

## GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 8 January 2014 in the Chapel Rooms, Great Doddington.**

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

(Apologies were received from Mr K Howes, Mr D Kelly and Mrs A Smith).

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk) and 4 Parishioners.

### **13/66 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 4 December 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.

### **13/67 DECLARATIONS**

Mrs J Griffiths made a declaration in respect of any discussion on the Solar Farm.

### **13/68 POLICE MATTERS**

It was reported that there had been 2 incidents of attempted robbery.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

### **13/59 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Mr Crisp reported that the 30 mph sign on the right coming into the village still needed some attention. The clerk would report this yet again to Street Doctor at Northamptonshire County Council.

#### **Street Lights**

It was reported that the street light outside 22 Glenfield Drive had been repaired but was out again and the lamp outside 29 John Gray Road, had been visited by e-on but they needed a part for this to be fully repaired.

#### **Piece of land opposite the Stag, corner of The Ridge/High Street**

Reference was made again to the overgrowth which was now invading the path forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. This had been reported to the County Council but was on a list of jobs with no exact date for completion. The clerk would ask if this could be escalated as there was a danger to pedestrians if they walked on the road on this dangerous bend.

**RESOLVED** that the clerk would contact Street Doctor.

## **Lamps near to the Merry Miller Public House**

The chairman referred to an email from Mr and Mrs Digby who were concerned about the lack of street lighting on the bend leading from the village. They had reported this to the Borough Councillor and the County Councillor for Great Doddington. County Councillor Bell had looked into this and found that the lamps were actually in the Wellingborough area and as such he had no jurisdiction over them. He had therefore reported this to County Councillor Graham Lawman who would look into this with the County Council.

### **13/60 PLANNING ISSUES**

The sub-committee had commented on the following:

WP/2013/0643 - New vehicular access to 43 The Ridge. - No objection

WP/2013/0639 - New floodlights for Rugby Club - No objection

WP/2013/0663 - Two storey extension 11 St Nicholas Rd (amended proposal). There was still concern that this was over-development of the site.

### **13/61 FINANCE**

#### **Precept**

The clerk provided parish councillors with a projection for expenditure for 2014/15.

It was proposed by Mr Davies and seconded by Mr Sharp that the precept for 2014/15 remain at £22,000.

On being put to the vote this was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED** that a precept of £22,000 be requested.

#### **The following accounts were approved for payment:**

E-On Sustainable Energy	
Street Lighting Maintenance q/e December 2013	364.51
E-ON	
Cost of Street Lighting 1/10/13 to 31/12/13	1842.73
Marchean	
Newsletter	460.00
E R Davis (Isams)	
Website hosting	62.86
Mrs J Crisp	
Donation to pensioners lunch	100.00

## **13/62 ANY OTHER ITEMS**

### **Hardwater Road and bridge weight restrictions**

The clerk reported that she had received correspondence from the county council confirming that the speed limit was that of a normal road of 60mph. A suggestion would be made that the speed limit be reduced to 30mph from the crossroads to the bridge for safety reasons.

With regard to the weight restriction on the bridge correspondence had been received which indicated that one of the bridges would be able to take 7.5 tonnes, following the repairs but that the other bridge could only take 3 tonnes. This would mean that the weight restriction on the road would still take effect.

Some concern was expressed regarding access for the school buses and farm vehicles but further information was awaited in this regard.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

### **Housing , Earls Barton Road**

The clerk updated the parish council with the information that the first phase of properties would be ready at the end of March/beginning of April. When the properties were ready for release they would be placed on the Keyways website where all applications would be processed and allocated by the Borough Council.

Parish councillors expressed their concern over negative feedback that they had received from parishioners who had spoken to the allocations team and been told they were not able to 'bid' on a particular property. There was also general concern that the assurances over allocations given by the council representative and the rural housing officer when they initially raised this with the parish council were not being adhered to.

**RESOLVED** that the clerk would ask the housing manager if she could attend the next parish council meeting to explain how the allocations process would work.

### **Street Name**

It was agreed that the suggested street name would be Magna Court/Close. This related to the fact that Great Doddington was known as Doddington Magna in the Domesday Book.

**RESOLVED** that the clerk would inform the developers.

### **Zebra Crossing**

Mr Sharp reported that he had met on site with Mrs Howard of the County Council regarding the suggestion for a zebra crossing. She had confirmed that the only suitable place for a crossing would be in

the High Street near to the shop. Before this could go any further Mrs Howard would need to carry out a survey. This would be done after the roadworks had been completed at the Wilby Way roundabout and the works at Hardwater Road Bridge, to get a true reflection of the volume of traffic and necessity for a crossing.

### **Solar Farm**

Work had commenced on the construction of the Solar Farm. It was believed that this would be completed by the end of March.

The chairman had received a complaint from a resident of The Ridge regarding the potential disruption during construction and also the amount of mud on the road.

The clerk had duly spoken with Lark Energy who had confirmed that there would be some initial disruption whilst they placed hardcore along the driveway to the site to enable deliveries to be made.

Mrs Griffiths clarified that she had spoken to the Site Manager who had been very helpful and had explained what would be happening and how they hoped to carry out the work with as little disruption as possible.

The parishioner had also complained about the volume and speed of traffic travelling through the village.

It was reported that the Police had this issue on their quarterly joint area group priorities regarding the speeding issue. The volume of traffic, however, was due to the closure of Hardwater Road and the work at Wilby Way and very little could be done regarding this.

Mr Ross suggested that the complainant be approached to see if they would be willing to join 'Speedwatch' as a volunteer.

### **Hedge, The Ridge**

The chairman reported that the farmer had cut back and reduced the height of the hedge. A letter of thanks would be sent to him.

### **Dog Bin, The Ridge**

A request had been made for a dog bin to be installed along The Ridge. The clerk would obtain a quotation for a suitable bin.

### **Branches and trees in the Spinney**

The path through the Spinney was a safer routes to school and there was some concern over the safety of some of the trees following the recent windy weather. This would be reported to the county council as a health and safety issue.

**Basketball net**

The chairman confirmed that the size of the net required was 18". The clerk would get a quotation for the cost of replacement.

**Website**

Mr Ross confirmed that he had added details for the Ring o Roses playgroup to the website.

**Lark Energy**

At the meeting held in the Village in 2013 Lark Energy had made an offer to assist financially with village projects to recompense for any disruption caused during the construction of the solar farm. A discussion was held over what would be of most benefit.

As there had been a great deal of fundraising for the Memorial Hall roof and it that possibly assistance towards solar panels for the roof would be of benefit. The replacement roof fund was short of £2,000 and a fund raising ball was being held. It was suggested that Lark Energy be contacted by the Memorial Hall Fundraising committee to see if they wished to purchase tickets.

Another suggestion was for a contribution for the purchase of play equipment for the recreation ground or a pocket park.

**Playground/Recreation Ground**

The clerk had spoken with playground supplies about the options for the park. They had suggested that the parish council decide on what age group it wished to attract and what sort of equipment they wished to fit. A request had been made for some painted goals to be placed on the fencing at the Basketball site. Mrs Sharp agreed that she would meet with a representative on site to go through options for different age groups with a view to an ongoing programme being drawn up for a five year period if this was deemed suitable.

**Future agendas**

The chairman asked that the clerk include the following items on each agenda as standard in case there were any updates.

Development of the crematorium (any update).

Former prison site at Millers Park (any update).

**13/63 Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Wednesday 12 February 2014. The meeting would commence at **7.30pm.**

Chairman.....

The meeting closed at 9pm.