



# **Doddinghurst Parish Council**

Parish Office (adj. Village Hall)

Church Lane, Doddinghurst,  
Brentwood CM15 0NJ

Website: [www.doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk](http://www.doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk)

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## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Spring/Summer issue of the Newsletter which includes the 2024/25 Annual Report.

## **NiBS Buses**

The Parish Council continues to liaise with Essex County Council and NiBS regarding the 61 bus service. There is a new improved App available to download via the App Store or Google Play. Information can also be found on the website [www.nibsbuses.com](http://www.nibsbuses.com).

Complaints should be emailed to [info@nibsbuses.com](mailto:info@nibsbuses.com)

## **Cllr Mrs Paula Crozier**

Paula was co-opted by the Parish Council in November 2024.

## **Grant Scheme**

The grant scheme remains open for charities, clubs and organisations. Applications are welcome up to a maximum of £500. Details can be found on the Parish Council website.

## **2025/26 Council Chairman**

At the Annual Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, Cllr Debbie Dicker was elected as Chairman.

## **Parish Council Meetings**

25/26 Full Council meeting dates:-

- 3rd July
- 4th September
- 2nd October
- 6th November
- 8<sup>th</sup> January
- 5<sup>th</sup> February
- 5<sup>th</sup> March
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- 7<sup>th</sup> May

Planning Committee meetings will be arranged as required to review planning applications within the Parish.

Minutes of meetings can be found on the Parish Council website.

## **Outdoor Improvements**

New surfacing was put down in front of the very well used goal net. The feedback from the users has been very positive.

To stop the continued use of unauthorised vehicles accessing Budgens Field a gate has been erected.

Due to ongoing vandalism and anti-social behaviour additional CCTV is being considered.

## **Finger Posts**

Finger posts have been refurbished the at the junction of Doddinghurst Road/Mountnessing Lane and Church Lane/Warren Lane. A grant from Essex County Council was received for the latter.

## **Village Bus Trips**

The Parish Council continues to support the Village Bus service.

The trips to Frinton on Sea and Walton on the Naze are always oversubscribed.

The trips are only possible due to the commitment of volunteer drivers. If you are interested in becoming a driver, please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

## **Cemetery News**

The area to the rear of the Cemetery has been cleared this year. The Council plans to add additional wild flowers and various shrubs to encourage bird and wildlife.

The fees and charges are reviewed annually. Full details can be found on the Parish Council website or from the Parish Office.

## **Allotments**

There are full and half plots currently available to rent. A full is £60 and half £30 per annum.

Please contact the Deputy Clerk for full details.

## **Tommy Bench**

To commemorate VE 80 Day, a bench will be placed near the play area. A resident had requested a bench and the Council felt this was a fitting tribute.

## **Vacancies**

There are currently four vacancies on the Parish Council. Please note, this is a volunteer position and will require attendance at regular evening meetings along with various other duties. Please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25**

We started the year in a healthy financial situation, and have ended it in a similar way. This means that we have not increased the precept – the Parish Council’s portion of your council tax – at all for next year.

We do keep funds aside for emergency works that might come up unexpectedly, but we also keep some for the future. For example, the ongoing and increasing costs in maintaining the cemetery, and also the children’s play equipment which is so well used by so many.

We continue to maintain the recreation ground and the other public grounds in the village. This is one of our major costs. Our grass cutting contractor retired at the beginning of the season, but we have taken on local contractors Greenscapes and I hope you will agree that they are doing a great job in maintaining the grounds to a high standard. Kristy, our litter picker goes out six mornings a week to keep our grounds free of litter and she inspects the play equipment every day for safety and cleanliness.

The Parish Council also arranges for the tubs around the village to be planted twice a year and they are watered by neighbours, for which we are very grateful.

New this year are:

- Defibrillator outside Tesco has been replaced.
- CCTV outside the Parish Office to increase security and reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Projector and screen to help us in our meetings especially when considering planning applications.
- Clearance to the land behind the cemetery which had become very overgrown.
- Grants have been obtained to help support the Wellbeing Hub in providing free weekly lunches in Priest House
- A Tommy Bench has been installed to commemorate VE80 Day.

Very sadly, in March our friend and fellow councillor Gerry Smith passed away. His dedication, enthusiasm and lively personality are very much missed.

If anyone wishes to join us, or knows someone who does, please contact the office for more information. You don’t need any special skills, just an interest in where you live. Meetings are just once a month and you can make a real difference in the village.

With best wishes to you all,  
Debbie Dicker

## **2024/25 ACCOUNTS**

	2023/24	2024/25*
Band D per household	£63.39	£66.83
Receipts		
Precept	77,400	80,400
Cemetery/Allotments	16,210	10,230
Other income	5,413	4,778
VAT refunds	5,492	5,053
Interest	2,780	5,119
Total receipts	107,295	105,580
Payments		
Office/Staffing	64,817	68,575
Cemetery/Allotments	5,619	8,949
Outside spaces	20,202	15,951
Loan repayments	7,564	7,564
Total payments	98,202	101,039
Balance c/f	149,410	158,503
Receipts	107,295	105,580
Payments	98,202	101,039
Balance	158,503	163,044
Represented by		
General Reserves	58,503	63,044
Earmarked Reserves	100,000	100,000

\*Unaudited. For a detailed copy of the accounts please contact the Clerk.

### **Parish Council Officers:**

#### **Caroline Fuller**

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

#### **Aimi Davies**

Deputy Clerk

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Church Lane,  
Doddinghurst CM15 0NJ  
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## **Parish Council Councillors**

Cllr Mrs. D Dicker (Chairman)  
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