

## **DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Dodford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs R Harper, J Caldicott, A Crump, L Griffin, and A Rea; Mrs C Limm, Clerk

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Dawson and Silver.

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

#### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15 January 2009**

The Minutes were agreed and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **4. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on a consultation meeting she had attended organised by the District Council to identify community transport needs. The District was planning to start a community transport service with one minibus in the first instance. Initially the aim was to provide transport for people with mobility problems to enable them to reach regular events.

The Clerk had also attended a meeting at County Hall which demonstrated how to use the 'My Parish' website. WCC had set up a free website for each parish council in the County. Councils could add their own material and also use a notice board facility to provide information about local events. The Clerk would start adding material to the site over the next few weeks. It was agreed that the Parish Council should consider in due course how well this new site was working and whether to continue to use the BDC website.

#### **5. Planning**

Cllr Caldicott reported on Planning Meetings held on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> February. The Minutes had been circulated.

Cllr Harper reported on a meeting he had attended with District Cllr Brian Lewis and David Hammond, Head of Development Control at BDC, to discuss planning enforcement. The meeting had been constructive. The planning department was reviewing its procedures for handling and monitoring enforcement issues and was advertising for an additional enforcement officer. There had been a 30% reduction in planning applications which should mean that more effort could be put into enforcement. Cllr Harper felt that the parish council's efforts to monitor enforcement and draw the issues to the District's attention had paid off to some extent.

As agreed by the Planning Committee, Cllr Harper had urged the District to focus on one or two key examples in the parish and to pursue them to a conclusion. This would demonstrate the District's resolve and set some clear examples. Particular issues in the parish had been discussed and the District outlined their current views on these. David Hammond pointed out

that some longstanding issues would now be covered by recent changes in Permitted Development Rights. It was agreed that the Clerk should draw attention to these changes in the parish magazine and point people towards further advice. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should ask David Hammond for 100 copies of the Dodford Conservation Area leaflet which contained useful advice on when planning permission was needed.

## **6. Parish Plan review**

Cllr Rea commented on the meeting held with Pauline Striplin, a consultant in community planning, which had been very helpful. He suggested that the Council should continue to use her services to help with consultation as set out in her proposals for the next stages of the review. The Clerk was asked to invite her to another meeting to talk about how to structure the consultation and particularly to plan the first event.

## **7. Maintenance items**

It was agreed that a meeting should be sought with County Highways about the poor state of the roads in the centre of Dodford (particularly Woodland and Victoria). The Clerk had already written to WCC to ask if gritting routes could be extended and if additional grit bins could be provided to deal with icy conditions and this should also be followed up at the meeting.

Litter was currently an issue in the centre of Dodford and along Timberhonger Lane. The Clerk had asked the District Council about their responsibilities for these areas. Depending on their response, it was suggested that the Council might need to consider paying for some litter picking. The Clerk said that at present this could not be done by the lengthsman because his work was paid for by the County whereas litter was a District responsibility. However, WCC was looking at this again because several parishes had asked whether the lengthsman could pick up the litter he came across as he undertook his other work.

## **9. Finance**

Payments for February set out in a schedule circulated by the Clerk were approved.

## **10. Correspondence received**

A note of the correspondence received since the last meeting was circulated for information. The Clerk was asked to thank Cllr Sheila Blagg for keeping the Council informed of developments in the County.

## **11. Councillors Items**

Cllr Rea said that he was pleased to report that WCC had agreed a grant for £1,500 for the Holiday Farm. This bid had been supported by the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....Chairman

