

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Great Doddington held on 23 June 2009 at the United Reformed Church Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington.

Mr I Bowers, (Chairman), Mr J Sharp (Vice-Chairman) Mr J Crisp, Mr C Davies, Mrs K McLester , Mr D Kelly and Mr I Ross
Also present Mrs C A Mundy – Clerk, County Councillor G Blackwell and two Parishioners.

09/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Griffith and Mr Howes.

09/21 Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 May 2009 were approved as a true record.

09/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

09/23 Questions from Parishioners

Erection of Vehicle Activation Sign at The Ridge.

The Chairman welcomed 5 Parishioners to the meeting and thanked them for their interest and attendance.

A question was raised by Mr Richard Butcher as follows:

“The majority of the residents of The Ridge have been excluded from any benefits of a new speed warning sign. The Chairman of the Parish Council has indicated that this was because of budgetary and administrative constraints. Why was no attempt made to explain the problem to the residents, some of whom already felt ignored by those in the heart of the village? Could they have been offered an opportunity to help to resolve those difficulties, possibly by sharing the additional cost of better positioning? Does the Parish Council accept that it has wasted the money spent on this sign in its present location because traffic is already slowing down at that point for the corner at The Stag?”

The Chairman responded in depth to Mr Butcher and his fellow residents concerns. He explained in detail the work that had been undertaken to get the signs erected and the fact the County Council as Highway Authority had final governance over the location of the signs. The County Council would not authorise a sign leaving a village, although it does understand the

concerns about traffic speeding as it leaves the village because The Ridge is a long curved road. The Parish Council will be reviewing the location of both vehicle activation signs after a period of time to see how affective they have been and in the event of a decision being made to make any changes it will communicate with the County Council to discuss alternative locations or possibly even additional signage.

White Lining at the School

It was reported that this had still not been carried out. The Clerk would contact the County Council regarding this work which had been promised before the end of the financial year 09-09. She would also ask County Councillor Blackwell if he could assist with pushing this forward before the start of the new September term.

09/24 POLICE ISSUES

There was to be a SCT meeting on 2 July which Mr Ross would endeavour to attend.

It was reported that the PCC had written to the Chief Constable complaining about the poor way in which the theft of the lead from the church roof had been dealt with by his colleagues. An apologetic letter had been received.

With the school holidays approaching the Parish Council was aware that there could be a problem with youths congregating at the recreation ground. The Police would be asked to monitor the situation and should complaints be received would be asked to deal with them as promptly as possible to stamp out any future problems.

09/25 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Parish Enhancement Gangs

An email had been received by the Clerk from Marie Heath of MGWSP regarding a MGWSP/Northamptonshire County Council highways initiative regarding the introduction of Parish Enhancement Gangs.

Two dedicated gangs would be established to work with parish councils to undertake minor improvement/safety works as agreed by area teams. The intention was that these works would normally not be considered as meeting the criteria for routine maintenance but may be of importance for local people.

Such works may include the cleaning of signs, repairs to signs clearing of vegetation, isolate pothole repairs, kerb repairs, gully clearing, strimming, painting of bollards or aesthetic works.

The gangs would carry hand tools and small amounts of materials. The gang would visit once per year for one to two days.

The Parish Council was therefore being asked to think of items that would best utilise this resource and provide a list to the Area Manager.

Agreed that the parish councillors would make a note of items that they thought would come under this remit and submit to the September Parish Meeting to enable the Clerk to comprise a list and send to Mark Gatland.

Lime Trees, Earls Barton Road

The cutting back of the lime trees had already been requested and was programmed. Concern had now been raised in relation to the obstruction caused by the foliage at the base of the trees particularly when cars were leaving John Gray Road to turn right. It was believed that this was a Health and Safety issue and that it needed addressing as soon as possible.

The Clerk would report this to Street Doctor and ask for something to be done quickly to address this problem.

Engineering bricks in Church Lane

The engineering bricks had not been repaired. The Clerk would report again to Street Doctor.

Overgrown Hedge

A complaint had been received regarding the overgrown hedge in High Street. The Clerk would write and ask that it be cut back to enable people to walk on the pavement.

7 Wilby Lane – overgrown hedge

The hedge is overgrown and infringes the footpath between Wilby Lane and St Nicholas Road. It is believed that the owner of the property is in the process of building a garage and this may be why it hasn't been cut back. The Clerk would write and ask if it could be cut back to enable access to the footpath.

Safer routes to school footpath

It was reported that some conifers at the bottom of a residents garden were infringing onto the playing field and that it was thought that the owners should arrange to cut back and keep them tidy. Following a discussion it was decided that the residents did not need to be asked to do this at the moment.

The playing field had not been cut around the perimeter. The clerk would speak to the Borough Council and ask that they ensure that this is done.

09/26 PLANNING ISSUES

Signs – Earls Barton Road

The issue of the signs that had been erected advertising the Cedars development at 1 Hardwater Road had been raised. A question had been raised of the Planning Department as to whether planning permission had been sought if required and whether there was a safety aspect taking into account the location being close to the Hardwater Crossroads.

Planning approvals had been received for 25 Hardwater Road and 5 Hardwater Road.

Application WP/2009/0145 – 7 Hardwater Road. No objections were raised.

9/27 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

E-On Energy Services Electricity Maintenance	351.41
Mr M Kerlin Grasscutting and Dog bin clearance	205.00
Marchean Press Newsletter	272.00
E R Davies Website Design	250.17
Mr J Sharp Purchase of garden bench from Shackletons	292.50

Accounts for 2008-09

The Accounts and Annual Return had been prepared and received and the Chairman signed them as a true record of the Parish Council's Income and Expenditure for the financial year.

09/28 Any other business

Wellingborough Civic Service

The Mayor had extended an invitation to the Chairman to attend his Civic Service on 28 June at All Saints Church. The Chairman was unable to attend but the Clerk would be there and would give his apologies.

Calendar of Meetings 2010-11

The clerk submitted a list of proposed meetings for the remainder of the year and up to 2011. These meetings were given as a guideline for Councillors and for parishioners and could be changed with the agreement of the Chairman. The Clerk was asked to ensure where possible the meetings fell on the first Wednesday of the month.

A finalised version of the meeting dates would be drawn and distributed.

Parish Councillor details

The clerk circulated the contact list and asked for the Parish Councillors to annotate it and return to her for updating. Once updated this would be circulate to all.

09/29 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.

Chairman