

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 8 February 2012 in the Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington

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

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk)

An apology for absence was received from Mr J Crisp.

11/36 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2012 were approved and signed as a true record.

11/37 DECLARATIONS

Mr J Sharp declared a personal interest on item 11/43 as he knew the applicant.

11/38 STREET LIGHTING

Mr Andy Nobles attended the meeting to discuss future street lighting requirements.

Parish Councillors asked questions as follows:

There was a maintenance contract in place with another company. Councillors asked Mr Nobles if he knew what that would be for and what would be included in the contract?

Mr Noble explained that the provider would need to be contacted directly but that normally this would be for the cleaning of the bowl and replacement of the bulb. This was normally done every three years.

The Parish Council was aware that the mercury lamps would have to be replaced gradually and Mr Nobles was asked what alternative style of lamp in his opinion would be the way forward.

Mr Noble considered that the LED lanterns were the best. They came with a 5 year maintenance, and would last up to 15 years. A new lantern would cost approximately £385.00.

What would the cost of running one of these be?

Mr Nobles stated that the annual running cost would be between £12-£13.

Mr Noble was asked how long his business had been running and how many people he had working for him?

He responded by stating that there was himself and his partner, 2 electricians and 1 trainee. He had a company commitment to carry out any job within 7 working days but wherever possible completed a job within 1 or 2 days.

Underground cabling work was taking place in High Street and Mr Nobles was asked if the bracket lamps could be put onto a Victorian column to make use of them.

He clarified that in theory it could be possible to do this but he would need to look at each lamp before making a commitment. Where possible he liked to make use of existing equipment and adapt it to fit where required. A new lantern and gear fitter cost in the region of £385.00 and would be considerably more if a base was required.

Mr Nobles was asked if he would be able to provide a quote for annual maintenance.

He confirmed that he could do so if required.

The clerk also informed the meeting that the NCC had written informing the council that they were commencing a new street lighting PFI contract with Balfour Beatty who would be maintaining street lights over the next 25 years. Over the next 5 years they would be removing, replacing and upgrading all NCC street lights to comply with new design solutions, which would result in high quality, more cost effective and environmentally friendly lighting. There was a possibility that local lighting authorities could take advantage of potential efficiencies through utilising them as a street lighting service. The clerk would fill in the questionnaire attached to the letter to find out more about the potential service that could be provided.

RESOLVED that the useful information be noted and Mr Nobles was thanked for his attendance at the meeting and the useful information he had given.

11/39 POLICE ISSUES

Two police officers attended the meeting.

It was reported that there had been 2 burglaries; one in High Street which was an attempted burglary non dwelling being a shed break in; the other had been John Gray Road a shed break in and entry gained and tools taken. There had been 1 criminal damage to dwelling and 1

drug use at Summerlee Nature Reserve. There had been a theft of cabling from Goodens Lane.

The police officers informed the parish council that the priorities for the next 3 month period would be parking at the School; speeding vehicles; street nuisance and anti social behaviour.

They also informed the parish council that once the weather improved open windows in domestic homes were often a problem. Residents would be leafleted with recommendations that windows be kept shut and valuables not be left in view.

Councillors also referred to a red flat bed truck that had been seen driving around the village. The police asked that if it was seen again that they be contacted with a registration.

11/40 HIGHWAYS

PLANTERS

The chairman reported that a Mr Putnam would be prepared to take the work on and that he had an apprentice who was doing his Duke of Edinburgh award and who would benefit from the experience.

SALT BINS

The NCC had recommended the colour and type of bin that should be located at the top of Goodens Lane. There were still legal requirements such as a license which the NCC would need to formally issue to the parish council. The clerk would place an order for the bin, ask the NCC to prepare a Licence and then the parish council would consider how this bin could be filled.

LIME TREES EARLS BARTON ROAD

One of the parish councillors asked who had cut two of the trees back. The chairman did not know, but presumed that it may have been someone from Frost Court.

11/41 PLANNING

WP/12/011 – 3 WILBY LANE

An application for the erection of a wooden trellis for privacy at 3 Wilby Lane. No objection was raised.

11/42 FINANCE, ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND PRECEPT

The following invoices were approved and cheques signed:

Borough Council of Wellingborough Returning Officer fee	50.00
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Borough Council of Wellingborough

Grounds maintenance	918.00
Great Doddington PCC Lighting of footpath through Churchyard	400.00

11/43 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Underground cabling in High Street

The Chairman reported that he had met with Richard Howard of Western Power who had informed him that BT were not taking the opportunity to carry out their underground cabling at the present time. The owner of one property wouldn't let Western Power dig near to his property as he was concerned. Another resident had recently laid a new drive so didn't want it digging up. This would mean that 2 of the poles would not be able to be replaced. Western Power was hopeful that the work would be completed within a three month period. As work progressed further information would be received about whether the other two poles would need to be replaced.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

One application had been received for the vacancy of Parish Councillor from Mrs S Sharp. The clerk read out her application.

It was unanimously agreed to invite Mrs Sharp to join the parish council at its next meeting.

RESOLVED that Mrs Sharp be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Street Lighting Contract

The clerk was asked to look into the current contracts with E-on for the lighting maintenance and for the provision of electricity for the street lights. A request would also be made for the lanterns to be cleaned as a matter of urgency as nobody could remember when they had last been done and that they let the clerk know when the work would be carried out.

The clerk would also endeavour to provide some costings for other providers of electricity services such as British Gas, Scottish Power, N-Power by looking on comparison websites.

Earls Barton Parish Council

A letter had been received from the parish council asking Great Doddington to write to the Borough Council expressing concern over the proposal to develop land that was being called "Wilby Grange". Whilst there was some concern it was believed that this was a little premature as a planning application had not been submitted by the landowners Hampton Brook. It was considered that when such application was received that, that would be the appropriate time to make an objection if it was deemed necessary.

Diamond Jubilee celebrations

It was reported that there were two fund raisers being arranged; the band had been booked; there were activities arranged for children; the road closure had been agreed and preparations were underway for a beacon to be lit on the Monday evening. A tree would also be planted to commemorate the occasion. Flyers and posters would be delivered and placed in notice boards advertising the event and it was hoped that there would be a good response from parishioners.

11/44 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 7 March 2012. (Mr Kelly submitted his apologies in advance for this meeting).

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman.....

