

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council held on 2 October 2013 in the Chapel Rooms, Great Doddington.

Present: Mr C Davies (Chairman), Mrs J Griffiths, Mr K Howes, Mr D Kelly, Mr I Ross, Mr J Sharp, Mrs S Sharp and Mrs A Smith.

Also present: Mrs C A Mundy (Clerk) and 3 parishioners.

13/41 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 11 September 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.

13/42 DECLARATIONS

Mr Ross declared a personal interest on TCON/2013/0017 – 4 Wilby Lane as this was a neighbouring property.

13/43 POLICE ISSUES

There were none. It was, however, noted that Earls Barton Police Station was to close and operations would in future be run from Wellingborough Station in Midland Road.

13/44 HIGHWAY ISSUES

30 MPH Signs

It was reported that there was foliage obscuring the signs. The clerk would notify the County Council about this.

Overgrown hedges

It was believed that remedial action had been taken by the residents.

Keep off the Grass sign

The Chairman would be placing this within the next few days.

Steps at the Village Triangle

This was on Mr Puttnam's list to carry out repairs.

Zebra Crossing

The Clerk would ask the County Council if funding would be available for a zebra crossing should this be the desire of parishioners.

The Chairman would write an article for the parish news and the school newsletter seeking the opinions of residents and those attending the school on whether there was a need, with the increase in traffic, for a zebra crossing and where this should be sited.

13/45 PLANNING

WP/2013/0372 - Solar Farm, The Ridge – Change of Use

There had been some misinformation in the village about the location of the land where the Solar Farm was to be. The clerk and parish councillors had assured residents of The Ridge that the location had not changed and that this would not be opposite their houses. A number of requests had been received regarding the height of the hedge, which the farmer had said he would cut in the Autumn following harvest.

No objections were raised.

WP/2012/0430 – 7 Hardwater Road

The work had now been commenced. A complaint had been received from residents at 36 Glenfield Drive that they had not been consulted. The borough councillor and Julie Thomas from the borough council had visited and explained what was happening.

WP/2013/0484 – 45 The Rudge – Extension

No objections were raised.

TCON/2013/0017 – 4 Wilby Lane

Application had been received to fell and remove conifer tree.

No objections were received.

13/46 FINANCES

There were no accounts for payment.

13/47 ANY OTHER MATTERS

Basketball nets

The chairman would measure the nets for the replacements to be ordered.

Land opposite The Stag

This land belonged to the county council and the clerk would ask them to carry out some remedial works to the bushes located there.

Gate near to the path leading from the Memorial Hall

It was reported that the hinge on the gate was missing. Mr Crisp confirmed that he had taken the hinge off following complaints received from residents that it was banging shut. He would take a look and report back.

Play Area

The issue was raised that the play equipment was looking very old and tatty and that maybe consideration should be given to replacing and renewing some of the equipment located there.

The clerk would contact a playground expert to carry out a review and make suggestions and recommendations on how the area could be enhanced.

Light outside 29 John Gray Road

The light was not working and needed to be repaired. This would be reported.

Hedge along The Ridge

It was reported that a number of complaints had been received about the height of the hedge on the opposite side of The Ridge to the houses. Local residents had noticed that this had not been cut and was now obscuring their view of the valley. The chairman had informally spoken with the farmer who had intended to cut the hedge in the Spring but because of the bad weather had been unable to do so. It was his intention to do this in the Autumn following harvest, though he could not give a definite date when the work would be done.

Newsletter

Mr Ross asked for copy for the next newsletter by 18 October 2013. The clerk would provide an update on the Solar Farm, the development at Earls Barton Road, the highway works at Hardwater Road and Wilby Way to the Chairman.

Rural Area Housing Growth

There was a proposal to hold a meeting at the Council Offices on Tuesday 5 November at 6.30pm to discuss the apportionment of rural housing, i.e. what goes where, and the ability of various villages to assume growth as well as how growth could best be controlled above and beyond planning levels.

If anyone wished to attend they should contact the clerk or just turn up.

13/48 Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Wednesday 6 November 2013. The meeting would commence at **7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Chairman.....