

**Dodleston Parish Council**  
**Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Monday 23 January 2023 - 7.30 pm Dodleston Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Chairman** Mike Maughan  
**Councillors** Paul Buchanan, Michael Dix, Chris Ward, Richard Kitchin, Rachel Jones, Tim Rahill

**Clerk** Kate Lloyd

**Members of the Public:** Two

**1. Apologies of absence:**

Cllr Welna Bowden (Annual Leave)  
Cllr Mark Williams  
Cllr Carl Willis  
Cllr Tim Rahill

**2. Procedural matters**

i) **Declaration of interests**

Cllr Maughan and Cllr Jones declared an interest in all planning matters item 16.  
Cllr Buchanan declared he was the previous owner of Two Mile House. He no longer has an interest in this property or any residual interest.

ii) To agree the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of The Parish Council 14 November 2022. An amendment was made to item 7, paragraph 5. **RESOLVED:** Councillors approved the minutes as a correct record of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 November 2022.

**3. ii) Actions from last Meeting**

Actions and matters arising from the meeting held on 14 November 2022 were discussed:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Update</b>
4. Village Police Report	To invite the PCSO to the next Parish Council meeting and send details of meetings for 2023.	The Clerk	Completed by Cllr Welna Bowden
6. Field update	To arrange for the mower to be stored in his shed over winter	Cllr Rahill, Cllr Buchanan , Cllr Maughan	Completed
12. Village Hall	To forward the name of the officer from CWAC dealing with CIL funding to Cllr Buchanan.	The Clerk	Completed

**4. Village Police Report**

Cllr Maughan read through the Police report. There have been no burglaries and surgeries are to be arranged. All important issues should be reported.

**5. Public Speaking Time**

None

**6. i Field Update**

Cllr Maughan provided an update advising that mower has been serviced and is residing in Cllr Rahill's shed. He also advised the goal posts have been damaged and need to be replaced. Cllr Buchanan reported damage to the double glazed door at the Pavilion and having liaised with the Field Committee, has been replaced.

Cllr Maughan advised the CCTV is no longer working and a new unit or hard drive is required to repair it. **RESOLVED:** Councillors approved a budget of £500 to repair the unit. A contribution from Chester Lakes and Dromgoole & Sons has been received as a thank you for hosting. **RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed for the £500 to be donated towards the pond project.

### **Pond Development Update**

Cllr Jones advised members that £17k of funding had been confirmed with an additional £2k to be received from Cllr Williams in the new financial year. Various quotes have been received and a number of elements removed. The total cost is £27.5k which leaves a shortfall of £12k (excluding VAT). Cllr Buchanan stated the Parish Council has a great field and facility and just needs to undertake work on the pond. He advised Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding would be allocated towards the pond project

## **7. Parish Councillors Updates**

Cllr Chris Ward advised that the Egerton Walk pot holes and sink hole at St Mary's Road junction did not meet the criteria for repair. Cllr Kitchin advised that a resident driving through Rough Hill had burst their tyre due to a pot hole. Church Croft has been patched but there have been difficulties completing the work due to a manhole cover.

Cllr Buchanan advised Councillors that there had been discussions on a Village Fete / Day. The format and date for a one day event has not yet been agreed. Cllr Buchanan proposed 1 July 2023 and numerous Councillors and the Clerk volunteered to undertake various roles. **RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed the date of 1 July 2023 for Village Fete / Day.

Cllr Maughan advised Councillors that the Parish Council had now purchased the sweeping brush to clear alley ways within the Parish.

Cllr Maughan provided the following update on behalf of Cllr Bowden.

#### **Foodbank**

A huge donation of 275.06kg of food was delivered on 20 December 2022. Ongoing deliveries are happening. The Food bank was very grateful for the £500 donation from the Parish Council and would like to convey their gratitude. A recognition certificate was issued which has been passed to Cllr Maughan.

#### **Alleyways**

Due to inclement weather the initial meeting to discuss and start the development of the alleyways had to be postponed. The new dates are 11 and 12 February and these will be published after tonight. The aim is to start with Wildflowers and if needed, add bulbs in 2024 sowing planting season.

#### **Speeding project**

Cllr Bowden had a meeting with Stuart Bateman, Principal Engineer at CWAC. A moveable speed tracking device (measures actual speed) cannot be permanently fitted (council policy) but there is a pilot at the moment in Great Boughton looking at how SIDs can be fixed to lampposts and then be rotated to other sites. The costs are £8,000 per device. There are also opportunities to add more flashing speed signs (one is where you enter Lower Kinnerton for example) and a meeting has been set up on 10 February at 1.30pm to look at suitable sites (lamp posts) that can have fixed signs (only flash speed limit, not actual speed)

#### **Litter picking –**

17 March till 2 April (Great British Spring Clean). 25 or 26 March (Saturday/Sunday) is the suggested dates – any support from the PC or suggestions welcomed.

Cllr Maughan provided an update on behalf of Cllr Rahill. He had been approached by a local resident regarding excessive speeding through Lower Kinnerton. There was request for a speed sign which recorded the speed and not flashed a 30mph speed limit.

## **8. Local Life**

Cllr Maughan provided an update advising there will be three editions a year, April, August and November, to ensure the main activities are captured.

Cllr Maughan advised Councillors he has received an editorial from Evan Morris which recognised The Manager of the Year and Chef of the Year and which promoted The Red Lion. The Manager of the Red Lion had requested this not to be included as an article. Cllr Kitchin stated articles included in Local Life are at the

discretion of the Parish Council and should benefit the community. A precedent for refusing an article for Local Life has already been set.

Councillors discussed the draft Editorial Policy produced by Cllr Dix. **RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed to adopt the Editorial Policy.

**10. Lengthsman Services**

Cllr Maughan advised the barrier still needs to be collected from the lock up and will consider completing this in mid February when the weather improves. Cllr Jones commented on the Ukraine Banner which is looking rather tatty and asked whether this should be removed. Councillors discussed this and considered refreshing it.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed to leave the banner in place and consider removing it in the spring.

The Lengths man advised that work on the notice board and bench in Lower Kinnerton will be undertaken in the spring.

**11. Chicken Sheds**

Cllr Buchanan advised Councillors that the odour from the chicken sheds was rather smelly last week. Councillors agreed to allow Cllr Bowden to follow up on the air filter analysis with the resident.

**12. Village Hall**

Cllr Buchanan advised Councillors that plans to move the Pre School from the Village Hall to a new facility have previously been discussed. However, the vision of the Pre School for the new facility is too expensive. There is not enough money available to fund this and refurbish the Village Hall. There is also the question of whether the Parish Council should be seen only to be supporting one community group. Cllr Buchanan has contacted Tracy Hall at Cheshire West Council regarding CIL funding, requesting an indication of future funding and is still waiting for a response. It was suggested there should be the provision of facilities for all users and this strategy should be considered.

**13. Community Speed Project**

Cllr Maughan asked what additional anti speeding infrastructure the Parish Council can consider investing in. Whilst the Parish Council does not have power to do so, where it can it should especially as funding is available. The speed display signs in Wales are not available in England; however, Great Boughton is currently involved in a pilot scheme. The 30 mph signs at the entrance to the villages have dropped. Both signs have loosened and are no longer at the proper height. **ACTION:** Cllr Ward to take forward with Highways.

Cllr Maughan provided Councillors with examples of speed sign with white gates to entrances to villages. This could be considered for Lower Kinnerton, Balderton, Rough Hill and Gorstella. Around 10 signs will be required. **ACTION:** Cllr Ward to take this forward with CWAC Highways.

**17. PROW**

Cllr Maughan advised Councillors that a resident had reported an electric fence had been placed across fields from the chicken sheds for sheep. He has written to CWaC who have contacted the landowner concerned advising this is an offence and to remove it.

**18. Training Crossing Closures**

Cllr Ward advised Councillors that he had received a response to his Freedom of Information (FOI) request. This detailed the number of rail crossing closures at Pulford and Balderton, 41 and 26 respectively. It also includes the number due to failures including those due to track issues. No data relating to accumulated days has been provided or the times when both crossing were closed. Cllr Ward will request further information.

**19. Village Christmas Tree**

**i. Missing Tree**

Cllr Maughan provided an update to Councillors following a complaint that there was no Christmas tree in the Church. He had contacted the supplier who apologised for this oversight. The supplier had simply forgotten about the tree which is provided free of charge. The complainant suggested the tree had been reallocated from the Church to the Royal Oak in Higher Kinnerton. Cllr Maughan wished to clarify that this did not happen.

**ii. Vouchers for Electricity Supply**

Cllr Buchanan advised that two residents had provided the electricity supply for two Christmas Trees in the village. Cllr Buchanan proposed a £25 voucher for each resident. This would be purchased from the village

shop with a thank you card. **RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed for the purchase of two £25.00 voucher and card to the total value of £55.00. Cllr Buchanan agreed to purchase these and seek reimbursement.

### iii. Further lighting for Christmas 2023

Cllr Maughan asked Councillors for permission for a new supply of Christmas lights for 2023. Councillors agreed for a working group to be set up to oversee this. Members will be Cllr Maughan and Cllr Dix.

## 20. Planning Applications

i. Cllr Kitchin provided an update on all planning matters. He advised that planning application 22/04554/PDR was for converting dairy buildings into commercial building for storage. This is a large number to reduce application costs. The application at Moat Farm is for the demolition of the farm house and other farm buildings to add to the estate.

ii) Cllr Kitchin advised the neighbour of a property undertaking building works was not progressing to plan. Cllr Kitchin has spoken with the resident and believes it is being built to plan. He will keep it under review.

Cllr Maughan commented on a TPO planning application for cutting of two trees in Penfold Way. It is believed this request relates to drainage works and is not a concern.

## 21. Finance

i To approve income and expenditure from 7 November 2022 to 7 January 2023

**RESOLVED:** Councillors approved all income and expenditure from 7 November 2022 to 7 January 2023.

The Clerk advised Councillors there had been a small error in the amount of pay and tax reported in Real Time Information (RTI) for November 2022 period. This will be amended. The Clerk will also follow up on invoices from Lockshop UK in order to claim back VAT on services provided.

ii To agree the outturn for 2022/23

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed and approved the outturn for 2022/23

iii To agree and approve the 2023/24 Budget

Councillors reviewed the draft budget for 2023/24. **RESOLVED:** Councillors approved the draft budget 2023/24

iv To agree and approve the 2023/24 Parish Precept

Councillors considered the Parish Precept 2023/24. **RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed and approved the Parish Precept for 2023/24 of £33,500. This is a zero impact change on the 22/23 precept.

v. To consider a draft charging Policy.

The Clerk advised this was being drafted and agreed for it to be sent to Cllr Buchanan for review.

## 20. Correspondence

Cllr Maughan advised Councillors he had received correspondence from the owner of 10 Mallory Walk, raising concerns with a kerb outside his property. It was agreed this was not a Parish Council responsibility.

**ACTION:** Cllr Ward to take forward with Highways.

The meeting ended at 20.40 pm