

Dodleston Parish Council
Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 12 July 2021 - 7.30 Dodleston Village Hall

MINUTES

Chairman Mike Maughan
Councillors Paul Buchanan, Richard Kitchin, Chris Ward, Roger Taylor, Welna Bowden, Mark Williams, Mike Dix

Clerk Kate Lloyd

Members of the Public: None

1. **Apologies for absence**
Cllr Carl Willis
Cllr Rachel Jones
2. Procedural matters
 - i) **Declaration of interests**
None
 - ii) To agree the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18 May 2021. A couple of amendments for typing errors were made to the Ordinary Parish Council meeting minutes (item 6) **RESOLVED:** Councillors approved the minutes as a correct record of the Annual General Meeting Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 July 2021.
3. ii) **Actions from last Meeting**
Actions and matters arising from the meeting held on 18 May 2021 were discussed:

Item	Action	Responsible	Update
Annual Parish 3.	Chairman's report to be emailed to Councillors	Cllr Maughan	Completed
Ordinary Meeting 7. Councillors updates March 21	To provide a summary on flooding for Cllr Williams to take forward with the Incident Committee	Cllr Jones	Outstanding. Refer to item 7
7. Councillors update May 21	To take forward the pothole issue with Highways	Cllr Ward	Highways have remarked some of the faded potholes within the village. Refer to item 7
11i. Lower Kinnerton issues (Speeding)	To take forward this issue on notices/banners for a Community Speed Watch zone with PCSO Rachel McKevitt To contact CWAC about the speed survey undertaken on Moor Lane and report back at the next meeting.	Cllr Bowden Cllr Ward	Refer to item 15 Refer to item 7
12. Cold callers	To contact Bernard Dennis on a proposal for Cold callers and report back to Councillors at the next meeting.	Cllr Ward	Refer to item 7

4. Village Police Report

Cllr Bowden read through the Village Police report and advised Councillors of criminal damage including the theft of a vehicle in Huntington. The report also covered mud on roads and the Road Traffic Act covering this. It was noted Dodleston Hall Farm livestock entrance had lots of mud on the road which had not been cleared.

Cllr Maughan read through the Parish newsletter from PCSO Rachel McKevitt. This included details on the new beat manager and new contact Ally McBirch and dates of Police Surgeries for the remainder of the year.

5. Public Speaking Time

i. Integration with Huntington

The Ward Councillor looking after the Christleton ward advised he would like more integration and attending different Parish Council meetings. However, this was virtually impossible with four Parish Council meeting within the ward being held on the same evening. He welcomed thoughts on how this could be addressed. Cllr Maughan extended a warm welcome to him.

ii. Hare Installation – Views

A resident advised The Community Interest Company which delivered the Hare Project has been successful in applying for a grant from the Climate Emergency Fund. This will be used for a visibility Study on The Lache Eyes, covering the bridle way to improve and make it cyclable. The Active Travel project will have a main angle on a connection with nature and scope out improvements for biodiversity with the focus on The Lache as an economically deprived area.

With changing rules in 2021 with The Land Management Scheme, Landowners /farmers will need to demonstrate how they have used their lands to benefit from the scheme. There are extra payments available for tree planting, wildflowers and improving water quality (Public money for Public Goods). The EA is encouraging an application for funding to with the goal of improving the quality of water through Balderton Brook. The Company need to engage with landowners and gain letters of support from the wider community with leverage of support from The Parish Council via a written letter. Cllr Maughan advised there were connections with Saltney / Lache via Saltney Town Council. This was never progressed but the Parish Council was supportive. Cllr Bowden commented that safer access to Chester would be welcomed.

There is a plan for a path into the Lache from Decoy Farm which may involve use of the verge. Cllr Buchanan thought if it imposed on to the road this could be dangerous. **ACTION:** Cllr Williams to check with CWAC on potential plans.

6. i Field Update

Cllr Buchanan provided an update on the field advising a fly fishing school will be renting the field for casting practice. He was unsure whether or not the damage to the table tennis had been repaired.

ii Pond Development Update

Cllr Maughan read through the update provide by Cllr Jones. The funding bid for the pond project has been submitted. These grants are highly sought after and The Parish Council maybe unsuccessful. Should this be the case, the project group wanted to know if The Parish Council would be willing to contribute. Three quotes have been received with the lowest being £18k. Cllr Bowden advised funding falls within her portfolio and would be happy to help.

Cllr Maughan advised the broken styal from the PROW has been fixed.

Cllr Maughan advised he had spoken with Cllr Jones on concerns with flooding. Bob Bradshaw has examined the drains and advised these are blocked from Lower Kinnerton to Gorsetlla. **ACTION:** Cllr Maughan to forward the email to Cllr Williams and for Cllr Williams to take this forward with CWAC.

Cllr Maughan also advised that Asda were planning to hold a Community Picnic Event in the summer.

7. Parish Councillors Updates

Cllr Ward advised Councillors that the speed survey in Moor Lane has been undertaken but the results were unknown despite contact with CWAC. **ACTION:** Cllr Ward to follow up with CWAC.

Cllr Ward advised that Principle Councils (not Parish Councils) can have the power to set up a no cold calling zone. Local Trading Standards also provide advice. **ACTION:** Cllr Ward to find out more information and report back.

Cllr Ward advised that the potholes in St Mary's Road have been reported to CWAC and that the faded markings have been resprayed.

Cllr Maughan advised Councillors that a resident had asked about the Castle Way road sign. Cllr Ward will take this forward with CWAC. Cllr Bowden stated that the Dodleston village sign, past Bellis' Farm has become obscured by overgrowth which needs cutting back and it was questioned as to who was responsible for this. Cllr Maughan advised that the 30 mph sign in/out of the village needed to be raised which he has done to a certain level.

Cllr Maughan advised a resident had asked about memorial benches and information had been sent.

Cllr Taylor advised that he had received an email from Lee Peters raising concerning on the lack of footpaths from Balderton to Dodleston. Cllr Maughan advised this would be reviewed under PROW item 12.

Cllr Bowden noted the Bus Review was no longer on the agenda and was uncertain where this was now up to. There was a discussion on the issue of the bus not stopping in Lower Kinnerton. Cllr Buchanan advised he remembered there were discussions previously about a designated officer for Parish Councils to contact. Cllr Bowden advised that at the conference held by CWAC there was a designated officer appointed to liaise with Parish Councils and a CRM system to log issues. As a point of reference, it was noted that it is not the Bus Review that had been dropped from the agenda rather than there has been no further updates. There was a discussion on the potential for the Wrexham 1 Bus to diverted through the village (single Decker bus) making it a more viable service. Several comments were made about the Bus Service operating too late and finishing too early.

8. Local Life Update

Cllr Maughan advised Councillors that the latest edition of Local Life was ready for delivery.

9. Lengthsman Services

Cllr Maughan advised the Lengths man has retired due to ill health. The vacancy will be advertised. Councillors wished to express their thanks for his service over the years. **RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed a gift to the value of £50. **ACTION:** The Clerk to advertise the lengths man vacancy.

10. Chicken Sheds

Cllr Bowden raised the issue with odour coming from the chicken sheds. Cllr Buchanan believes this was being caused by soiled bedding. Cllr Kitchin stated at the planning appeal hearing, it was clear in their reports that the chicken sheds would not smell with a number of events and models being used. Cllr Kitchin stated the key part of the report is to report odour to Environmental Agency.

11. Village Day Event

Cllr Maughan stated that he felt there should not be a rush for The Village Day event during the transitioning period with Covid. However, this needs to be a Parish Council decision. There are lots of rules and regulations to adhere to and with infections rising a new wave is predicted in August 2021. Cllr Taylor advised there was no enthusiasm from the Dodleston Village Foundation to hold this event this year. There was a discussion on the reasons to postpone. **RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed to postpone this event until next year.

12. PROW

Cllr Maughan advised trees have been planted along The Public Right of Way. These have not been across the next field due to crops. A question was raised as to the legal right to clear pathways on landowners land. Cllr Dix advised that if a path was on private land then permission would be required. Cllr Maughan read out a draft email letter from Lee Peters (Balderton resident) concerning issues with travel to Dodleston, speed zones, sustainable travel and footpaths. There was a short discussion on this. **ACTION:** Cllr Maughan to forward resident's draft letter to Cllr Williams.

13. Village Hall

Cllr Maughan provided an update on the Village Hall. The Parish Council is currently waiting on plans and costs so that this can be presented to the community properly and determine whether or not it is feasible.

14. Community Speeding Project

Cllr Bowden advised Councillors that several successful speed sessions had been held and had received the latest update from PCSO McKeitt. This set out the various speed zones, the number of vehicles and recorded speeds. 119 letters had been issued to drivers exceeding the speed limits. Cllr Bowden commented that more than half the vehicles had exceeded the speed limit. More volunteers are required for speed sessions and it was suggested an article be provided for face book. Cllr Bowden advised that permission had been granted by several residents for banners to be placed in hedgerows – Dodleston and Lower Kinnerton. Various banners are available and these are of no standard size or wording. Three quotes will be required. **RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed to fund the cost of the banners. **ACTION:** Cllr Bowden and Cllr Kitchin to decide on the size and wording of the banners.

15. Support for Families

Cllr Bowden advised Councillors that 76kg of goods had been delivered. There is a real need and people should check with the Foodbank for the essential non perishable items. This should be advertised on face book to encourage contributions especially as people are coming off furlough and being made redundant.

16. Planning Applications

Cllr Kitchin advised Councillors there was only one planning application for an extension on a property at Rough Hill. This required no comment from The Parish Council.

An application is expected from a property on Kinnerton Road and Cllr Kitchin appreciated thoughts on this as the application will be received in-between meetings. A previous application was submitted in 1996 which was refused and refused on appeal. The new application will see a frontage of a garage and building of a two storey house behind. Cllr Buchanan advised The Parish Council could only be involved if there was a major issue or an objection from a neighbour. Cllr Buchanan expressed that the planning committee should meet once plans have been submitted. Cllr Buchanan stated that he would not participate in that meeting due to close proximity of applicant to his house to avoid any conflict of interest.

17. Finance

i To approve income and expenditure since 3 May to 5 July 2021

RESOLVED: Councillors approved all income and expenditure from 3 May to 5 July 2021.

ii To agree the outturn for 2021/22

RESOLVED: Councillors approved the outturn for 2021/22

iii. To note the outcome of the internal audit 2020/21

The Clerk advised Councillors the internal audit and Annual Return 2021/22 had been signed off by the internal auditors without comment.

19. Correspondence

None