arch to establish the current situation and report back to the next meeting.

Fencing around the tennis court

The clerk confirmed that £400 had been received from the Scarecrow Fund to go towards the replacement of the fencing around the hardstanding. She had approached two further companies for quotes but these were still awaited.

Play Area – lottery funding

The application form had been completed and submitted.

There were also some other suggestions for funding which included the 'carrier bag' funds for community projects. The clerk would look into whether the big supermarkets sponsored anything like this.

Fence at the Recreation Ground

The recreation field had been inspected and it was suggested that only the chain link fence be removed thus leaving the concrete posts. Not everyone was sure that this would be the best way forward and a decision was postponed until the next meeting.

15/59 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The financial statements and following invoices were approved:

E-on - electricity supply q/e 31/12/15 (1519)	364.51
S Cunningham – donation towards Pensioners lunch (S137) (1520)	100.00

15/60 PRECEPT 2016/17

The clerk presented the projections for 2016/17 to the parish councillors.

Whilst the parish council was conscious of keeping costs to a minimum for local residents it was aware that there was a great deal of work to do in relation to the street lamps which was one of the major causes of concern to parishioners.

It was proposed that the precept charge be £25,000 for 2016/17. This would equate to an additional sum of £51.12 per annum or just under a £1 per week for a band D council tax payer.

On being put to the vote the precept of £25,000 was declared carried with 5 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED that the sum of £25,000 be requested as the precept for 2016/17.

15/61 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parking on grass verges

A number of vehicles particularly along Earls Barton Road were being parked on the grass verges rather than on the road. Whilst the reason for this was understood it made the verges look extremely unsightly and there was a lot of mud on the footpaths. The clerk would write to the residents involved to ask them not to park on the verges.

Street lamps

The lamp outside 70 Glenfield Drive was out. The clerk had already reported this but would send a reminder.

The clerk had also reported two further lamps located at 49 Lower Street, which was on all day and 23 Glenfield Drive which was out.

Replacement laptop/computer

The clerk reported that she had found some reasonably priced equipment and would continue to source something suitable for the parish council.

Gate in Spinney

It was reported that the gate was extremely difficult to open and get access through. It had been altered for wheelchair users but it was still very difficult. The clerk would contact Mr Rigby, the Rights of Way officer in this regard.

Clean for the Queen

The Clean for the Queen project has been arranged for the weekend of 4, 5 and 6 March and the village had organised to participate and was asking if the parish council would consider a small donation towards the hire of the Memorial Hall/refreshments on the day and whether this could be publicised.

It was agreed that the request for a donation be agreed and that whilst there was no village news before this date a poster could be placed on the noticeboard.

Street Lighting

Following the presentation by Aylesbury Mains the clerk had forwarded details of the costings they had provided for carrying out the initial work that was required for a full safety inspection, provision of an up to date inventory and suggestions for changing the lamps to ensure they comply with the legislation. The clerk had contacted both Balfour Beatty and E-on to see if they could do something similar and if so what the cost would be. To date she had not hear from either company.

She had also requested Balfour Beatty to attend a parish council meeting but had been informed that the person who would have attended had retired at Christmas and there was nobody available in the interim to attend.

It was agreed that initially Aylesbury Mains be asked to go ahead with safety inspection and provision of an inventory.

Royal British Legion

The clerk would write to the local branch of the RBL (Mr Handcock) and order a wreath for Remembrance Sunday 2016 directly from him.

15/62 Next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be agreed by email.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.