

## **GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 7 May 2014 in the Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington.**

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

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk), Borough Councillor B Graves and 1 Parishioner.

Apologies were received from Mr K Howes and County Councillor Bell. .

#### **14/10 Welcome form the Chairman and Annual Report**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual meeting and read his report on the activities for the year.

He explained that the parish council had had a busy and eventful year. There had been some major changes such as the commencement of the new solar farm at the beginning of The Ridge which was anticipated to be completed by late June. The company behind the solar farm, Lark Energy, had kindly made a substantial donation towards the Memorial Hall Roof Fund which had been appreciated.

Planning permission had also been granted for the use of an exception site along Earls Barton Road for the development of 10 affordable homes. Residents had been concerned about the development and particularly regarding concerns over flooding. The developers had put in extra measures to try to alleviate any future drainage issues. The allocation of the properties had also been a major concern and as the properties were two bedroomed there had to be evidence that any tenant had a housing need for a two bedroomed property. Tenants also needed to have a connection to the village. In the end the properties had been allocated to people with a Great Doddington connection and occupation would start to take place from 8 May 2014.

The precept for the year remained at £22,000. This paid for everything that the parish council needed to pay out for including, the hire of hall for meetings and chiropody sessions, street lighting expenditure, the clerk's salary, donations towards the pensioners luncheon, floodlighting of the church footpath, grasscutting of the cemetery and recreation ground and any one off payments. It was hoped that during this year a rolling programme of improvements to the play equipment would take place.

Traffic through the village was a continuing concern particularly following the closure of Hardwater Road and the Wilby Way roundabout road works. The Highways department had confirmed that

a traffic survey would be carried out once all the works had been completed to see if the current issues remained the same. Residents of Hardwater Road had particularly expressed their concern over the speeding vehicles using Hardwater Road and the clerk had made a formal request to the county council for a 30mph speed limit to be introduced. This needed to be put to an official panel and we would hear further regarding this towards the end of the summer.

The hedge along The Ridge had kindly been cut back by the farmer at the appropriate time of year.

Despite various rumours nothing further had been heard regarding the site of the former prison. The local MP was campaigning for the prison to be reopened.

Planning permission had been granted for a crematorium on a site just off Doddington Road, Wellingborough, near to The Ridge, discussions were on-going about the design of the proposed crematorium in readiness for a further planning application to be submitted.

A new picnic bench had been installed in the park along with a new bench in the amenity area during the year.

The current play equipment was in need of an update and work was on-going to replace this on a rolling programme.

The coming year would once again be challenging with borough and parish elections taking place in May next year.

#### **14/11 GREAT DODDINGTON POORS LAND CHARITY**

Mr Sharp reported that the Pools Land Charity had awarded four book grants to students in the village totalling £200 and applications were being sought for funding for next year.

The luncheon club had been held on four occasions with between 50 and 60 people in attendance each time.

#### **14/12 REPORT BY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR GRAVES**

Councillor Graves reported on the work that he had carried out on behalf of parishioners during the year.

This included dealings with residents over the enlargement of a property in Hardwater Road, the social housing exception site, the solar farm, crematorium, demolition of wall in Lower Street, potential tea room, the lack of street lights near to the Merry Miller, potholes in Glenfield Drive, funding for Wellingborough Rugby Club, fly tipping, litter on Doddington Road, weight restrictions on Hardwater Bridge,

Speeding traffic and a request for a roundabout or lights in Hardwater Road.

He also explained that he had been re-elected as Deputy Leader and that this involved regular meetings with the Leader, senior officers and chief executive. In depth discussions were held regarding the development at Stanton Cross, the progress of the crematorium, potential sale of land at Wellingborough north, the finance and budgets of the council, property issues and staff meetings.

He had until recently been the Chair of the Police an Crime Panel and continued to sit on the Older Persons Advisory Group, Wellingborough Homes Board and on Resources, Development, Standards and Appointments Committees.

Following the boundary review the Millers Park area had also been included in the ward from May 2015.

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm

**Chairman**