

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 14 June 2021

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

Also present were four members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded attendees of the COVID rules. Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Duckworth (personal); apologies accepted. Apologies has also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting) and Ward Member David Simmons (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 ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2021

Item 16iii was amended to read "*Cllr Jones reported that KCC has consultants assessing the impact of the Kings Acre lagoon to see how much extra flood protection an expansion would give to the village, and the cost.*"

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes, as amended, as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Coates duly signed the minutes as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Fence at Sunnyside

Cllr Coates reported that Optivo have said they will not change the height of the fence and have not recognised the Council's views.

Cllr Fraser said Optivo had waived the Council's request regarding the streetscape and also the resident's request.

Cllr Cuthbert said no consideration has been given to the resident's well-being, Optivo has referred to it as being a rear garden fence but it is actually the front fence.

The resident informed the Council that he has appealed against the decision, Optivo has replaced a 4' fence with a 6' fence.

Cllr Coates said the Council's concerns had not been addressed and this will be raised with Optivo.

Cllr Cuthbert said the Ward Councillor and MP should also be copied into correspondence.

Cllr Coates thanked the resident for attending.

Cllr Coates informed Members that he had attended the KALC Swale Area Committee. James Freeman, Swale Borough Council Head of Planning gave a briefing and encouraged everyone to comment on the Swale draft Planning Enforcement Charter and Strategy consultation. There was also a presentation from Mike Phillips from Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Sally Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator was unable to attend but had submitted a report, the contents of which were noted.
Councillor Coates thanked Ms Mills for her report and her ongoing work in support of Neighbourhood Watch.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

A resident said that following communication with the Council about upgrading the play area to provide for younger children, she had contacted Swale Borough Council for details of funding and has been told to ask the Parish Council for details available under the precept. Cllr Cuthbert said the catalogue gave a price for the equipment and installation but safety surfacing would also be required.

The resident said the company does not lay safety surfaces.

Cllr Coates said there was not provision in the precept for funding additional equipment.

Cllr Fraser said there could be an issue as to where additional equipment could be sited, the current equipment is well-used.

Another resident said that she had concerns about some existing surfacing.

A third resident said she had concerns about the gates as her 18 month old son can open the gates.

Cllr Coates said there is an annual safety inspection of the play area and the inspector had raised no issues with the gates or surfacing, but we would look at these.

Cllr Attwood said it needs to be established as to where extra equipment will go and the cost of the project, otherwise it is not possible to access grants. The Swale Members' Fund has a limited amount of money; the Swale Eastern Area Committee also has funding available; the County Councillor will also have grant funds available.

Cllr Jones said it was good that residents are bringing worked up ideas to the Council and if the group can show that the village wants this it could be viewed as a priority project.

Cllr Cuthbert said the Council had been advised not to put catches on the gates because if a child was chased by a dog or person they would not be able to get out quickly.

Cllr Coates thanked the members of the public for attending and summarised the situation as: Councillors were broadly supportive of replacing one item of play equipment with a climbing tower, but that funding and the site of the equipment would need to be resolved. Councillors and residents will continue to discuss.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 21/502401/FULL

Address: 2 Primrose Place The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0DA

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension (resubmission of 21/500014/FULL).

Councillors considered the application and had no comments to make.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 14 June 2021

Ref: 21/502507/LAWPRO

Address: The Flintstones The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension with roof light and first floor rear extension with internal alterations

Cllr Coates said the application has been lodged but the Parish Council is not consulted on Lawful Development Certificates.

Cllr Attwood said this application is to regularise the proposal through the planning system.

The Retreat

Cllr Coates reported that Swale Borough Council has been asked for an update but there has been no response.

ACTION 1: Clerk to contact Newnham Parish Council and Ospringe Parish Council to take their views.

ACTION 2: Clerk to ask Planning Enforcement for an update on the current situation and what their next step is.

13. FINANCE

i. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

ii. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2021- To receive the end of year return and to consider the adoption and signing of the return.

iii. To Certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

The Clerk explained the Independent Internal Auditor had been unable to complete the audit and it will be completed remotely, papers have been sent.

ACTION: Clerk to ask for an extension of time to submit the Certificate of exemption and liaise with the Internal Auditor.

iv. Invoices for Payment

Football nets

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence: £52.94 being reimbursement of football nets (cheque no 1264).

14. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported the regular Speed Watch sessions are continuing, the results have been both disappointing and encouraging. The Speed Watch sessions seem to be making a difference and on one session there were no recorded speeding vehicles. A session was held at Wychling and forty vehicles were recorded as speeding in 1 ½ hours, most were travelling at 35-39mph and five were travelling at over 40mph. One vehicle has already received two excess speed letters. All data is reported to Kent Police.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

15. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

In the absence of Cllr Duckworth, Cllr Fraser reported the grass has been cut and the contractor has maintained the periphery. The football nets have been delivered and a new one will be installed.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

ii. To consider request for temporary installation for village art trail

Cllr Coates said there has been a request to install a temporary art exhibit at the Playing Field.

Cllr Cuthbert had no objection but wondered if it is put on the top fence who would see it. It needs to be secured.

Cllr Jones said the organiser must remove it after the event.

Cllr Cuthbert said a Risk Assessment is needed.

Cllr Coates declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Fete Committee member and said the committee would like the Parish Council to provide a summer port-a-loo.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to provide a port-a-loo for four weeks in August.

16. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Cuthbert said the Council needs to keep pushing KCC Highways for some resurfacing of The Street, it is quite urgent in some places.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Alan Blackburn.

ii. HGVs using the village as a "rat run"

Cllr Coates said that our attempts to resolve this fell into two parts. One was the legal advice which we had now received and the second was our application for a a 7 ½ tonne weight limit.

Cllr Attwood said the only route would have been concerning Public Nuisance, but the solicitor did not advocate this as it would be costly.

Councillors agreed unanimously not to pursue the legal option in view of the costs and likelihood of success. Cllr Attwood added that as the planning permission for the tipping site has a permit for up to fifty vehicle movements per day it was unlikely the operators were in breach of this number but they could be over the cubic metreage of spoil being delivered.

ACTION: Clerk to contact James Freeman and Planning Enforcement to check that the operation falls within the planning permission regarding the tipping.

Cllr Cuthbert reported that he had emailed Sarah-Jayne Ellcock regarding a 7 ½ tonne weight limit on 20 May, there has been no response.

Cllr Coates said that the lack of a reply was unacceptable and asked Cllr Cuthbert and the Clerk to chase. He suggested that we may need to complain to KCCH management about the lack of a response as over 4 weeks had elapsed since councillors agreed with the proposal and the problem had not gone away.

Cllr Cuthbert said KCCLLr Lehmann could be contacted to help with the matter.

ACTION 1: Cllr Cuthbert to contact Sarah-Jayne Ellcock again, and copy in KCCLLr Lehmann and the Clerk.

ACTION 2: Cllr Cuthbert to contact Sarah-Jayne Ellcock's manager

Cllr Coates said the Council needs to thank the Traffic Commissioner for the response and request the Council's concerns are noted on record.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to draft an email

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that the two blocked drains in The Street near the garage are still under investigation, there are problems with the connecting pipe. KCC is programming works on the blocked drains near the Faversham Road and Old Lenham Road junction. The report from the consultants assessing the impact of the proposed expansion of the Kings Acre lagoon has not yet been received.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his report.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.05.21- NALC CEO bulletin
2. 11.05.21- SBC: request for agenda items at the next JTB meeting
3. 13.05.21- NALC newsletter
4. 14.05.21- SBC: draft planning enforcement charter and strategy consultation, 17.05.21- 05.07.21.
5. 18.05.21- KALC SAC: papers for meeting 8th June
6. 25.05.21- NALC CEO bulletin
7. 26.05.21- resident email regarding pothole repairs in The Street
8. 28.05.21- SBC: local Heritage listing criteria consultation letter
9. 08.06.21- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 08.06.21- SBC: Swale Economic Development Update
11. 11.06.21- RECOUP: Kent Understanding Plastics Project

Cllr Coates said Councillors must respond to the Draft Planning Enforcement Charter and Strategy Consultation.

Cllr Cuthbert said the Swale Joint Transportation Board would be a good place to raise the issue with HGVs.

ACTION: Clerk to check the dates for items for the agenda.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates said the Poppy Appeal organiser has asked if the Council wants a poppy wreath this year, the order has to go in early.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to order a wreath.

Cllr Fraser said he had been approached by three residents backing onto agricultural land which has been purchased by householder, would planning permission be needed to change the use to garden or domestic storage and use.

Cllr Attwood said an application for change of use would have to be submitted and this would come to the Parish Council as a statutory consultee.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 12 July 2021

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 12 July 2021