

## **GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 18 July 2012 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).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr K Howes.

#### **12/23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

#### **12/24 DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations made.

#### **12/25 PLANNING – 23 HIGH STREET**

Mr R Evans and Mr I and Mrs L Mayes attended the meeting.

Reference was made to the recent application received from the owners of 23 High Street to change the style of the outside of the new build from 'Stegu' stone cladding to rendering as per the next door property.

The residents' addressed the meeting and expressed their concern that the whole construction of the property was far more intrusive than it had appeared on the plans. They had understood that the house was to be stone faced in keeping with other period properties in the conservation area. They considered that the planning permission granted was not being adhered to and that a strong objection should be submitted by the parish council.

Parish Councillors discussed the concerns raised, and considered that they needed more information such as what the original colour of the 'Stegu' was to be, whether the planning consent was being monitored and controlled by the borough council and what the proposed colour of the rendering would be.

It was agreed that the following response be submitted to the borough council on the application:

- (i) A site visit would be requested;

- (ii) a sample of the colour of the 'Stegu' cladding be presented on site;
- (iii) a sample of the colour of the proposed rendering and type of finish be presented on site.

**RESOLVED** that the above would be passed through to the Borough Council.

The residents' thanked the parish councillors for listening to their views and for the parish council addressing the new application and supporting their concerns. The chairman thanked them for their comments and their attendance at the meeting.

## **12/26 MATTERS ARISING**

### **Western Power and completion of works**

The clerk confirmed that Western Power were trying to source the correct type of gravel to complete the work which they had promised to do within the next two months.

### **Potholes in Glenfield Drive**

The photographs taken by Mr Kelly of potholes in Glenfield Drive had been forwarded to County Councillor Blackwell and also to the highways department at the County Council. Mr Kelly reported that some work had been undertaken but some still remained to be done.

### **Repairs to planters at the Village Green**

The clerk had contacted Mr Mason to see if his quotation still stood for the work on the planters. He would need to re-quote as some of the stone was missing. Due to other commitments he would not be able to start the work until early autumn. Mrs Smith said that she also had a contact who carried out stonework who she would ask to quote.

### **E-on Electricity**

The clerk had forwarded the comparison figures for suppliers to all parish councillors. Following a discussion and the comparison of the quotations it was agreed that the current arrangement appeared to be the best value for money and that no further action be taken.

## **12/27 POLICE MATTERS**

The police report indicated that there had been an increase in crime during the previous month. There had been 3 burglaries, 2 incidents of criminal damage, a theft of number plates and a drivers door had been forced. A request for police patrols to be increased would be made. Reference was also made to the government's proposal to close Wellingborough Prison by the end of the year. Parish Councillors expressed their concern over the loss of jobs and what would happen in the future to the site. The Clerk informed the meeting that the local MP had asked for this to be discussed in Parliament once the summer

recess was over. The Borough Council would also be discussing it at its Council meeting on 31 July 2012.

## **12/28 HIGHWAY ISSUES**

### **Maintenance of Street lamps**

Work was ongoing on the cleaning of the street lamps. The cleaning had in the opinion of the parish council not been particularly successful. One of the parish councillors had witnessed an operative cleaning the lamps with some liquid and a dirty rag. Clearly this was not sufficient to get the lamps properly clean as they were so dirty.

The Clerk would contact Mr Meeks at E-On to say that the work was not satisfactory.

### **Repairs to Roads**

The following repairs were required to roads throughout the village:

Earls Barton Road – opposite St Nicholas Road - the drain had dropped and needed to be repaired.

The Ridge – nearly opposite The Stag - again the drain had dropped and needed to be repaired.

Hardwater Junction - small stones on the road from Cut Throat Lane were a skid hazard and needed to be cleared.

The Ridge - the drains were not taking the water as they were full of silt causing flooding at the allotments. The ditch between the road and the allotment needed to be channelled out to take the water.

The clerk would report all these to the Street Doctor service at the County Council.

## **12/19 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts were approved for payment along with the financial statement:

R P M	
Repairs to the noughts and crosses play equipment	336.00
E-On Street Lighting to 30 6 12	364.51
E-On Street Lighting Maintenance charges 1 4 12 to 30 6 12	1819.58
Great Doddington United Reformed Church Parish Council meeting 1 4 11 to 31 3 11	128.00
Great Doddington United Reformed Church Chiropody rental	126.00
ISAMS website hosting (E R Davis)	63.32

The Clerk also made reference to the final accounts for submission to the auditors and the recommendations of the internal auditors which included the requirement to increase the fidelity guarantee insurance. The clerk would obtain a figure for this from the parish council insurers. The clerk also needed to investigate with the tax office whether her current employees could continue to pay her tax on her parish council earnings directly through her full-time employment salary or whether the parish council would have to make arrangements for this to be done directly.

**RESOLVED** that the payments, accounts and internal audit comments be noted.

## **12/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Personal Interest Forms**

Following changes under the Localism Act new personal interest forms needed to be completed within 28 days. The clerk circulated the forms and asked that members complete and return them to her as soon as possible. These forms once completed would be scanned and put onto the borough council's website and would also need to go onto the parish council's website.

### **Cemetery Policy**

Mr Sharp circulated the current policy for the churchyard. Members looked at the policy and asked that the clerk investigate what other parish councils did and how they policed compliance. She would make enquiries and would endeavour to draft a policy for members to consider if appropriate and necessary at the September meeting.

### **Cemetery applications**

Two applications had been received as follows:

Inscription – Coombes –no objection.

Headstone – Doris Brown – no objection.

### **Gardening Club**

The Chairman reported that he had written to Mrs Newsome following her retirement from the Gardening Club thanking her for her hardwork in running the club over a number of years and wishing her well in the future.

### **Chiropody Sessions**

The current Chiropodist Mrs Wharton was retiring, however, a replacement service would be provided and the parish council agreed to continue to fund the sessions for the people of the village.

### **8 Glenfield Drive**

Mr Kelly commented that the development at the above address appeared to be a very large structure and wondered if it complied with

the planning permission. Mr Ross clarified that the approval had been for a single storey extension which he believed was what was being built.

**Grasscutting**

Mr Ross made reference to the grass cutting work that was being carried out by Mr Garron. He had already completed far more cuts than he had been contracted to do and he considered that some additional payment should be given to him taking into account the exceptional wet weather that had been experienced.

The parish councillors believed that this would be appropriate and the Chairman suggested that a proposal be brought to the next meeting to enable this to be formally discussed and voted on.

**Prospect Park.**

The clerk had received a further call from Hampton Brook asking if they could attend a meeting to discuss its proposal for the development off the A45. The clerk had informed the caller that until a formal application had been submitted to the borough council the parish council did not require a visit. Parish councillors reiterated that this was correct.

**Review of Library Service**

The clerk had received a communication from the NCC stated that the mobile service would continue on the second Friday of each month and that the van would stop in High Street opposite number 96 between 15.13 and 16.15pm.

**Trees in the Conservation Area**

The clerk reported that the Tree Specialist at the borough council had served notice on trees within the conservation area at 1 Doctor's Lane for the removal of 1 sycamore tree and removal of part of a wild plum tree overhanging the public highway and removal of one ash tree. The owners had agreed to carry out the work within the notice.

**Health and Safety**

There were no issues raised.

**12/21 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 5 September 2012 at **7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**Chairman.....**

