

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on  
Monday 11 November 2019

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

Also present were Ward Member David Simmons and three members of the public.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Attwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Apologies had been received from County Councillor Andrew Bowles; apology noted.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Attwood declared an interest in item 10. Planning Matters i. Ref: 19/504932/FULL being his planning application.

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

None were identified.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2019

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

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Attwood reported the owners of the Land on The Street had been written to but there had been no response from the owners.

*ACTION: Clerk to write again.*

Cllr Attwood reported that Lenham Storage had been written to regarding HGVs through the village but there had been no response.

*ACTION: Clerk to write again.*

Cllr Jones said there had been an update on The Retreat from Swale Planning Enforcement which is looking to submit the paperwork to the legal team by Christmas to see if the matter will be taken to prosecution.

Cllr Coates said all Councillors have moved to dedicated email addresses to be GDPR compliant.

## 6. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Dave Osborne, the Community Warden, was unable to attend the meeting and sent a report of current scams and details of crimes in nearby villages.

Cllr Attwood thanked Mr Osborne for his report.

## 7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Mrs Susan Jackson was unable to attend and reported that:

*On 18 October a message was received about torchlight wanderings in Dully Hill which had been spotted about 4am that morning. I circulated a message but no more was heard. Also, checking on the village Facebook page, there was a report of two men behaving suspiciously in Seed Road on 5 October. Again, there was no more news of this.*

*There has been a series of car and break-ins to sheds and theft in villages further afield, such as Stalisfield and Painters Forstal, but nothing to my knowledge in Doddington, Newnham or Wychling.*

Cllr Attwood thanked Mrs Jackson for her report. Cllr Attwood said that Mrs Jackson has mentioned that much of the detail in the Neighbourhood Watch reports are also available on Social Media.

Cllr Fraser said the service is worth continuing as the reports add extra information to the Community Warden report.

*ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if the Co-ordinator wished to continue.*

## **8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.*

*Cllr Attwood left the room and Cllr Coates took the Chair.*

Ref: 19/504932/FULL Address: Down Court Farm Down Court Road Doddington ME9 0AT  
*A resident said that there had been a meeting with the applicant which was useful and further discussion has taken place by phone. The footprint of the grain store had been marked out and this had been helpful. The applicant has agreed to plant a small copse of trees 6m deep along the boundary and in time this will help keep out the noise.*

*White noise reversers have also been discussed, this will be trialled and will make a big difference to the amount of noise. Drainage by soakaways, if there was a fire and the Fire brigade should use plenty of water the water should not go down the soakaways as this would go into the aquifers. There is no screening bund on the north side of the store and no indication as to what the land could be used for, concern is that there could be further development.*

Cllr Coates thanked the residents for attending and for their comments

*The meeting was reconvened.*

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

i. Ref: 19/504932/FULL

Address: Down Court Farm Down Court Road Doddington ME9 0AT

Proposal: Erection of a grain store with lean-to's and construction of screening bund and associated landscaping.

Councillors considered the application and the concerns of residents including comments made to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Some Councillors were concerned by the size of the grain store and that the proposal would increase the business to an industrial scale. There was also a concern that there may be an increase in traffic. The same Councillors noted that the site is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and that a condition could be placed on the north side of the site that no further development be permitted between the store and the trees

Councillors recognised that Doddington is a farming community and that Down Court Farm is a working farm and provides local employment. The applicant had also taken positive steps to address the concerns of residents, but that one or two reservations had

yet to be resolved. Residents were encouraged to discuss these further with the applicant. Councillors agreed by the casting vote of the Acting Chairman to support the application subject to residents' concerns being addressed.

*Councillor Attwood returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair*

ii. Ref: 19/505148/LDCEX Address: The Manor House Lady Margaret Manor Road  
Doddington ME9 0NT

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) for the retention of 3no. outbuildings for use incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house

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

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

Cllr Cuthbert said the "V" in Harry Victor Higgins is wider than other "V"s and looks like a "U".  
*ACTION: Clerk to contact the stonemason to amend.*

Cllr Attwood reported there were two other letters which had been amended following the recent work. Remembrance Sunday was well attended.

Cllr Attwood thanked Mrs Gaze for organising the Parish Council wreath. Cllr Attwood also thanked Mr Seyler and Mr Fryer for their sterling work around the War Memorial.

*ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of thanks.*

#### **11. FINANCE**

##### i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

##### ii. Invoices for Payment

It was agreed to pay KALC £60 for the Dynamic Councillor course (chq 1202).

It was agreed to pay Landscape Services £154.72 (chq no 1203).

It was agreed to pay Lushland Ltd £365 for the arboricultural report (chq no 1204).

#### **12. DEFIBRILATOR**

Cllr Coates said there was nothing to report.

#### **13. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Fraser reported that since April 2019, one hundred and fifty-seven vehicles out of approximately three thousand vehicles have been recorded speeding in Doddington. Seventeen have received a letter, meaning they have been recorded twice; ten have received a second time letter as they have been recorded three times and two have received direct letter for exceeding 40mph. In Wychling, one hundred and twelve vehicles have been recorded speeding, there were eighty first time letters and three second time letters. There has been no further support from Wychling.

Cllr Coates said that all Speed Watch groups have been informed by the Police that it is important to ensure the road signs are clean and not obscured by vegetation.

Cllr Attwood thanked the Speed Watch Team for their sterling work and for their report.

#### **14. PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Duckworth reported the grass has been cut although it has grown due to the mild weather but the field is very muddy. The peripheral cut has been carried out.

Cllr Duckworth said the arboricultural report highlighted that ivy needs to be cut from a number of trees. Tree no 31 has brittle fungus disease and needs work, the fungus will not spread to other trees.

Cllr Attwood said Swale Borough Council needs to be contacted with regards to whether it would be an option to fell the tree rather than have extensive tree surgery carried out to make it safe when the continuing fungal infection would render it dangerous over time.

*ACTION 1: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council.*

*ACTION 2: Clerk to obtain quotations.*

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

### **15. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Attwood said Annie Thurgarland, KCC Flood Management had sent a report that she has been in discussion with Mr Leigh-Pemberton of Torry Hill and is currently formalising plans with KCC Highways. KCC Highways are going to create some grips which will divert flow off Faversham Road onto Mr Pemberton's land to reduce the amount of water which reaches Doddington from this side. It is hoped that these works will occur in the next couple of months. Where the drainage to the lagoon has been improved on the Old Lenham Road, this is working more effectively.

The planned work on the fields along Old Lenham Road has unfortunately been stopped as it was impacting on farming works. There were other proposals for Old Lenham Road however works rely on landowners and farmers agreeing.

Cllr Duckworth said there are survey strips on the road towards Newnham.

*ACTION: Clerk to investigate.*

Cllr Cuthbert reported that he had contacted Earl Bourner, KCC Drainage, regarding the drains and he has referred the matter to Jodi Harrison, KCC Drainage Maintenance Team Leader. There may be a capacity issue and clarification will be sought.

Cllr Coates said he had reported the drains in Chequers Hill and these were cleared although they were not rodded through.

Cllr Coates said that the road closure in Faversham Road had caused confusion regarding what is happening and when it will be opened.

Cllr Fraser said the first closure was in connection with the house and the second was in connection with South East Water.

Cllr Attwood said the South East Water closure was an emergency because the water main had burst and notification would not have been given.

### **16. KALC AWARD**

Cllr Cuthbert said the awards should be bi-annual due to the amount of work involved and residents could be asked for nominations.

Cllr Jones said it should be bi-annual unless there is an exception.

Cllr Fraser said the award should be made every year and there was not a massive amount of work involved.

It was agreed that the award will be made bi-annually by seeking nominations and the next award will be in 2021.

### **17. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 08.10.19: KCC Highways- salt bag offer
2. 15.10.19: KCC Highways- invitation to Parish Seminar
3. 23.10.19: KALC AGM- 30 November 2019
4. 04.11.19: KALC Newsletter
5. 06.11.19: KALC SAC agenda and draft minutes
6. 07.11.19: Swale Borough Council- consultation on draft car parking standards supplementary planning document
7. 08.11.19: Kent Police Rural Task Force- Rural Report

### **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Jones requested an update on the catering van.

Cllr Fraser said it was due to be moved at the end of last month but this was not possible as the owner had an operation and was unable to move it.

Cllr Shaw said a resident was concerned that some of the footpath signs needs updating.  
*ACTION: Clerk to send a link to the KCC PROW portal.*

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 9 December 2019**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.53pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman:

Date: 9 December 2019