

## **GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Great Doddington held on 3 March 2009 at the United Reformed Church Rooms, Chapel Lane, Great Doddington.**

Mr I Bowers, (Chairman), Mr J Sharp (Vice-Chairman) Mr J Crisp, Mr C Davies, Mrs J Griffith, Mr K Howes, Mrs K McLester and Mr I Ross  
Also present Mrs C A Mundy, Clerk and Borough Councillor B Graves.

**08/68** Apologies were received from Mrs J Richardson

#### **08/69 Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed with an amendment to the attendees to include Mr J Crisp.

#### **08/70 Matters Arising**

##### **Dog Bin, Earls Barton Road**

The Chairman thanked Mr Sharp for making arrangements to erect the dog bin in Earls Barton Road, its usage would be monitored.

##### **School Lining**

The Clerk reported that the primrose lining at the School would be completed before the end of the financial year.

##### **Website**

Mr Ross had spoken with Mr Meagher and he had confirmed that the Parish Council could retain the website and name of Great Doddington.com . Mr Ross would speak again with Rhod Davis and Rob Preston of InterMac to clarify the position which would possibly entail some form of cost to the Parish Council.

##### **Junior Football Club – Recreation ground**

It was confirmed that the football club would stay off the pitch until 21 March when the situation would be reviewed.

#### **08/70 Declaration of Interest**

Mr Bowers made a personal and prejudicial declaration on item 08/74 in relation to Affordable homes for local people, particularly in relation to plot 1 of the plan which accompanied the Northamptonshire Acre letter of 16 January 2009.

Mr Crisp declared a personal interest on the same item but in relation to plot 3 which was directly behind his house.

## **08/71 Police Matters**

The clerk had received a police report giving February's crime statistics of 1 burglary dwelling and 1 of criminal damage.

Mr Ross reported that there were 2 new PCSO's at Earls Barton named Natalie Cordner and Lynette Amey-Herd. It was agreed that they be invited along to a Parish Council meeting to highlight the fact that with the nights getting lighter there would potentially be problems at the recreation ground. The Inspector would be invited along to the Annual Parish Meeting as was normal practice each year.

## **08/72 Highway Matters**

### **Vehicle Activation Signs**

The clerk was pleased to report that the County Council had agreed that the Parish Council could erect 2 vehicle activation signs outside 41 The Ridge and 73 Earls Barton Road. These would be light weight signs and would be connected to the lamp posts.

The clerk would place an order for these from Westcotec at a cost of £2,100 for each lamp. It was anticipated that there would be a 6 week delivery on these. The clerk also would seek approval from E-On regarding the erection of the signs on their lamp posts.

County Councillor Blackwell would be informed of the developments and thanked once again for his contribution towards the cost.

## **08/73 PLANNING**

### **55 The Ridge**

Concern was raised regarding the access way to the properties and particularly about bin collections and whether these would cause an obstruction on the pavement.

### **25 Hardwater Road – Extension**

There were no objections.

### **Car Port Memorial Hall**

To enable the children to have a safe outside play area it was proposed that an area near to the kitchen end of the Memorial Hall be fenced off to be used. There were no objections in relation to this.

## **08/73 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The following were approved for payment and the monthly financial statement noted:

E-On electricity	
1.10. 08 – 31.12.08	820.01
Mrs C A Mundy	
Salary, expenses, accommodation fee	589.59
Sally Kerlin	
Grasscutting and petrol	145.00
Pages of Wellingborough	
Purchase of Lawnmower	230.00
Pages of Wellingborough	
Service of Machinery	108.53

## **08/74 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Council Tax**

Wellingborough Council had levied a 0% increase in Council Tax and the percentage for the Parish Council had decreased slightly as well. Bills would be distributed shortly with the major increase being from the Police and County Council.

### **Underground Cabling**

The Chairman reported that he had been informed that the underground cabling was to go ahead and that it would probably take place in Church Lane during the School summer holidays.

### **Gardening team**

The Chairman reported on a letter received from Mrs Newsome on behalf of the Gardening Team.

The work they wished to complete this year was as follows:

Removal of crab-apple tree and the replacement planting with a more suitable variety;

Improvements to the 5 wooden seats;

Supply of 1 new wooden seat for the amenity garden;

Removal of the 2 metal seats in the amenity garden to the recreation ground;

Mrs Newsome required clarification of whether gardening monies could be carried over each year and who would be paying for what work to be carried out.

The Parish Council discussed the items and it was confirmed that the Grant funding of £1,000 given towards gardening requirements for the village would need to be spent each financial year. From 1 April 2009 all expenditure should fall within this annual budget..

Councillor Graves informed the meeting that he had ward support monies to spend this financial year and that he would be most happy to make a financial contribution towards the provision of the bench in the Amenity Garden. The Parish Council thanked him for his support and for the funding. It was believed that the seat would cost about £500. He would arrange for details to be passed to his Ward Support Officer at the Borough Council for payment to the Parish Council.

With regard to the removal of the metal seats Mr Crisp offered to speak with Richard Wells who lived along The Ridge, to see if this job was something that he would be able to do.

The clerk would write to Mrs Newsome to clarify and inform her of the above.

### **Affordable homes for local people**

Mr Bowers declared a personal and prejudicial interest and Mr Crisp declared a personal interest on this item.

Correspondence had been received from Northamptonshire Acre about finding land for affordable homes to be built within Great Doddington. Some hypothetical suggestions on where property could be placed had been provided and the Rural Housing Enabler had asked if she could attend a meeting to discuss.

A debate ensued about whether the Parish would benefit from a housing needs survey being conducted. On being put to the vote it was declared that the Parish Council would like a visit from the Rural Housing Enabler to explain the Housing Needs survey in further detail. The Clerk would make arrangements for her to attend a future meeting.

### **Bunker Site near to Rugby Club**

Councillor Graves had been approached by a youth from the village asking if they could have formal use of the bunker located near to the Rugby Club.

The Parish Council did not know who owned the bunker and investigations had not brought a definitive answer other than it could be MoD property. It was strongly advised that under Health and Safety grounds formal use should not be allowed.

Councillor Graves commented that he had not received any further communication but agreed that refusal would be the sensible option.

### **General Borough Council business**

Councillor Graves made reference to his role as Borough Councillor for Great Doddington Ward.

He asked that he be contacted should the Parish Council need any support or assistance with any items that related to Borough Council issues.

**08/75 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm. The next meeting would be held on 8 April 2009.

**Chairman .....**