

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on May 2012 in the Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington.

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

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

12/01 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.

This included reference to the ongoing underground cabling work that had been taking place, the continuing issues with potholes throughout the village and the ongoing battle to have these repaired, the work that had taken place with Stagecoach for the re-introduction of an early morning bus service to Wellingborough, the continuing need for austerity resulting in the tendering for the grass-cutting contract, and on-going enquiries which were taking place with alternative electricity suppliers, the resignation of Mr Bowers as the Chairman and as a parish councillor, the appointment of 2 new parish councillors and the proposed celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. More challenges would be faced in the coming year with the introduction of the Localism Act.

RESOLVED that the work of the Parish Council for 2011-12 be noted.

12/02 Report on the Poors Land Charity

Mr Sharp reported on the distribution of the Poors Land Charity funding for 2011-12.

Four pensioners lunches had taken place at Doddington Club which had been well attended with another planned for Saturday 2 June as part of the Diamond Jubilee. A grant had been given to the Jubilee Committee to enable the over 70's to have tea at the street party and for entertainment for the children. Two book tokens had been given to students to help with their studies.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12/03 Report from Borough Councillor Graves

Borough Councillor Graves attended the meeting. He informed the parish council that he was once again to be deputy leader of the

Borough Council. One of the main projects for the forthcoming year was to give consideration to the development of a crematorium for Wellingborough. A working party had been established and the vision was that capital funding would pay for the building and that it would be run by an external company. This was still in the investigative stage but developments would be publicised in the local press and on the council's website. Other developments were also proposed by private developers at Irchester for housing and at Skew Bridge lakes for a garden centre and shops. The Planning Committee had recently received the application for The Lakes for comment only as this was within East Northants area. It had decided not to oppose the application. A compulsory purchase order had been placed on an area of land which was holding up the development at Stanton Cross. Once development commenced on this site the new homes bonus would be available thus increasing income to the Council.

A developer had been appointed for the land at the centre of the town. A multi-storey car park, shops, hotel, housing and park/play area was proposed for the site.

A recent proposal by Hampton Brook to develop land off Wilby Way was discussed, although a formal application had yet to be received. The application would be rejected as it was believed that there were other more appropriate places where such development could take place and which were already designated in the local plan.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12/04 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor George Blackwell attended the meeting. He reported on the work of the County Council.

He confirmed that Earls Barton Parish Council would be categorically objecting to any planning application for development of land off Wilby Way.

The County Council had faced a very difficult year with a lot of painful cut backs and over 00 employees being made redundant. Cuts had been made to the very popular PCSO's which had been a difficult decision.

Another difficult decision was to reduce the number of street lights. In some areas this had caused tremendous problems and lots of complaints had been received. Starting in October all columns would be replaced with energy efficient lamps working in partnership with Balfour Beatty.

There continued to be problems with potholes and repairs were needed both to highways and footpaths. There were issues with the lack of

funding but he stressed that problems should still be reported to Street Doctor.

With regard to more positive issues, secondary education continued to be good for the catchment area with there being the choice of Wrenn, Weavers and Wollaston Schools. The empowering councillor's scheme continued and applications from local organisations needed to be submitted directly to County Councillor Blackwell.

A pledge had been made not to increase Council Tax and this had been adhered to.

12/05 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Joanne Martin attended the meeting.

She reminded members of the previous presentation to the parish council which had been followed by a village walk. On this walk a preferred site had been found and an 'agreed sketch' had been produced. The sketch was circulated. Negotiations were ongoing with the land owner.

One of the parish councillors asked whether there would be a roundabout as originally suggested.

Mrs Martin said that the housing association had not believed that this was in keeping with the village and were not supportive, although she believed it would be useful to slow the traffic down.

She was also aware that another developer was interested in the land but that it was unlikely that they would achieve planning permission as this was classed as an 'exception site' Funding was currently available for the development and this had the backing of the borough council. A housing needs survey would be carried out again prior to the commencement of any development.

The parish council would be kept informed of any developments.

RESOLVED that the developments be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm

Chairman