

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on  
Monday 11 March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Kevin Attwood (Chairman), Cllr Philip Haynes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Steve Coates, Peter Duckworth and Cllr Kevin Fraser; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were two members of the public.

## **1 Apologies**

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

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Andrew Bowles (at another meeting) and SBCllr Colin Prescott (at another meeting); 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 11 February 2019.**

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2019 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Attwood.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### ROAD CLOSED signs Faversham Road

Cllr Attwood reported that KCC advised that ROAD CLOSED signs cannot be removed when there is a legal order in place closing the road. Any traffic driving through these signs and past the site are violating a traffic order and can be prosecuted by police. If the sign says ROAD CLOSED traffic should follow the diversion route.

These were South East Water emergency repair works, they overran the original advised duration and have received an overrun charge of £250. This is the maximum charge that can be imposed for this location.

Cllr Haynes said the road works did not overrun, the road was clear but the cones were not removed.

*ACTION: Clerk to respond to KCC.*

### MISSING BINS

Cllr Attwood said the exact locations of the bins have been sent to Swale Borough Council.

### Yew Tree on The Street

Cllr Coates asked for an update on the matter.

*ACTION: Clerk to check.*

## **6. Community Warden Report**

Community Warden Dave Osborne was unable to attend the meeting but had reported that on 18 February, two males entered a wood yard in Lade Wood Milstead Sittingbourne and

attempted to steal a battery from a tractor. There have been incidents of fly-tipping in the area which have been reported to Swale Borough Council.

#### **7. Neighbourhood Watch Report**

The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator reported that there was nothing to report since the last meeting

#### **8. Public Question Time**

No matters were raised.

#### **9. War Memorial**

Cllr Attwood said a quote has been received from the stonemason for the work, the names need to be checked again. The stone mason will need water and there is a supply in the next field. Cllr Attwood said he will ask the landowner for permission to use the water. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Clive Sherwood for £1722.00.

*ACTION: Clerk to apply for a grant towards the cost of the work.*

#### **10. Planning Matters**

i. Ref: 18/504562/FULL Address: Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington

Cllr Attwood said the transport statement has been submitted and is on the planning portal. There is a revised decision date of 11 April.

Councillors considered the statement and were concerned that it did not satisfy the Parish Council's misgivings about this proposed development.

Councillors were unable to find any point on the access roads to the site which are more than three metres wide and it was assumed that the 6.5 metre width quoted only refers to the proposed entrance/exit and includes the owners' property.

Whilst the village is served by a bus service it is not frequent, as claimed, and neither is the site within walking distance of the village bus stop.

Pedestrians would find the walk a hard slog and find themselves having to climb banks to avoid traffic.

Arrival at Lenham station would mean a taxi journey for any visitors.

The report suggests that service, delivery and collection vehicle journeys to and from the site would not increase even though there would be more than doubling the numbers of staff and residents.

The local roads are in a poor condition, in particular the final miles of country lanes after leaving The Street in one direction and the Faversham Road.

The site is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposal.

*ACTION: Cllr Attwood to speak at the Planning Committee meeting.*

ii. Ref: 19/500504/FULL

Address: The Old Post Office The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear and side extension and conversion of outbuilding to provide utility room.

Cllr Coates reminded the meeting that as several councillors knew the applicants well, it was appropriate to minute that councillors had no pecuniary interests in the matter.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.

iii. Ref: 19/500668/FULL

Address: Post Office Cottage The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Cllr Coates reminded the meeting that as several councillors knew the applicants well, it was appropriate to minute that councillors had no pecuniary interests in the matter.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.

iv. Any other planning matter received by 11 March 2019

Ref: 19/500294/FULL Address: The Old Forge Cottage The Street Doddington ME9 0BG

Proposal: Construction of a first floor extension with habitable loft space over existing single storey rear extension together with alterations to fenestration

Cllr Attwood informed Councillors that a decision is yet to be made.

**11. Finance**

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerks pay and expenses Jan- Mar 2019

It was agreed to pay the Clerk £688.21 being quarterly salary of £657.86 and expenses of £30.35 (cheque no. 1174).

It was agreed to pay HMRC £5.20 (cheque no 1175)

iii. Invoices for Payment

a) Playing field maintenance

It was agreed to pay Commercial Services for the playing field maintenance £251.72 (cheque no 1178)

b) Playing field peripheral maintenance

It was agreed to pay Mr N Swatland playing field peripheral maintenance £200.00 (cheque no 1176).

c) Allotment rent

It was agreed to pay Mr R Oldfield for the allotment rent £1.00 (cheque no 1177).

iv. Speed Watch cable

Cllr Coates reported that a new cable has been ordered for the Speed Watch equipment by the police. The Parish Council has agreed to fund up to 50% of the cost.

**12. Defibrillator**

Cllr Coates said there was nothing to report.

**13. Speed Watch**

Cllr Fraser reported the Speed Watch sessions continue. There have been issues with using a site south bound in Chequers Hill as the equipment picks up traffic outside the 30mph limit. There have been two sessions where no vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit, one session recorded one vehicle and a session at Northdown recorded thirteen speeding vehicles. The volume of traffic through the village is increasing. Incidents at Wychling are down to a third of what had been recorded when first started and now averages around twenty vehicles per session. There is still a need for further volunteers. Cllr Fraser thanked all the volunteers for helping.

**14. Playing Field**

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth reported that the moss has been sprayed on all safety surfaces and the roundabout area may need a second application. The grass is growing but the ground is too soft for the tractor. Cllr Duckworth informed Councillors that he had inspected the playing field after recent high winds and found only a few short branches had come down. Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report and for his sterling work.

ii. Playing Field peripheral maintenance quotation

Councillors considered the quotation for peripheral maintenance of the Playing Field and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Mr N Swatland for £400.

### **15. Highways**

#### i. Highways Update and notification of further work required

Cllr Fraser reported that he attended the A20/ Faversham Road junction meeting at Lenham, works have been recommended and work is still outstanding. The crossing needs to be moved and lit with solar power lighting. The double yellow lines cannot be installed until the roads have been cleaned and the edges repaired. The line of sight at the junction towards Harrietsham is sometimes obscured by residents' vehicles and bollards have been suggested but KCC Highways have said this would be difficult to do. Lenham Parish Council want the 40mph limit extended from Harrietsham but KCC Highways have advised that this will need Police approval so it will be a 50mph limit. The cost of installing street lights at the junction is prohibitive. A splitter island will be installed for the new housing development and there is enough room for a right turn lane and a splitter island, the developer is not allowed to start building until this has been done.

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Fraser for attending the meeting and for his report.

Cllr Attwood reported that some of the pavement repairs have been completed and some are still to be carried out.

#### ii. Flooding issues

Cllr Attwood reported that he is still waiting to meeting with Annie Thurgarland, Natural Flood Management

### **16. Correspondence**

1. 21.02.19- Kent Rural Police Report
2. 21.02.19- Joint Transportation Board agenda
3. 02.03.19- KALC Newsletter
4. 05.03.19- KCCllr Bowles's newsletter
5. 07.03.19- KCC Planned road surface treatments

### **17. Any Other Business**

Cllr Attwood said the new website is online.

Cllr Coates said the site was very clear.

Councillors agreed to adopt the revised Standing Orders.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 8 April 2019**

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman  
Dated: 8 April 2019