

## **GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 12 March 2014 in the Chapel Rooms, Great Doddington.**

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

(An apology was received from Mrs A Smith.)

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk).

#### **13/72 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 12 February 2014 were approved and signed as a true record.

#### **13/73 DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations made.

#### **13/74 POLICE MATTERS**

Mr Kelly reported on the last joint area action group meeting. Speeding was still of prime concern and the speed van would be visiting the village. Mr Ross confirmed that to be involved with Speed watch more people needed to come forward as volunteers. There had been no report of the flat tyres to the police.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

#### **13/75 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

##### **Fly tipping**

The fly tipping had been reported to Wellingborough Norse who regularly cleared the area of deposited items; they had stressed that if anyone was seen doing this their registration number should be forwarded to them with the date and time of the incident. A question was asked about the clearance of the A45. The clerk confirmed that this was regularly cleared by Wellingborough Norse, usually on a Saturday night as there was a need for a road closure to protect the safety of the workers. She believed the next planner clearance was for 26 April.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

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

The clerk had seen someone at the site during the week but had not

received confirmation that the work had been completed. This would be monitored.

**RESOLVED** that this would be monitored.

#### **Lighting near to the Merry Miller**

No further information had been received on developments between the county council and County Councillor Lawman. This would be monitored.

**RESOLVED** that this be monitored.

#### **Verge Maintenance Trials**

The clerk confirmed that the trial was taking place at the Hardwater crossroads. This would be monitored.

**RESOLVED** that this be monitored.

#### **Earls Barton Road/Frost Court**

The chairman reported that he had received an email from a resident of Frost Court, regarding a bush that was invading the footpath at Frost Court and also a request for the grass edging to be cut back in Earls Barton Road.

Parish councillors discussed this in detail and considered that the overgrown bushes should be cut back by the residents of Frost Court, however, on this occasion Mr Howes said he would go and cut them back. With regard to the grass verge it was concluded that this was slightly growing over the footpath and would be monitored once the county council had carried out their first cut of the season.

#### **Hardwater Road Speed Limit**

The clerk reported on the correspondence received from Mrs Howard regarding the speed limit.

Mrs Howard had concurred with her colleagues verbal comments. Should the parish council consider the 30mph was needed, a formal application would need to be submitted.

Any application had to be put before a formal panel of relevant officers, chaired by a Road Safety Manager and attended by the NCC Community Liaison Officer and the Senior Traffic Management Officer representing Northamptonshire Police.

The key factors to be considered would include a history of collisions, road geometry, characteristics of carriageway and local/road environment including road width, alignment forward visibility at junctions, presence of footways, frontage development, road function, traffic generators, schools, doctors surgeries, shops, composition of

road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users and existing traffic speeds and flows.

The Parish Councillors debated this in great detail and considered that the speed of traffic along the road was excessive and that the safety of walkers was of paramount importance. Summer Leys the local nature reserve was very popular with walkers. There was no footpath from Hardwater Crossroads to the bridge, although it was noted that there was now a footpath across the bridge. There had been a number of accidents at the crossroads at Hardwater and it was considered that some of these had been caused due to excessive speed.

**RESOLVED** that the clerk would make a formal request for consideration to be given to a 30mph speed limit being introduced.

### **13/76 PLANNING ISSUES**

Mr Ross made reference to the recent communication from the Planning department relating to the new planning software that was being installed. The intention was that the Council would no longer forward planning applications by post. The letter stated that paper copies would be provided upon request.

Members discussed this and considered that this would not work and that paper copies would be required and asked that the clerk pass on this comment and ask that all applications and plans continue to be sent to Mr Ross as chairman of the planning sub-committee.

The clerk said that she had already mentioned this request to the planning department who had said that they would consider requests after the system had gone live to see how people were managing. This would be monitored.

### **13/77 FINANCE**

**RESOLVED** that the following invoices were approved for payment along with the statement of accounts:

Great Doddington PCC  
Reimbursement for the cost of lighting the footpath 400.00

### **13/78 ANY OTHER ITEMS**

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

Councillors asked if the clerk was aware of whom the homes had been allocated to. She confirmed that she was not aware but would ask the housing allocations team for details.

#### **Ivy on walls in Cemetery**

Mr Sharp referred to the growth of Ivy on the wall. Consideration was given to what would be the best way to deal with the problem. The ownership of the wall was believed to belong to Wellingborough Homes and Mr Bunyan. It was agreed that before a decision could be made a number of the parish councillors would take a look at how bad the growth was then decide how best to deal with it. A report would be brought back to the next meeting.

### **Playground and play equipment**

Mrs Sharp had circulated the various options for new play equipment to all parish councillors. The quotations were quite high and consideration would need to be given to what the best options would be for the play area.

The clerk would contact the Sports Officer at the borough council to see if there was any funding available from Sport England towards helping with the cost of replacing the current equipment.

It was noted that once a decision was made on what was required quotations would be obtained from other playground suppliers.

### **Street Lighting**

Mr Crisp reported that the lamp outside 29 John Grey Road was still out. If E-On were struggling with getting the appropriate part it was suggested that consideration be given to fitting a new lamp at this site.

Mr Kelly referred to two lights that he had reported which were still out. The clerk confirmed that these had been reported to E-On who were not quoting up to three weeks for repairs.

### **Allotments at Goodens Lane**

Mrs Griffiths referred to rubbish from allotments that were being placed outside the gates for the use of other allotment holders. This was causing an eyesore and she wondered if a letter could be sent to the allotment users asking them not to do this. Mr Crisp offered to speak with the users and ask them if they would refrain from doing this.

### **Bus Stop sign – Earls Barton Road**

It was reported that there was no longer a sign at this bus stop.

The clerk would report to Stagecoach.

### **Electoral Review of the borough**

The clerk reported that the electoral review had resulted in no change to the number of borough councillors, which would still remain at one for Great Doddington.

**13/79 Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Wednesday 3 April 2014. The meeting would commence at **7.30pm.**

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.