

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom on
Monday 8 February 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 were County Councillor Andrew Bowles and Ward Member David Simmons

<p>1. APOLOGIES Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting. All Members were present.</p>
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None were declared.</p>
<p>3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION None were identified.</p>
<p>4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2021 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.</p>
<p>5. MATTERS ARISING <u>Broadband</u> Cllr Coates informed Members that a resident from Otterden had raised the issue of improving the broadband service in the village and a former Doddington Parish Councillor has offered to help take the project forward with the support of the Parish Council. Representatives from BT Openreach and KCC would be contacting our representative soon.</p> <p><u>Pavement between Doddington and Newnham</u> Cllr Coates said the issue was reported to KCC and the Highways Steward has referred it to Swale Borough Council.</p>
<p>6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT Councillors noted the report from the village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and thanked her for providing it.</p>
<p>7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME No members of the public were present.</p>
<p>8. PLANNING MATTERS i. Ref: 21/500014/FULL <u>Address: 2 Primrose Place The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0DA</u> <u>Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension</u> Councillors considered the application and had no objection to the proposal.</p>

ii. SBC Local Plan Review (latest stage)

Cllr Coates said the Council needed to consider the direct and indirect impact of the Swale Borough Council revised Local Plan Review on the village. The consultation opened on 8 February and closes on 23 March 2021. There is concern from our MP, local parish councils, residents and non-governmental organisations about the speed and manner in which the consultation is being conducted, especially as the country is in the grip of a pandemic and “lockdown” both of which would impact upon the ability of stakeholders to comment.

Cllr Attwood said that for Doddington, the revised Plan extends the built-up boundary to include the school playing field and crucially beyond this to Church Lane. Aspects which may indirectly impact on Doddington were: building a by-pass and a significant number of houses at Teynham and major development in Faversham. Both of which could lead to an increase in traffic through Doddington.

KCCllr Bowles said that as the Regulation 18 consultation had been carried out some time ago, this was a Regulation 19 consultation which means objections cannot be raised on the merits of the Plan. It could only be challenged on grounds of “soundness” and legal compliance. Seven Parish Councils along the A2 corridor have objected to the plan and the consultation and other objections have also been lodged.

Cllr Attwood said the Parish Council is a statutory consultee and would be expected to be consulted under Regulation 18. There is no Transport Strategy in the Plan. There is lack of evidence and lack of consultation. Councillors agreed that we should lodge our concerns about the lack of consultation and comment on the suggested plan for Doddington.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to have a small working group of Councillors to look at the Local Plan Review and report back to the Council on 8 March.

iii. Any other planning matter received by 8 February 2021

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 informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

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 the application has been permitted.

9. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr N Swatland £420.00 for the annual maintenance of the Playing Field (cheque no 1247).

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr R Oldfield £1.00 in respect of the rent for allotment garden (cheque no 1248).

Cllr Jones informed Councillors that he had reviewed the Clerk’s expenses.

Councillors agreed to the recommendations made.

10. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser said that there was nothing to report.

11. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Duckworth said the grass will need cutting shortly. There is still an area where the grass is not growing. The football net is getting worn. The cutting of the ivy from the trees is progressing. The swing shackles will need to be measured for wear when the weather improves.

Cllr Fraser said weekly inspections of the play equipment are being conducted and the cleaning by a volunteer is also continuing.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to assess the grass area.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

12. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coates reported that he and Cllr Fraser had received complaints about Shaws Haulage lorries making multiple trips through the village to Teynham and Tonge. The Clerk has emailed the company requesting they use a more suitable route.

ii. Drainage

Cllr Jones reported that KCC had returned to the village on 21 January and cleaned the drains in the Old Lenham Road and two in The Street.

Cllr Fraser said that following recent rain the drains from the garage to Sunnyside are still blocked and water was coming up from the drains.

ACTION: Cllr Jones to report the issue.

iii. Flooding

Cllr Jones said that he, two landowners and Annie Thurgarland have been looking to see what measures could be taken to prevent flood water flowing down the Old Lenham Road. It had been decided to focus on the lagoon at Kings Acre as the most practicable and effective solution. Cllr Attwood said the lagoon was not big enough and in an exceptional event could overflow. KCC need to expand the lagoon or make it deeper. Annie Thurgarland is liaising with KCC. Consideration had been given to a small slip at the top of Spratts Hill to help take the rain off that road and this could possibly be done in the next twelve months.

Cllr Cuthbert said that if the water is directed into the woodland it will then push debris and leaves onto the road which will cause problems if the flow through the wood is not managed.

Cllr Jones said that Annie Thurgarland had advocated tree planting and hedges as solutions to slowing flow from adjoining land as a longer-term solution.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones and Cllr Attwood for their work on the flooding issues.

13. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

Cllr Coates said the nomination had been sent to KALC. It is not certain at this time, due to the pandemic, that there can be a presentation of the award and this usually made at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. The trophy, which is held on a temporary basis by the winner, will need to be returned to the Parish Council and a keep sake needed to be purchased.

ACTION 1: Cllr Cuthbert to ask the family of the previous recipient for the return of the trophy.

ACTION 2: Cllr Coates to purchase keepsake and write the dissertation for the High Sheriff.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.01.21- Doddington Village Hall Committee: letter of thanks for grant

2. 15.01.21- resident email of thanks for providing information to KCC regarding a Public Right of Way

3. 15.01.21- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Old Lenham Road, Doddington - 21 January 2021

4. 19.01.21- KCC Member Briefing- environment
5. 19.01.21-KALC bitesize learning flyer
6. 20.01.21- SBC: notice of Local Plan Panel review and consultation starting on 8 February
7. 21.01.21- KCCllr Bowles's newsletter
8. 21.01.21- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure – The Street & Doddington Lane, Doddington – 15 February 2021
9. 22.01.21- KALC CEO Bulletin - January 2021
10. 26.01.21- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
11. 27.01.21- NALC Consultation Briefing EPC1-21 - MHCLG Consultation on Right to Regenerate to turn derelict buildings into homes and community assets
12. 27.01.21- KCC Highways: Road Safety Strategy consultation
13. 27.01.21- Swale Borough Council: Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026 consultation
14. 02.02.21- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
15. 02.02.21- Helen Whately letter regarding Local Plan
16. 03.02.21- KALC January Newsletter
17. 08.02.21- SBC: Local Plan review consultation
18. 08.02.21- KALC: copy correspondence regarding remote meetings and funding
19. 08.02.21- SBC: Area Committee meetings details

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SBCllr Simmons reported that the Doddington Allotments Association had been awarded a grant of £840 from the Swale Eastern Area Committee. Guidance and application forms for grants from the committee have been published and a grant has to be for a minimum of £5,000 and be supported by two Borough Councillors, some Wards only have one Member.

Cllr Fraser reported that he had removed the sycamore branch from the Playing Field. Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his help.

Cllr Cuthbert said several residents have commented about the litter in the village, there are a lot of coffee cups and beer cans.

Cllr Cuthbert reported that the right-hand bolt on the notice board will not fasten and water is getting in. An adjustment might solve the issue.

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.47pm

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 8 March 2021

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
Date: 8 March 2021