

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom on  
Monday 14 September 2020

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Kevin Attwood, Cllr Graham Cuthbert, Cllr Peter Duckworth and Cllr Alison Shaw and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was County Councillor Andrew Bowles, Ward Member David Simmons and two members of the public.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the County Councillor and ward member for joining the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kevin Fraser (holiday) and Cllr Colin Jones (holiday): apologies accepted.

## 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 13 JULY 2020

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.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

### Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment was amended to include COVID-19 and adopted.

### Summer Fete

Cllr Coates said the Council had agreed the provision of a port-a-loo but the Fete Committee decided not to go ahead with the event due to the pandemic. The port-a-loo for the summer was cancelled as well to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus

### The Chequers Inn - Asset of Value to the Community

Cllr Coates reported that Swale Borough Council had asked for more information before they made a decision.

Cllr Shaw informed Members that she had liaised with the landlord and had provided the additional information which was required. A hard copy of the application was also delivered to Swale House.

The Clerk said they have eight weeks in which to decide.

Cllr Shaw said the additional information was submitted on 8 September.

## 14. HIGHWAYS

*Item brought forward on the agenda*

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coates said KCC Public Rights of Way has made a formal request to the Parish Council for information on PROW ZR281 near Victoria Bungalow. The applicant has also contacted the Parish Council.

Cllr Cuthbert said the garage was built in 1952 when the bungalow was built. Prior to that there was a row of houses on that space so it could not have been a Public Right of Way.

Cllr Duckworth said there is a footpath at the side of Yew Tree Cottage.

KCCllr Bowles said KCC Regulatory Committee remedies issues with Public Right of Ways, there is currently a three-year back log.

Cllr Coates said the Parish Council has been asked for evidence.

Cllr Attwood said the route has been sign posted by the cottages and across the field behind. The position has been this for the past forty years and the route is long standing.

SBCllr Simmons said that he has been contacted by the owner of the bungalow and also KCC Public Right of Way. The resident thought that if the garage was built in 1952 then the footpath has been used for nearly seventy years and if a foot path has been used for twenty years it became an established route.

*ACTION: Clerk to draft responses and circulate to Members. Copy response to KCCllr Bowles.*

#### ii. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

The Clerk reported that there have been nine responses, five from the parish and four from outside the parish.

KCCllr Bowles said the Swale Joint Transportation Board told two Parish Councils that the schemes they were seeking to push forward would not be progressed until they had submitted a Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Coates said he, Cllr Cuthbert and the Clerk will meet to consider the responses and this will be brought to Full Council in October.

#### iii. Traffic Calming beds

Cllr Coates reported the working group had closed and it was intended that the money would be refunded to the Parish Council. Following a post on Social Media, some willing volunteers have come forward to help maintain the beds. The group is currently working on the bed outside The Chequers and the money will be used to purchase plants. The Council is grateful to those who have volunteered to help with this work.

### **6. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT**

Cllr Coates said there has been no report for several months.  
It was agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

### **7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

Cllr Coates thanked Sally Mills for her report which had been circulated. There was information on the surrounding areas but nothing within Doddington.

### **8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time*

*A resident asked for an update on the mobile phone mast at Down Court Farm, it was installed in the wrong place and it was meant to be disguised.*

Cllr Coates said that some time had passed since this was previously discussed and that he couldn't recall how this had been left.

Cllr Attwood declared an interest in the matter and said that he could provide background information in order to help. A former Councillor had been involved in the matter regarding issues surrounding the visibility and location of the phone mast. Graham Thomas's response, Swale Borough Council Planning Officer, was robust and he was content with where things are. A further letter had been sent but there may not have been a response.

The laws regarding phone masts, including in ANOB, have changed considerably and the weight of planning law lies with the phone companies. If the Planning Officer could be persuaded that the mast is in the wrong place (marginally) and fractionally higher or less obscure than would be liked; it is likely the phone company would ignore Swale Borough Council and stand their ground. The law has changed to the point where if a site is strategically important for the network, the company can use a mechanism to coerce a landowner into accepting a mast where they want it.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Attwood for the clarification and emphasised that at the meetings when this had been discussed, Cllr Attwood took no part in the discussion or vote.

*The resident said that the Planning Officer had said that the mast was in the wrong place and would also be disguised. This followed a site meeting which was attended by a former Councillor, the planning officer and members of the public. As a result the former Councillor had said that he would write to the planning office again and asked for further public comment. The resident said that they had made a submission.*

*ACTION: Clerk to research the matter (including finding the response from Graham Thomas) and to update Councillors and the resident.*

*The meeting was reconvened.*

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

i Ref: 20/503695/TPOA

Address: Little Lodge Church Hill Doddington ME9 0AZ

TPO application to fell one Ash tree and replant with Wild Cherry (Prunus Avium) within 3m of current position.

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

ii. Any other planning matter received by 14 September 2020

Ref: 20/502641/FULL Address: Victoria Bungalow The Street Doddington ME9 0BH

Proposal: Demolition of garage and erection of detached garage.

Cllr Coates informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 20/502846/FULL Address: 6 The Retreat The Street Doddington ME9 0DB

Proposal: Erection of detached garage

Cllr Coates informed Councillors that the application has been permitted.

## **10. FINANCE**

i. Councillors Expenses

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Cllr Shaw £13.20 for a map of the area to support the application for The Chequers to be made an Asset of Value to the Community (chg no 1235).

ii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Newington Parish Council £42.33 being a share of SLCC subscription (chg no 1232).

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Commercial Services £191.22 in respect of playing field maintenance for April, May and June (chg no 1233).

c. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay NALC £17.00 subscription (chg no 1234).

Cllr Coates reported that the Internal Auditor has been asked to justify the 66% increase in fee but there has been no response.

*ACTION: Clerk to write again.*

## **11. DEFIBRILATOR**

Cllr Coates said there was nothing to report.

## **12. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Coates informed Members that there had been regular deployments by the Speed Watch Team. Forty-nine vehicles had been reported to Kent Police for speeding during the past month.

## **13. PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Duckworth said the grass cutting and peripheral maintenance of the Playing Field is continuing. The equipment has been in order until yesterday when it was noticed that a bolt was missing on the climbing frame and this will be replaced. The Playing Field and the play area has been well used during the Summer.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

## **15. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 14.07.20: KCC Budget consultation review 2020-21
2. 14.07.20: NALC CEO bulletin
3. 21.07.20: SBC Area Committees
4. 21.07.20: KALC CEO Bulletin
5. 21.07.20: Swale Borough Council - request for details of ponds and hedgerows  
Cllr Coates said there had been a nil return.
6. 23.07.20: National Highways & Transport Network - Public Satisfaction Survey
7. 28.07.20: NALC CEO bulletin
8. 30.07.20: Swale Borough Council Economic Improvement Strategy 2020-2023 – consultation
9. 05.08.20: KALC Newsletter
10. 06.08.20: NHS Kent and Medway CCG - Community Bulletin shielding alert
11. 07.08.20: Swale Borough Council - Housing allocations policy consultation
12. 11.08.20: Kent Fraud Alerts from Kent Police
13. 11.08.20: NALC policy briefing papers regarding the Government's 3 consultations on reform of the planning system
14. 11.08.20: Swale Borough Council Call for sites to be submitted as proposed Local Green Spaces  
Cllr Coates said there had been a nil return.
15. 17.08.20: NALC CEO bulletin
16. 17.08.20: SAC Meeting and AGM 14th September 2020
17. 20.08.20: KALC CEO Bulletin
18. 20.08.20: KCC mobile libraries update
19. 20.08.20: KCC update on home to school transport
20. 21.08.20: KCC Solar Together Kent Scheme
21. 27.08.20: Cllr Bowles's newsletter
22. 27.08.20: Highways England - M20 Moveable Barrier works
23. 27.08.20: KALC/CPRE Kent Planning White Paper virtual Information Event  
Cllr Attwood said that historically, when KALC held planning workshops they mainly went to the Local Authority Planning Officer on the basis that this was an independent view. KALC used CPRE for this event so it was not even handed.
24. 27.08.20: NHS Kent and Medway CCG: Your community news for August 2020
25. 28.08.20: Swale Joint Transportation Board agenda
26. 28.08.20: KCC Highways pothole data
27. 03.09.20: Swale Borough Council- Consultation closing dates and test and trace toolkit
28. 03.09.20: Swale Green Grid Forum Virtual Meeting - 23 September
29. 03.09.20: KALC Newsletter
30. 07.09.20: Kent Rural Task Force - Rural report and Rural Matters publication
31. 07.09.20: Swale Borough Council- Climate and Ecological Emergency presentation to Parish Councils  
Councillors agreed not to request a presentation.

32. 11.09.20: KCC waste update
33. 11.09.20: Kent Resilience Team newsletter
34. 11.09.20: KCC - Regulation 26 - Adoption of the Kent Mineral Sites Plan and Early Partial Review of the KMWLP
35. 11.09.20: KCC Highways pothole data

#### **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Coates said the venue for Parish Council meetings is under constant review, advice from NALC is that parish Councils do not meet physically at the moment.

KCCllr Bowles said the advice from KALC is that if Councils decide to have an actual meeting, they should seek advice from their insurance company as well.

Cllr Coates thanked KCCllr Bowles and SBCllr Simmons for attending the meeting.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 12 October 2020**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.22pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 12 October 2020