

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 1st December 2010 in the Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington.

Mr I Bowers,(Chairman), Mr J Sharp (Vice-Chairman) Mr J Crisp, Mrs J Griffiths, Mr K Howes, Mr I Ross and Mrs C Mundy (Clerk).

Apologies were received from Mr C Davis, Mrs K McLester and Mr D Kelly.

10/44 Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

10/45 Presentation on Affordable Housing

A presentation was due to be carried out by representatives of the Borough Council. Unfortunately one member of the presenting team had been taken ill and due to the inclement weather the other had been unable to attend. They would be invited to return in 2011.

10/46 Declarations

There were none.

10/47 Matters Arising

Hedges at Cemetery

Mr J Musson has agreed to carry out work to the value of £100 to the hedges and had offered to do this free of charge for which the Parish Council was most grateful.

The Chairman would approach him and see if he would carry out the work to the Dutch Elm tree.

Play Equipment work

The Clerk informed the committee that the repair work was programmed for mid-December.

Affordable Housing

Concerns had been expressed to the Chairman about the operation of affordable housing schemes in other villages with the major concern being around the lack of control that the parish council would have over the style, type of scheme and future occupation. The Clerk would raise these concerns with the Borough council and ask them to stipulate in their presentation the rights that the parish council would have.

10/48 Police Issues

One of the Parish Councillors informed the meeting that his son had had his car 'keyed' outside of his property in John Gray Road which had been reported to the Police.

Mr Howes had also experienced anti-social behaviour at the recreation ground which he had reported to the Police at the time. He had been disappointed by the attitude of the officers who had attended. He was mostly concerned that the parents of some of the offenders would not have been aware that their children were camping at the recreation ground. He had requested that the parents be written too if the Police were able to give details of their names and addresses.

The clerk had approached the Borough Council to ascertain the bye-laws for the recreation ground, however, the Council had been unable to locate a bye-law for the recreation ground, The Vice-Chairman confirmed that there was definitely a bye-law in place and that he had seen it previously, the clerk would pursue this with the Borough Council.

10/49 Highway Issues

Parish Enhancement Gang

The work carried out by the Parish enhancement gang in early July 2010 included the following:

Cutting back of vegetation; adjustment of 30 mph sign Earls Barton Road; remove basal growth from around trees; Hardwater Road and The Ridge, strimming around the signs; High Street entrance to Memorial Hall, cutting back of vegetation on telegraph pole; opposite The Stag Public House, cutting back of vegetation; main road to play area, strimming out of vegetation.

If budgets were available after April 2011 the Parish Council would be asked for direction on works required.

Grit Bins

The Clerk reported on developments with the replacement grit bins. The NCC had confirmed that there would be a replacement bin placed at the top of Glenfield Drive and that the lid would be repaired or the bin replaced in Wilby Lane. The bin at the corner of High Street and Goodens Lane would not be replaced as this was situated on the bend of the B573 which is a precautionary gritting route, likewise a grit bin would not be placed in Hardwater Road for the same reason. The NCC had also confirmed that all the grit bins had been filled with grit. However, a number of parish councillors had confirmed that the bins were only half full and with the current inclement weather would need refilling immediately and that they needed to be completely full to cater for the requirements of the village.

Parish Councillors expressed their displeasure over the decision by the NCC particularly over the need for the bin at Goodens Lane to be replaced as without the grit being available for use the lane was sheet ice and impossible to navigate. The Clerk would contact the NCC again and ask them to reconsider the decision.

The Clerk confirmed that additional bins could be purchased but that these had to be approved by the County Council with regard to location and size. The filling of the bins would be the responsibility of the Parish Council, or residents, if they purchased the bin.

30 mph roundels for The Ridge

The clerk had contacted the NCC regarding the above. They had agreed to add the painting of roundels at The Ridge onto their list of small works which would be carried out in early summer 2011.

Lamp in Church Lane

The clerk had received a quotation from e-on for public lamp 36 in Church Lane in the sum of £1669.68.

RESOLVED that an order be placed for the lamp.

Lamps around the village.

Following a change to EU Regulations the use of mercury in the manufacture of lamps will cease from 1 April 2015. Currently Most lamps are mercury vapour lamps (white light) which will need to be replaced at a cost of £250 per street lamp. The yellow/orange lamps would not need replacing. The concrete columns and lamps of which there were still a number would also need replacing. The Chairman had recently discussed this with Mr Millard of E-On and asked how we could ascertain which lamps needed to be scheduled into a replacement programme and had been informed that they would be detailed on the lighting invoice. The Clerk would look into this and report back. He had also asked Mr Millard again about the cost of a facility to turn lamps off at certain times and this had been confirmed at £200 per lamp.

10/50 Planning Issues

Extension 89 Earls Barton Road
There was no objection to the application.

23 High Street

It was reported that the Borough Council had approved the planning application.

10/51 Finance and accounts for payment

The monthly statement and following accounts for payment were approved:

Marchean
Newsletter

315.00

Mr M Kerlin	
Grass cutting, dog bins, bus shelter	470.00
Mrs J Crisp	
Donation for pensioners lunch	50.00

10/52 Any other business

Dog bin by Fuchsia Cottage

It was considered that the dog bin needed to be removed but not replaced. The Chairman agreed to arrange for this to be done.

Cutlery and Crockery

Mr Crisp asked if he could purchase some very strong storage boxes for the village cutlery and crockery. Agreed that he source the boxes he required and the parish council would reimburse him.

Street Party for the Royal Wedding

Following the announcement of the Wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton on 29th April 2011, consideration was given as to whether the village may wish to hold a street party to celebrate the occasion. This would have to be self-funding and would a group would need to come together to organise it. The clerk would write to all the organisations in the village to see if they would like to participate and form a committee which would probably meet in late January taking into account the short period of time there was to organise an event. Some suggestions included the closure of one of the roads in the village, live bands, clowns, sponsored tables, music, street entertainers and similar.

Litter Warden

Consideration over the employment of a litter warden for the village was given.

Following a discussion it was considered that currently there were a number of local residents who kindly picked up rubbish when they were out walking which had been dropped. There was also the annual spring-clean which helped to clear away any excess. The situation, however, would be monitored and this would be reconsidered if necessary.

10/53 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Next meeting to be held on 15th January 2011.

Chairman.....