

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom on
Monday 11 January 2021

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

Also present was County Councillor Andrew Bowles and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.
All Members were present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Coates declared a pecuniary interest in item 8.i Ref: 20/506050/FULL, being a neighbouring property.

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

It was resolved to discuss item 13. KALC Community Award Scheme in closed session.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2020

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting and that Cllr Coates will sign the minutes as a correct record when face-to-face meetings of the Council are permitted again.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Action Tracker 2020

The Retreat

Ongoing

Horse springer

Cllr Fraser reported the springer is checked regularly at least once a month or more, all is in good working order.

Sycamore tree branch

Cllr Fraser said the branch has not yet been cut back and this will be done next week.

Sunnyside bungalow fence

The Clerk reported that there had been no response yet from Optivo.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for responding to a request for help during the new lockdown.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Sally Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator had sent the following report:

Doddington Neighbourhood Watch Report for December 2020

This month, 3 reports were sent out from Kent Police:

- Between 12am and 9am on Tuesday 8 December, a minibus belonging to Fulston Manor School in Brenchley Road was broken into and the radio was stolen. A flyer was also

attached to this alert to remind residents to keep garden tools locked away and keep outbuildings secure.

- A report distributed on 21 December reminded residents to look out for various frauds - Pet Scams; Fraudsters impersonating online internet providers; and Fraudsters impersonating Kent Police. No details or examples were given.
- Just before 1am on the 23 December, two male suspects broke in through the front window of a shop on The Parade, Northwood Drive, Sittingbourne and entered the premises.

A security fog machine was triggered and they made off on a mini motor.

Cllr Coates said that there was also a break in at the garage on Friday 8 January.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 20/506050/FULL

Address: White Lines Chequers Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BL

Proposal: Demolition of part single storey extension to existing dwelling and erection of a detached dwelling with associated access and parking.

Cllr Coates did not take part in the discussion of this matter.

Cllr Jones took the Chair.

Councillors considered the proposal and noted that the Council had previously approved an application which was now out of time. Concern was raised that foul water would be discharged into the mains sewer system but there is no mains drainage system. No objections to the proposal were raised but it was agreed that clarity should be sought on the drains.

Cllr Coates resumed the Chair.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 11 January 2021

20/504677/FULL Slips Cottage Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0AZ

Erection of timber stables and exercise menage (retrospective)

Cllr Coates informed Members that a decision is yet to be made

18/504562/FULL Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington ME9 0NT

Cllr Coates reported that he had attended the Swale Planning Working Group on 21 December. The application has been permitted and the condition the Parish Council sought has been applied.

9. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerks pay and expenses Oct – December 2020

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the Clerk's salary and expenses £827.08 (cheque no 1243).

Cllr Cuthbert asked if the Clerk's expenses should be reviewed.

ACTION: Cllr Jones to review the Clerk's expenses.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £164.00 (cheque no 1244)

iii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Commercial Services Playing Field Maintenance for October and November £31.87 (cheque no 1245)

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Tunstall Parish Council for a share of Local Councils Administration £25.00 (cheque no 1246)

7.50pm Cllr Duckworth joined the meeting

iv. Precept Bid 21/22 - To consider budget workings and set precept

Cllr Coates reported that there had been a meeting of the Finance Working Group, the group were against any raise of Precept and wanted to work within the Council's existing resources.

Cllr Cuthbert said the reserves are very strong giving the Council a healthy contingency. The group was conscious that the Precept is not capped at present and that if there were no precept this year and it is capped next year, the Council would receive no precept.

Cllr Attwood **PROPOSED** to set a budget of £8996 and a Precept of £8734; **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The Precept will give a Band D equivalent of £38.20, the same as 2020-21.

Cllr Coates thanked the Clerk for her work on the budget.

10. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser said there was nothing to report.

11. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Duckworth reported that the climbing frame bolt had been fitted. There is an area on the Playing Field where the grass does not grow.

Cllr Cuthbert said that this had been where the village used to have a bonfire years ago.

12. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Cuthbert and, in particular, Cllr Jones for the work they had done regarding the drainage and flooding issues.

Cllr Jones said that in addressing some of the flooding issues, the first thing was to make sure the drainage system is working properly. KCC Drainage team surveyed the system in The Street and the bottom of the Old Lenham Road on 15 and 16 December, the CCTV initial findings were that there are no major integral issues with the system. The main issue is that leaves are blocking the drains. Swale Borough Council did a road sweep on 23 December. Some Councillors keep the drains clear near their homes and this helps. Blocked drains can be reported but the more that residents can do to keep the drains clear the better.

Cllr Jones said that with regards to the flooding issues, if there is something that can be done to stop the water getting to the village that would be good. Cllr Attwood has been doing some work with Mr Oldfield to build lagoons to help mitigate the water, this will help slow down the water. It is hoped to have a meeting with KCC and local landowners.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his sterling work and the progress he has achieved.

Cllr Cuthbert said the latest email from Max Tant, KCC Flood Risk Manager, stated the drains had been cleaned and inspected, but the CCTV was not put down the main drains. The operatives said there were blocked drains at the west end of the village, will this be pursued.

Cllr Jones said Jodie Gore, Asset Team Leader (Drainage & Structures) KCC Highways is dealing with Doddington at the moment.

Cllr Fraser asked if residents in the Old Lenham Road have been informed of the cleaning of the drains.

Cllr Jones reported that he is in contact with them and also it has been publicised on the Parish Council's website and the village Facebook page, KCC Highways will leaflet residents. The work is being carried out on 21 January.

Cllr Coates said the Parish Highways Improvement Plan had been discussed at the last meeting and it was apparent that Doddington does not need one as agreed by KCC Highways. It was agreed to support Newnham Parish Council regarding a change of the national speed limit between the villages, this will not go on the plan.

Cllr Coates said a resident has raised concern about the issue the state of the pavement between Doddington and Newnham.

ACTION: Clerk to report and inform the resident.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 22.12.20- KALC newsletter
2. 25.12.20- resident email regarding the drains in Old Lenham Road
3. 04.01.21- Local Government Bulletin
4. 04.01.21- KCC 48-ton lorry trial consultation
5. 04.01.21- Kent Police Rural Task Force Report
6. 08.01.21- Action Fraud Coronavirus scams alert= *added to website*
7. 08.01.21- Post Office provision update

Cllr Coates said the consultation for the Post Office to return to The Chequers is due to end in February and this communication states the outreach Post Office outreach service will commence on 20 January although the landlord has not heard anything. The intention is to extend the service to Challock, Selling and Doddington.

8. 11.01.21- Doddington Village Hall letter of thanks for donation
9. 11.01.21- request for better Broad Band connectivity

Cllr Coates said the Clerk has been approached suggesting that she should engage with Kent County Council and BT regarding Broad Band, the person does not live in the parish. Cllr Cuthbert said Broad Band is more important than ever and looking forward to meeting the Paris Accord on climate change, more people will need to work from home.

KCCllr Bowles said there has been two grant schemes, one from central government with a KCC top-up. The funds have been allocated and there might be further funding in the Spring.

Cllr Attwood said that he would be reluctant for the Council to become involved outside the parish as there may be a need within the parish. In some areas of the Parish the Broad Band is poor and there is no easy remedy unless fibre is installed. There is fibre to the exchange and there needs to be a fibre connection to properties from the exchange.

Cllr Jones said fibre seems to be the way forward, the Council could take the lead in this and ask residents for help.

KCCllr Bowles reported that the schemes which have been up and running fastest have been done by members of the public rather than Parish Councils. If residents are interested, BT will carry out a survey and then it has to be ascertained if the grant matches the quote.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Cuthbert said the screws for the hinges of the notice board are dropping at the top and that he will survey the condition.

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Cllr Duckworth left the meeting.

15. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media were excluded from the meeting during the consideration

of this item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 8 February 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 8 February 2021