

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on Monday 9 January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr K Attwood (Chairman), Cllr P Haynes (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Coates, Cllr G Cuthbert, Cllr P Duckworth, Cllr K Fraser and Cllr C Jones; and Mrs W Licence (Clerk).

## 1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from KCC Cllr Andrew Bowles; apologies noted.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Attwood declared a pecuniary interest in item 9i concerning a pre-application consultation for a proposed base station installation at Down Court Farm, as he is the landowner, and signed the Declaration of Members' Interests Book.

## 3. To Determine whether any items should be discussed in closed session

None were identified.

## 4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 December 2016

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Attwood.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING (except those issues appearing under specific headings)

None were raised.

## 6. COMMUNITY WARDEN

### i. Report from the Community Warden

Apologies had been received from Dave Osborne and a report had been circulated prior to the meeting, report noted.

### ii. To consider Volunteer Support Warden Scheme

Cllr Attwood said it would cost £1065 to underpin a Volunteer Support Warden for a year and there would be ongoing costs.

Councillors considered whether the scheme was worth investing in and whether there have been issues warranting the need for a Volunteer Support Warden. It is an excellent scheme for larger communities but not necessarily so for smaller communities. There are significant cost implications. Doddington has a Community Warden and the local police. The Parish Council is addressing issues such as speeding. Councillors agreed there would appear to be no need for a Volunteer Support Warden and the scheme does not provide value for money.

## 7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Apologies had been received from Susan Jackson, as work prevents her from attending, and her report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillors expressed gratitude for the work that Mrs Jackson does.

*ACTION: Clerk to write letter of thanks.*

## 8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were in attendance.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS

### i. Any planning matter received by 9 January 2017

*Cllr Attwood left the room and took no part of the discussion of this item.*

Cllr Haynes took the Chair

Cllr Haynes informed Members a pre-application consultation for a proposed base station installation at Down Court Farm has been received.  
Councillors agreed to thank the agent for the information, the Parish Council looks forward to receiving the full application in due course.

#### **10. WAR MEMORIAL**

Cllr Attwood informed Members a grant of £413.50 has been received from the Swale Borough Council WW1 Centenary Project Grant Scheme. The materials will be ordered and work will commence in due course.

#### **11. FINANCE**

##### i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

##### ii. Clerks salary and expenses Oct – December 2016

Councillors AGREED £621.78 salary and £44.82 expenses total £676.60 (cheque no 1107)

##### iii. Precept Bid 17/18 - To consider budget workings and precept setting figures

Cllr Attwood said the Finance Working Group had met to discuss the budget for 2017-18. Professional help will be needed to refurbish the War Memorial steps and amendment to names on the memorial and an allowance of £500 has been made for this work. The election costs have been retained as in the case of a casual vacancy arising, ten residents could call for an election which the Parish Council would have to pay for. The proposed budget carried forward the current expenditure. A precept of £8302 is suggested. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to setting the precept at £8302.

##### iv. Invoices for Payment

###### • Landscape Services second instalment for Playing Field Maintenance- £464.84

Cllr Attwood said the invoice has been challenged and a revised invoice has been requested. Councillors AGREED to wait for an amended invoice.

###### • CA Traffic Ltd Speed Watch equipment

Councillors **AGREED** to pay the invoice of £1100 + £220 (vat) total £1320.00 (cheque no 1108).

##### v. To consider a Grant Policy

Cllr Attwood said consideration needs to be given to a grant policy.

Cllr Jones informed Members he has added a few lines to set out the policy.

Cllr Coates said it was first class and a very good policy.

Cllr Cuthbert said the policy can be reviewed during the year.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the policy.

#### **11. DEFIBRILATOR**

Cllr Coates informed Members there were no issues to report. It has been two years since the defibrillator was installed.

#### **12. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Fraser informed Members the new equipment has been delivered and he and Cllr Jones have trialled it. The new equipment is smaller, lighter, more manoeuvrable and has a greater range. It has high tech applications and the Speed Watch team will be consulted as to who will report the information to the Community Speed Watch Headquarters. The equipment can be left out and has the capability of recording vehicle speed but not registration numbers. The equipment needs sand bags to prevent it from being blown over. The equipment is easy to use and very clear and it even gives those who are below the speed limit a smiley face. Cllr Fraser thanked the Clerk for obtaining grants for the equipment.

#### **13. PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Duckworth informed Members there was nothing much to report except some areas of

<p>the safety surface was becoming greener and needs to be treated.  <i>ACTION: Clerk to order moss killer.</i></p>
<p><b>14. HIGHWAYS</b>  KCC has asked the contractor to undertake re-siting the drain in the Ringlestone Road as soon as possible.  Cllr Haynes said mud is going onto the road from the wood yard and blocking the drain.  <i>ACTION: Clerk to write to owner.</i></p>
<p><b>15. CORRESPONDENCE</b>  i. 19.12.2016- BT Phone Box consultation- circulated  The deadline for responses has been extended to Friday 10th February 2017.  ii. 22.12.2016- KALC Parish News- circulated  iii. 24.12.2016- KCC notice of road closure, Hope's Hill- added to website  iv. 31.12.2016- Andrew Bowles Newsletter- circulated  v. 04.01.2017- Faversham LEF Agenda- circulated  vi. 04.01.2017- Great British Spring Clean- circulated  vii. 06.01.2017- Battle's Over 2018 Commemoration- circulated  <i>ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Oldfield to enquire if there are any plans for this event.</i></p>
<p><b>16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>  Cllr Duckworth informed Members that the Environment Agency has produced a map which shows there is a high risk of flooding through the valley, through Newnham and onto the A2 and this has caused problems for someone selling a property at West End Cottages.  <i>Item for next agenda</i>  Cllr Cuthbert asked when the Clerk's next review will be.  <i>ACTION: Clerk to check.</i>  Cllr Haynes said the valley had been covered in smog due to the wood yard burning waste which had been left smouldering for five days. The Environment Agency and KCC had been contacted, the wood yard has a licence, with restrictions, to burn.  Cllr Jones said Pam Cowan has handed over responsibility of the Newsletter.  <i>ACTION: Clerk to write letter of thanks.</i>  Cllr Jones said the name of the recipient of the KALC Award needs to be added and the event needs to be publicised.  <i>ACTION 1: Clerk to publicise and send details to the Village webmaster.</i>  <i>ACTION 2: Cllr Haynes to arrange the KALC Award trophies crystal trophies to be inscribed.</i></p>

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 February 2017**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

.....Chairman  
Date: 13 February 2017