

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 14 January 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Also present was one member of the public.

1. Apologies

All members were present.

Apologies had been received from KCCllr Andrew Bowles (at another meeting) and SBCllr Colin Prescott (recuperating); apologies noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Attwood declared an interest in all matters relating to the Telecommunications mast.

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

None were identified.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 December 2018.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2018 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Attwood.

5. Matters Arising

Document retention

Cllr Coates said that following the clarification on document retention, the GDPR policy papers need to be amended.

ACTION: Clerk to amend.

Church Lane junction

Cllr Cuthbert said as the STOP sign is not visible to drivers going down Church Lane towards Chequers Hill until towards the end of the road, it was suggested there should be a more visible sign. There is currently a warning sign.

Cllr Haynes said a caution sign would be simple to install on Chequers Hill Road and would need to be a prominent sign to warn of the junction ahead.

Cllr Jones said the matter needed to be confirmed and the Clerk to contact KCC.

ACTION: Cllr Jones to ascertain what signage is in place on Chequers Hill Road.

The Retreat

Cllr Haynes reported the site is fully fenced with concrete posts and the green material has been renewed along the Faversham Road.

Cllr Jones said he understood the Swale Planning Enforcement Team would be referring the matter to Legal

Highways and drains

Cllr Cuthbert reported the drains on the Old Lenham Road will not be visible soon as the wood is being taken out and the vehicles used are wide and are pushing the soil down into the road over the drains. The road looks like it is beginning to subside. The gully has been dug at the top of Spratts Hill.

Cllr Attwood said the gully has been dug to test its effectiveness when it rains. The ditch and pipework into the lagoon were also installed at the same time.

ACTION: Clerk to report the drains and mud on the road to KCC.

Cllr Cuthbert reported the drains at the bottom of Spratts Hill are now visible.

Cllr Attwood reported Annie Thurgarland, KCC has visited the area and has requested details of land owners and water flows; information has been sent. The other outstanding matter is the maintenance of the existing infrastructure and the Council will continue to monitor this.

6. Community Warden Report

Dave Osborne, Community Warden was unable to attend and had reported that at 3:30pm on 30 December, would be burglars were deterred by the resident in Newnham Lane, Newnham, Sittingbourne.

Sometime on 22 December, a barn was burgled in Buckland Faversham. Thieves broke into a garage and stole some items.

7. Neighbourhood Watch Report

Mrs Jackson, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator was unable to attend but had reported the incident of the would-be burglars in Newnham Lane, Newnham Sittingbourne.

Between 7th and 8th of December, six copper pots were stolen from a garden in Church Lane Doddington Sittingbourne.

Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that there have been recent thefts of land rovers in Bredgar and also in Kingsdown.

8. Public Question Time

The meeting was adjourned for the public time.

A resident expressed concern about the work being carried out at Woodstock as she had been told by the builder that the plans had changed.

Councillors agreed to write to Swale Borough Council Planning Enforcement.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council to raise the Council's concerns.

The meeting was reconvened.

9. War Memorial

Cllr Attwood informed Councillors that the Council is still waiting for a quotation as the stone mason needs to buy special tools to make the panels because it is made of hard granite.

10. Planning Matters

i. Ref: 18/506490/FULL

Address: The Manor House Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington ME9 0NT

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and first floor side extension. Roof alterations accommodating extension to the second floor. Changes to fenestration and new weatherboard cladding. Extension and restoration of the front boundary wall.

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

ii. Ref: 18/506666/LBC

Address: Old Thatch Bistock Doddington Lane Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0AX

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the removal and rebuild of existing chimney and the replacement of existing window with a new door and frame

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

iii. Any other planning matter received by 14 January 2019

Ref: 18/505502/FULL Address: Sharsted Lodge Sharsted Road Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0JS

Proposal: Erection of single storey garden room

Cllr Attwood informed Members that this application has been permitted.

Ref: 18/505237/FULL Address: Old Oaks Farm Seed Road Newnham Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0NN

Proposal: Installation of a 6.6 kW ground mounted PV array in the grounds of Old Oaks Farm (approximately 140m from the house) consisting of 2 rows of 12 panels mounted in

portrait mode, at an angle of inclination of 35°, giving an overall footprint of 12.3 m by 5.2 m (64 m² including gap between the rows)

Cllr Attwood informed Councillors that this application has been permitted.

Telecommunications mast

Cllr Attwood left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision of this matter. Cllr Haynes took the Chair.

Cllr Haynes reported there had been a meeting with Graham Thomas, Swale Borough Council Area Planning Officer, who suggested waiting until after the summer to visit again. Mr Thomas had agreed the mast is higher than anticipated and he was shocked as to how it looked and said he would back the Council's concerns that it is in the wrong place.

Cllr Fraser said Mr Thomas confirmed the mast was ten metres from where it should have been built and advised not to put an objection in until the leaves have fallen.

ACTION: Cllr Haynes to write response for Clerk to send.

11. Finance

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none

ii. Clerks pay and expenses Oct – December 2018

It was agreed to pay the Clerk £693.30 being quarterly salary of £657.86 and expenses of £35.44 (cheque no. 1172).

It was agreed to pay HMRC £5.20 (cheque no 1173).

iii. Invoices for Payment

Landscape Services for Playing Field Maintenance

Cllr Attwood said the Council is waiting for amended invoice.

iii. Precept Bid 19/20 - To consider budget workings and precept setting figures

Cllr Attwood said a precept of £8732 is suggested by the Finance Working Group and this will result in no change in the precept for residents, a band D property will be £38.04 the same as for 2018-19. There has been a small allowance for some items such as salary increment and also an allowance for the elections in May. Work on the War Memorial will be significant as there is more work on the Doddington side, earmarked funds should include an allowance for the War Memorial work. There will need to be an arboricultural inspection and that has been included in the budget.

Cllr Coates said the centenary of the street parties celebrating the end of the Great War is in July. The Fun Day Committee have agreed it is a good idea and it will be the theme of this year's Fun Day and will be celebrated in August.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set a precept of £8732.

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Coates and the Clerk for their work on the budget.

12. Defibrillator

Cllr Coates reported there were no issues to report.

13. Speed Watch

Cllr Fraser reported Speed Watch has resumed after the Christmas break. The team is one person down as one of the volunteers has moved out of the village. A notice requesting volunteers will be placed in the village and also in the Newsletter. This week is national Police Chief Officers Speed Watch Action Week and Alan Watson, Community Speed Watch Manager, has requested the team hold a session which will be included in the statistics.

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

14. Playing Field

Cllr Duckworth report that he and Cllr Fraser have replaced the swing seat and that this had proved more difficult than anticipated as the chains were different sizes. The moss on the playing surfaces has not been tackled yet but will be carried out when the weather gets dryer. The litter bin outside the gate near the garage is loose.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Duckworth said all the cuts on the playing field have been carried out.

ACTION: Clerk to request quote for maintenance of ancillary areas.

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

15. Highways

i. Highways Update and notification of further work required

Lenham Crossroads

Cllr Attwood said the original yellow lines did not go so far up as the ones now being proposed which was a positive step.

Cllr Cuthbert said that when the developments at Harrietsham and Lenham have been completed the speed limit on the A20 will be reviewed.

ACTION: Clerk to request update from Lenham Parish Council.

Pot Holes and Footpaths

Cllr Attwood said the lines marked around the potholes on Down Court Road are fading while the work that they mark is still outstanding.

Cllr Haynes said the ridge opposite West End Cottages should be brought to KCC Highways' attention and also the footpath which is a problem at night. There are lots of areas of the footpath marked for repair and the footpath should be repaired in one section.

Cllr Jones said KCC Highways will only repair what is reported.

Cllr Cuthbert said there is a drop in the tarmac outside Tom Tiddlers, a resident had twisted their ankle and the problem was repaired quickly.

ACTION: Clerk to inform KCC that the pavement needs extensive repair rather than patching.

ii. Flooding issues

Annie Thurgarland, KCC Flood Management, has visited the village and is trying to progress the Natural Flood Management work in Doddington.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain the next course of action and timescale.

16. Correspondence

1. 14.12.18- Christmas Greetings from Cllr Bowles
2. 14.12.18- KALC: Minutes Swale Area Committee meeting of 26 November 2018
3. 21.12.18- Helen Whatley's Newsletter
4. 21.12.18- Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Newsletter
5. 21.12.18- KCCllr Bowles's Funding event
6. 10.01.19- resident email raising planning concern
7. 11.01.19- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30; Mineral Sites Plan and Early Partial Review
8. 11.01.19- KALC draft minutes of AGM

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Cuthbert reported he has been ascertaining further details of the KALC Award recipient and agreement of a suitable time and venue for the ceremony.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 11 February 2019

Signed a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Dated 11 February 2019