

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 10 October 2012 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, Mrs S Sharp and Mrs A Smith.

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk), 3 Parishioners and MR N Owen and Mr A Marshall from Mercia Crematoria.

12/40 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

12/41 DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations made.

12/42 PRESENTATION BY MERCIA CREMATORIA

Mr Owen and Mr Marshall explained their plans for the construction of a crematorium on land near to the boundary of the parish of Great Doddington, opposite the Merry Miller public house.

They had chosen to locate this in Wellingborough as the Borough Council had indicated that they were keen to construct and run a crematorium. Both the Kettering and Northampton crematoria were busy and often congested resulting in a long wait for the bereaved to bury the deceased. There were also plans for a woodland burial on the site.

The building itself would be positioned quite a way down the hill so it would not be visible from the road. The access would be onto Doddington Road opposite the garden of the Merry Miller which they deemed to have good visibility and which the highway authority had not objected to. There would also be a footpath link to the site.

The current application had been submitted for outline planning permission.

The Chairman asked who would run the crematorium should it be approved.

Mr Marshall clarified that they would initially offer this to the Council who had shown an interest in building and running its own cemetery. There were also other interested parties should the Council not wish to run the facility.

Concern was expressed about the anticipated increase in traffic, particularly coming from the east, which would travel through the village to get to the facility. At morning and afternoon school times the road was already busy and could get congested making it difficult for cars to travel through the village and also potentially causing danger to residents.

Mr Marshall clarified that the public perception of the number of vehicles per funeral was as a general rule a lot higher than studies had found. On average there would be no more than 5 cars per funeral and that often only the committal was held at a crematorium with maybe only one vehicle in attendance. He, however, understood the concern of the parish and indicated that restrictions on the number of cremations could be included in the planning permission, such as 5 per day for example. Funeral Directors could also be guided and requested to use the A45.

A parish councillor asked if smoke would be seen coming from the chimney.

Mr Marshall clarified that buildings had to comply with very strict guidelines and European regulations and that smoke would not emanate from the building. The only thing that may be seen would be a heat haze. Normal hours for the opening for services would be 10am to 4pm.

The Chairman thanked Mr Marshall and Mr Owen for attending the meeting and explaining their intentions. This would be discussed later on in the meeting.

12/43 MATTERS ARISING

Planters at the Village Green

The clerk reported that Mr Mason had now completed the work on the planters. He had not had to do as much work as he first thought so his invoice had been reduced accordingly.

Bunting

The bunting had been taken down at the end of the para-olympics as promised.

Personal Interest Forms

The clerk circulated the new forms for updating to Mrs Smith, Mr Howes and Mr Crisp, who had not yet completed them and asked that these be filled in and returned as soon as possible to ensure compliance with the new code.

Moving of bench along The Ridge

Following a request by a resident for the bench to be moved nearer to the bus stop, the parish councillors consider that this would be a good idea. However, there would need to be some discussion with residents along The Ridge to see if they would be happy with this.

12/44 PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman agreed to bring the planning item forward on the agenda.

Extension 7 Hardwater Road

An application had been received for a large extension at the above premises which would change the current bungalow into a house.

The owners of 30 Glenfield Drive were present and the Chairman allowed them to address the meeting to share their concern that this building would affect their enjoyment of their back garden and would reduce sunlight. The proposed new house would have windows overlooking their garden and there would be a loss of privacy. Whilst there were trees at the rear of their garden, for six months of the year there was no foliage. The proposal would result in the property being 3.1 metres higher than now.

The parish councillors asked questions for clarity and discussed the application.

RESOLVED that due to the concern of the neighbouring property and the affect on their privacy that the borough council would be asked to carry out a site visit.

Crematorium

The parish councillors discussed this application in more detail. Whilst there was no objection in principle to the land being used for a crematorium there was considerable concern over the expected increase in traffic, particularly from the eastern side, which would probably travel through the village. It was considered unlikely that the traffic would use the A45 even if guidance was given that they should.

RESOLVED that a response be sent to the Borough Council expressing major concern over the additional traffic that this development would bring to the parish of Great Doddington should the application be approved.

12/45 POLICE ISSUES

It was reported that there had been 1 incident of anti-social behaviour in John Gray Road during September.

There had been one incident in the current week in St. Nicholas road where phones/l-pads and money had been taken.

It was noted that it had been some months since the police had attended a parish meeting.

12/46 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Cherry Tree top of Wilby Lane

There was some concern over a cherry tree situated at the top of Wilby Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mrs Webber at the Council to take a look to see if it could be cut down. If she agreed this would be done and another tree planted.

Overgrowth on land owned by the County Council

It was reported that the land opposite The Stag was very overgrown and needed to be cut back.

The clerk would report this to the NCC and ask them to carry out some tidying up work.

Seat for the Village Garden

Mrs Nunley had now taken over as the lead for the Gardening Team. She had made a request that a new seat be purchased to replace the one that had been damaged.

It was agreed that it would be possible for the parish council to purchase a bench but that the gardening team would need to provide the information on where they wished the bench to be purchased from, the style and exact details to enable an order to be placed. There was a strong recommendation that the seat be made of metal or be moulded to ensure that it wasn't vandalised again.

12/47 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

BDO – Annual Audit	342.00
Wellingborough Norse	
Grounds Maintenance	918.00
E-On	
Street Lighting	1839.58
Mr S Mason	
Work to planters	1470.00

12/48 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Swarming Bees article

This had been submitted for the next newsletter. The Village News would shortly be available for distribution.

The Ridge - Drainage

Residents of The Ridge were still experiencing problems regarding the drains filling up with silt and causing excess water. The clerk had already reported this to the County Council's street doctor service and had been informed that this had been resolved. She would once again ask them to ensure that the gully work had been carried out properly. It was also recommended that local residents contact the County Council directly when this happened so that workmen could see the problem and try to work out how they could rectify it.

Memorial Hall

The drain near to the memorial hall up to the car park was solid with grit and needed to be cleared. This was believed to belong to Wellingborough Homes. The clerk would report.

The new house along High Street

One of the parish councillors made reference to the decking and obscure glass that had been installed recently he believed that the planning permission had agreed that between the house and garage there would be a clear area where the valley could still be seen.

It was believed that this was purely a protective coating over the glass to prevent it being damaged during the construction work.

TB15 – High Street

Notification had been received of a temporary road closure to the above.

Housekeeping

It was agreed, due to the length of the meeting, to defer the 'housekeeping' items to the next meeting on Wednesday 7 November 2012.

12/49 Health and Safety

There were no issues raised.

12/50 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 7 November 2012 at **7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Chairman.....