

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**The minutes of the meeting of Great Doddington Parish Council
held on 11 September 2013 in the Chapel Rooms, Great Doddington.**

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

Apologies were received from Mr J Crisp, Mrs J Griffiths, Mr K Howes and Mr J Sharp.

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

13/32 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 3 July 2013 were approved and signed as a true record. The Chairman also welcomed three parishioners to the meeting.

13/33 DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations made.

13/34 MATTERS ARISING

Potholes – The Ridge

It was noted that some of the potholes had been filled in. This would continue to be monitored.

Tree Roots – Earls Barton Road

The County Council had been informed about the issue with the tree roots and would investigate and report back.

Overgrown hedges

Advice would be sought as to whether overgrown hedges could be cut back by the parish council and the owner of the property recharged for the works.

Keep off the grass sign

The Chairman reported that he was in receipt of the sign but that the ground had been too hard to put this in. He was hoping that he would be able to arrange for this to go in over the following weekend.

13/35 POLICE ISSUES

it was reported that there had been no incidents during July and August. Mr Kelly would be attending the JAG meeting and would raise the issue of there being a raised police presence in the village with the work at the Wilby Way roundabout and the closure of Hardwater Road as it was believed that there would be a marked increase in vehicles travelling through the village.

13/36 HIGHWAY ISSUES

High Street Parking Issues

A complaint had been received about the parking of vehicles in the High Street. Whilst it had been noted that vehicles were parking on both sides of the road, causing a bottleneck at busy times, this did slow down the traffic. A suggestion had been made that double yellow lines be put on one side of the road. As this was the conservation area it was believed that this would not be possible but advice from Highways would be sought.

Zebra Crossing

The Chairman had been asked if a Zebra crossing could be placed in the village to assist the school children in crossing, what was becoming, a very busy road.

The Clerk recalled that when the Safer routes to School scheme had been devised for the village, there had been talk of including a Zebra crossing but some residents had been against this. However, the road was a lot busier now and she would approach the Highways department to see if this would be possible.

Hedges – The Ridge

A letter had been received from a resident of The Ridge expressing concern that the hedge opposite her home had not been cut back and was now very high and she could no longer see across the valley. The hedge was maintained by local farmer Mr Griffiths who had informed the parish council that he had jointed the Countryside Stewardship Scheme administered by Natural England. This promoted the healthy natural environment and gave a recommendation that hedges should be cut every two to three years. Mr Griffiths, had intended that the hedges be cut back in March but the weather had been very wet and his contractors had been unable to complete the work. The deadline for hedge cutting, because of wildlife, was 31 March and as such the hedge was not able to be cut before September. The contractors were now working on harvest and would probably be able to complete the work sometime in the Autumn.

Hardwater Road (travelling from Wilby)

Mr Kelly reported that there were a lot of stones on the road junction travelling from the Rugby Club at Hardwater/Earls Barton Road, which could cause a skid hazard. Mr Kelly would endeavour to sweep the stones away and would continue to monitor the situation.

13/37 PLANNING ISSUES

WP/2013/0263/FM

This planning application had been approved by the Borough Council. The developers had been in contact with the local residents affected by the flooding and had informed them of the remedial works that would

be undertaken to improve the current situation. Work would commence quite quickly on site and there may be a need for a road closure to carry out the drainage works but the parish council would be informed if this was to happen.

The developer had also contacted the parish council regarding the naming of the streets and had asked for suggestions to be put forward. The Chairman would take this to the local school to see what the local children could come up. The clerk would inform the developer of this.

WP/2013/0346 – Water Tower Cut Throat Lane

This application was for the reduction of the ground floor extension. No objection had been raised.

WP/2013/0328 – 44 Earls Barton Road

WP/2013/0328 – 46 Earls Barton Road

This application was for dropped kerbs at the above properties. There were no objections.

WP/2013/0438 – 19 Lower Street

This application was for the demolition of part of the front stone wall. The parish council had submitted a comment to the council to the effect that the problem with parking of vehicles was recognised in Lower Street and that an agreement to remove the wall and rebuild further back in the same stone would be acceptable. The application, however, would be determined by the borough council.

WP/2013/0372 – Change of Use land off The Ridge

This application was for change of use of the land from agricultural to use for a solar farm.

There had been some confusion with residents of The Ridge about the location of the site as some believed it would actually be opposite their homes. The borough council had written to residents to clarify the location which was nearer to the old prison site and quite a drop down to the valley.

It was agreed that there be no objection to the change of use as long as this change of use was for a solar farm and not residential development.

13/38 FINANCE

The statement and accounts for payment were agreed as follows:

E-on street lighting for q/e 30 6 13	1822.70
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13/39 Matters arising

Planters at House on High Street

The Conservation Officer had visited the property and spoken to Mrs Cunningham, the owner. They had installed the planters for security. They were happy to discuss the reduction of the size of the hedges to suit the parish council. Mrs Smith confirmed that she had also spoken with Mrs Cunningham who had informed her that they had been concerned about security hence the addition of the planters.

Mr Ross clarified that there had not been a condition on the planning application about this area being open. Whilst the parish council understood the views of local residents it was believed that nothing, other than the monitoring the size of the hedging could be done by the parish council. It was also noted that because of the incline at the front of the house it was also unlikely that the view of the valley would be seen from the road.

Steps at the Village Green

It was noted that these had not been repaired and that there were 3 or 4 missing. The Clerk would chase up Mr Puttnam who had agreed to carry out the work.

Mobile Library

The mobile library would be in the village between 2.30 and 3.15 on the 2nd Friday of each month and could be found opposite 96 High Street.

Northamptonshire County Council's Archive and Heritage Service

Volunteers were required for the Record Office. A poster would be placed on the noticeboard.

Boundary Commission

An electoral review of Wellingborough was taking place and draft recommendations had been received from The Local Government Boundary Commission. Great Doddington and Wilby would continue to be one ward with the proposed addition of Millers Park. This and other suggestions were out for consultation and comments were required by 11 November 2013 to consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

Capital Estimates

Correspondence had been received requesting submissions for Capital projects via the borough council. The parish council did not wish to submit anything.

Redwell and Waendel Leisure Centres Services Consultation

A survey had been received from the borough council regarding the above leisure centres asking for views of service users. Mrs Sharp took the survey for completion as she was a user.

Amenity Land High Street

Capita Symonds had agreed to reduce the legal costs to £350 for the Lease. It was considered that this was still too much and that as the parish council had maintained this piece of land for many, many years at no cost to the County Council that this should be taken into consideration. Until the cost for the legal fees was waived the parish council would not enter into a lease.

The Clerk would inform Capita Symonds of this.

Parishes Forum – 10 October 2013

This would be held in the Council Chamber at 7pm on 10 October should anyone wish to attend.

13/40 Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Wednesday 2 October 2013. The meeting would commence at

7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman.....