

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on  
Monday 11 October 2021

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Kevin Attwood, Cllr Peter Duckworth, Cllr Kevin Fraser and Cllr Alison Shaw:  
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were Ward Councillor David Simmons and one member of the public.

Cllr Coates welcomed every to the meeting.

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Colin Jones (holiday) and Cllr Graham Cuthbert (holiday): apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (holiday); apologies noted.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

## **3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

None were identified.

## **4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2021**

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Coates duly signed the minutes as a true record.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

### Sunnyside Fence-

Cllr Coates reported that there was a site meeting with the Optivo Review Panel on 28 September but this was postponed due to the fuel shortage.

### Sycamores at Sunnyside

Cllr Coates said the matter has been reported to Swale Borough Council, there is a long turn around at the moment and an update regarding the timescale has been requested.

### Highways visit

Cllr Coates informed Members that he and Cllr Jones met with Garry Gibbs, KCC Highways Steward, on 17 September. The resurfacing of The Street is on the list of works but other works have been prioritised. Residents are encouraged to report issues direct to KCC Highways through the portal. Mr Gibbs filled a pot hole and asked that any issues regarding signs left after works be reported.

### Picnic benches

Cllr Coates reported that the application to the Swale Welcome Back Fund for three picnic benches has been successful. The benches have been ordered and will take approximately six to eight weeks to be delivered and installed.

## **6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

Sally Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator was unable to attend but had submitted a report, the contents of which were noted.

Cllr Coates thanked Ms Mills for her report and her ongoing work in support of Neighbourhood Watch.

PCSO Dennis Pashov had sent apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and sent a report.

Cllr Coates thanked PCSO Pashov for his report.

## **7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time.*

*A resident informed Councillors of a planning application that he is proposing.*

Cllr Coates said the Council will consider the proposal when Swale Borough Council notifies the Council of the planning application.

SBCllr Simmons reported that Swale Borough Council is going to re-consult regarding the Local Plan, Regulation 18 should have been passed before Regulation 19.

Cllr Coates said there is an event for Town and Parish Councils on 19 October.

*ACTION: Cllr Attwood to attend the meeting.*

SBCllr Simmons informed Members that Swale Brough Council will move away from a cabinet structure to committees from May 2022. There will still be the statutory Planning Committee and Licensing Committee.

## **8. HIGHWAYS**

### i. HGVs

Cllr Coates said the Parish Council applied for a 7.5 tonne with limit, with exceptions, and that KCC Highways had arranged a meeting with several parishes regarding the problem of HGVs. The meeting focussed on concern regarding whether the Police would have resources to enforce the limit and that a weight limit would push HGVs on less suitable roads. Sarah-Jayne Ellcock (Kent Highways) has suggested a weight limit should cover Doddington and Eastling rather than at the A20 and A2. Eastling Parish Council has not had complaints about HGVs and councillors believe that this had been confused with either Wychling or Lynsted. The Parish Council cannot respond to her formally until this point has been clarified.

Cllr Fraser reported that Lynsted has issues due to the school and narrow point by the graveyard.

*ACTION: Clerk to write to Sarah-Jayne Ellcock to ask her again to clarify the references to Eastling.*

### iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Attwood reported that there is a meeting with KCC and Aecom, the consultants carrying out the further assessment of flood risk and mitigation measures, on 26 October. He and Cllr Jones will attend for on behalf of the Parish Council and also a local landowner to ensure local knowledge and experience is taken fully into account.

Cllr Coates thanked the Councillors and landowners for their assistance.

Cllr Fraser reported that KCC contractors attempted to fix the drainage problem in The Street by Sunnyside on 15 September but were unable to complete the work. A further visit will be scheduled which may require a road closure.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

Ref: 21/504300/FULL

Address: Hill Top Farm Elverland Lane. Ospringe Faversham Kent ME13 0SP

Proposal: Demolition of existing stables. Erection of new stables and kennels including a dedicated tack room, feed room, toilet and welfare facilities (Part Retrospective).

Cllr Coates reported that the Chairman of Ospringe Parish had contacted him to explain that the location has been the subject of numerous and varied planning applications and suggested that Doddington Parish Councillors look at previous applications to better understand the complexity of the site and issues

## **10. FINANCE**

### i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

### ii. Clerk's salary and expenses

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence £780.17 in respect of salary and expenses (cheque no 1275).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £220.80 (cheque no 1249).

### iii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Royal British Legion £35 donation for the poppy wreath (cheque no 1250).

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence- £250.99 reimbursement Lawn Mower for War Memorial Maintenance (cheque no 1251).

c. Any other invoice for approval received by 11 October 2021

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Kent Playing Field Association subscription- £20.00 (cheque no 1252).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Four Jays- Collection of port-a-loo £21.60 (cheque no 1253).

### iv. Finance: report- half year

Cllr Coates reported the second instalment of the precept £4367 has been received and there is £22,052 in the bank accounts.

## **11. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue in the village and are effective. All data is reported to Kent Police. The Speed Watch team have agreed to join Lorry Watch if a weight restriction is implemented.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser and the team for their excellent work.

## **12. PLAYING FIELD**

### i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth reported the grass cutting had continued through the season and the playing field is due one more cut. The 30mph speed limit sign outside the gate at Dully Hill has rusted through and has broken.

Cllr Fraser said he will report it and also the other signs which are rusting.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

### ii. ROSPA report

Councillors considered the report:

- The access gates will be oiled and adjusted
- Several items have been mentioned by the inspector which would not pass current regulations but the regulations are not applied retrospectively.
- The benches are in poor condition but are due to be replaced.
- The goal net will be replaced one side, the other side does not have the legs for the net

- Advice will be sought regarding the safety net behind the goals
- The vegetation by the basketball hoop will be addressed by Councillors and is part of the routine maintenance of the area
- The manufacturer's plate on the two-bay swing will be taken off
- The projecting thread bolt on the slide will be cut off
- Bird fouling on the swings will be addressed
- The safety surfaces will be treated and are part of the routine maintenance of the area
- It was agreed not to put a "Do not climb" sign on the basketball hoop as no one has been seen climbing on the hoop.
- It was agreed that when the grass grows back at the goal mouth there will not be a trip hazard.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Fraser for their reports and for their work on the playing field.

iii. To consider suggestion for play area equipment

Cllr Coates reported the Clerk has applied to The Bensted Charity for a grant towards this project and if successful, the Council will seek further funding from other sources.

**13. PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD**

Cllr Coates said the Village Hall Committee has a contractor to paint the hall. The Council's notice board is in need of painting.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Darren Glazier for £68.00 to paint the notice board.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 17.09.21- Swale Joint Transport Board minutes
2. 22.09.21- KALC CEO bulletin
3. 29.09.21- Helen Whately MP parish update
4. 29.09.21- Swale Borough Council Local Plan Panel meeting 7 October
5. 01.10.21- Kent Police and Crime Commissioner: Police and Crime Plan survey
6. 04.10.21- KALC: Notice of AGM on Saturday 13 November 2021
7. 04.10.21- KCC Highways: Notice of Temporary Road Closure - Christophers Row, Lynsted - 19th October 2021
8. 04.10.21- NALC CEO bulletin
9. 04.10.21- KCC Plan Bee newsletter
10. 04.10.21- KCC Highways: Notice of Temporary Road Closure, Speed Reduction, No Right Turn, No Waiting and No Loading- Various Roads, Maidstone and Swale from 1 October 2021
11. 06.10.21- KALC Newsletter
12. 06.10.21: Swale Borough Council: details of Swale Area Committees.
13. 06.10.21- Swale Borough Council: Swale Local Plan Review - Event for Town and Parish Councils 19 October

Cllr Attwood said he will attend the Local Plan event.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Coates informed members that he will attend the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting on 12 October 2021 which has been postponed from September

Cllr Coates said a visit has been arranged to look around the school on 27 October. The Principal of the school is keen for the young people to be involved in community matters; one suggestion has been the traffic calming flower beds which are the responsibility of KCC Highways. The Parish Council would support the school's involvement.

Cllr Fraser reported he attended the Swale Eastern Area Committee. Concern was raised about bus services, s106 agreements only fund services for a year. The pandemic has affected work and leisure and this has impacted on bus usage. Plaques on buildings to commemorate more recent events only attracted two suggestions. The Committee is looking to support local initiatives for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Swale Borough Council asked the Committee for funding towards the closed churchyards, this was declined. The Public Forum raised concern about drainage on the Whitstable Road, Faversham, which does not cope with heavy rain, Helen Whately MP will take the matter up with Southern Water.  
Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for attending the meeting and for his report.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 8 November 2021**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman  
Date: 8 November 2021