

Minutes of the Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council General Purpose Committee held at 20.00 on the 18th February 2015, Parish Room (adjacent the Village Hall), Doddinghurst Road, Doddinghurst.

Present: Cllrs: Alan Farrow, Colin Enderby, Gerry Smith, Julia Le Page, Graham W Bateson and Diane Rogers Harrison.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllrs: Phil Arnell and David Potter.

2. Declaration of Interests relating to items on the agenda - None declared.

3. 🖐️ Resolved: Approved the minutes of the prior GP meeting (23rd April 2014).

4. Information: Update on actions from prior meeting:

- NAT's work schedule submitted Feb 2015
- New Play area completed
- Parish Room external doors painted and internal locks repaired.
- Insurance renewed and extended to include new play equipment.
- CPA VAT reclaimed and CIF grant received.
- DOFC invoice paid for 2013/14.
- New CPA RoSPA inspected and snags with the Contractor to resolve.
- Noted that the LDP consultation closed on the 17th February 2015.
- New ground management Contract for grass and hedge cutting with MDL Landscapes put in place.
- Peartree field litter cleared by volunteer resident.

5. Resolved: Approved, Burial Fees for 2015/16 financial year in accordance with the programme to double burial ground fees spread over the three years, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16, as resolved in March 2013. The room rental fees are to remain unchanged at £10 per morning, afternoon or evening session and were last increased in April 2013. A sum of £20,000 is to be set aside in the 2015/16 budget for the future maintenance of the Parish Council Burial Ground because when it is full little or no income will be received but maintenance costs will continue. A reserved sum of at least £100,000, in today's monetary value, is recommended to be available by 2025 to those cover future maintenance costs with no supporting income, which could run from about 2030 to 2130. It is noted that Churches pass maintenance responsibility of their closed burial grounds to the local authority.

6. Resolved: Approved DOFC Invoice for 2015/16.

7. Resolved: Approved to take no action related to the Best Kept Village, and Churchyard, Competition. The "Friends of All Saints" are to be advised of the Churchyard competition.

8. Resolved: Approved, action relating to tree and hedge management. A tree surgeon will be asked to inspect the trees around the "Nature Trail" for a quote to deal with dead, dying and fallen trees that constitute a particular hazard. Hedgerows are to be left for this year and reviewed again in early 2016.

9. Information: CPA Stage 2 refurbishment - update. Cllr Le Page has been working with the Brentwood Borough Council Voluntary Service Funding and Information Officer on organisations that provide grants to Parish Councils for activities such as play area refurbishment. Whilst the list appeared long (50+), the vast majority only fund charitable organisations (which excludes the Parish Council) and it had been whittled down to four or five possibilities, but even those had a host of compliance requirements. Cllr Le page was also going to discuss the matter with the Dagwood Trust.

10. Information: Discussions with Scott Norris re footpath access from FP 35 (see paper from Cllr Farrow.). Recent changes in land ownership of the field next to Peartree Field has meant that the land is being more actively used for crops than previously and a barn has been built for hay storage.

The farmer is experience problems with walkers using the field and not keeping to any form of Countryside Code. The farmer plans to close informal access points between Peartree Field and his land to prevent people roaming over the farmland and asked the Parish Council if Peartree Field could be the alternative route for people walking from Doddinghurst Road through to Dagwood Lane. The view of the committee was that whilst they would be willing to actively promote the use of the Countryside Code by walkers, as the leaseholders to Peartree Field, the committee could not authorise the use of Peartree Field for any form of regular footpath route from Doddinghurst Road to Dagwood Lane. Notwithstanding this, Peartree Field is available for general recreation for as long as the Parish Council lease operates and there are access points onto both Doddinghurst Road and Dagwood Lane however the council reserves the right to close the field to the public at any time.

11. **Information:** Essex Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy Consultation. Noted that this is in progress and seeks views on how the County Council can grow and improve the bus network in Essex.
12. **Information:** Review of litter bin provision. A paper was presented outlining the village litter bins we pay to be emptied and the costs charged by Brentwood Borough Council as a result. It was agreed in principle that some dual use litter bins could be established to save the collection fees and the Clerk is to monitor the frequency of collection needed at the various sites. Information to residents in the Newsletter and by litter bins would be needed as part of any implementation. Cllr Le Page suggested that a litter bin is needed by the Bus Stop on the Doddinghurst Road at Peartree Farm as this tends to be a littering point by schoolchildren coming off the school bus.
13. **Any Other Urgent Business** strictly for information only. It was noted that Superfast Broadband is now available to order from serving ISP's in the village e.g. Sky and BT.

The meeting was attended by no members of the public

The meeting closed at 21.45

Signed:

Dated: 15th April 2015