

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom on
Monday 8 March 2021

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

Also present were County Councillor Andrew Bowles and three members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.
All Members were present.
Apologies had been received from Ward Member David Simmons; 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 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Broadband

Cllr Coates said the Council have been approached to see if it would join with other Parish Councils regarding a strategy for Broadband in the village. A former Councillor has offered to help and has engaged with Kent County Council and an Otterden resident, but little progress has been made.
A member of the public said there will be a new scheme from April.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Coates said there had been a lot of reports concerning scams. Residents are urged to inform the Police of any issues as this helps the Police to make an intelligence picture.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked if minutes could be posted on the website earlier.
Cllr Coates explained that the minutes were published once they had been agreed. The consideration of the accuracy of minutes took place at the subsequent meeting after which they were immediately uploaded to the Parish Council website.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

i. SBC Local Plan Review (Reg 19) consultation

Cllr Coates thanked the Working Group and the Clerk for their work on a response to the consultation, a copy of which has been circulated. The response will be submitted to Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Jones asked why there are comments on areas outside the parish, for example Selling, Lamberhurst and Sittingbourne town centre.

Cllr Attwood said the Council could comment on Selling as an example of another village affected in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The proposal conflicts with the ANOB policies in the Swale Borough Council Local Plan as well as national policies in the NPPF. Sittingbourne is a primary town centre within the borough and affects the area as a whole. In Faversham, the rural communities get grouped together, all policies would impact on Doddington regarding traffic especially any development in Teynham or Lynsted would affect the parish.

It was agreed to submit a response and to send copies to Lynsted and Newnham Parish Councils and to MP Helen Whately's office.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 8 March 2021

21/500680/SUB Down Court Farm Down Court Road Doddington ME9 0AT

Submission of details pursuant to condition 3 (materials) of application 19/504932/FULL

Cllr Coates said that a submission regarding materials for the approved grain store had been lodged. The Parish Council is not a consultee on the matter, but this had been added to the agenda simply for councillors to note.

Cllr Attwood declared a pecuniary interest in this matter.

9. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerk Salary and expenses

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence £814.40 salary and expenses.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £220.76 PAYE

iii. To consider request for grant from the Kent Sussex & Surrey Air Ambulance Trust

Cllr Jones **PROPOSED** to give a grant of £100 to the Kent Sussex & Surrey Air Ambulance Trust; **SECONDED** by Cllr Attwood: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

iv. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr P Haynes £44.94 for the fruit bowl for KALC Award presentation.

10. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser said that there was nothing to report.

11. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth said it will soon be time for the grass to be cut. Cllr Cuthbert will look at the grass patch this week. Work is continuing to remove the ivy from the trees. The swing chains will be measured this week to determine if there is any wear on them. One of the COVID signs has come off the gate.

Cllr Fraser said he has another sign and will replace it.

Cllr Duckworth said the equipment is checked regularly and is in good order. The Playing Field attracts a lot of visitors with younger children, if there were to be additional equipment the existing items should not be removed.

Cllr Coates said there has been a request from a resident for new equipment and a multi-play unit has been suggested. The resident has been asked for a tangible proposal and this will then be put out to consultation.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth for his work.

ii. To consider request from Fete Committee to permit dogs on Playing Field for Village Fete on Sunday 29 August 2021

Councillors considered the request to permit dogs on the Playing Field for the Fete; **6- FOR, 1 AGAINST: MOTION CARRIED.**

12. HIGHWAYS

i. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that the drains have been cleaned at Kings Acre and he and Cllr Attwood were discussing with KCC Flood Management and local landowners measures to extend the lagoon at Kings Acre to divert flood waters from the village. A site meeting had been arranged for 9 March

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Attwood and Cllr Jones for their work.

ii. HGVs

Cllr Coates reported that there have been issues with HGVs using Wychling, Doddington and Lynsted as a rat run and, for the past few weeks, there have been multiple HGV trips by the same company's vehicles taking soil from Lenham/Harrietsham to Tonge Golf Course. Once the lorries have tipped their load, they then made the return journey empty. The road is signed as being unsuitable for HGVs and councillors had received many complaints from residents, some of whom have tried to contact the company concerned.

Cllr Coates and Cllr Fraser had contacted the company but the owner will not change the route, the tipping site will soon be closed for five weeks, so the trips will stop for that period.

Cllr Coates said the Golf Course is being redeveloped and Cllr Fraser estimates that each HGV is in excess of 36 tonnes loaded. There have been complaints of poor driving, road and verge damage, bullying driving behaviour and one driver using a mobile phone whilst driving. Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council has also had multiple complaints from their residents. One option is to contact the Traffic Commissioner who licenses HGVs, another option is to request a 1.5 tonne weight limit and advice from KCC Highways (KCCHW) is that this can be done with agreed exceptions so it will not impact on local deliveries and collections. A weight limit would need a Traffic Regulations Order and the Council could work with Newnham Parish Council and Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council. KCCHW would be concerned if it would push the HGVs on to more unsuitable roads.

Cllr Attwood said that if there is a 7.5 tonne weight limit restriction, if a site needs to be expanded, the restriction would be an issue with KCC Highways. This could affect local fruit growers and also local pack houses which process fruit not grown in the UK. The issue with Shaws Haulage is transitory and will come to an end whereas a 7.5 tonne restriction will be there for the rest of time.

Cllr Coates said that KCCHW had advised that the Council should not just focus on one particular company as this was clearly a much wider issue, the road between the A2 and the A20 is a rat run.

Cllr Fraser said that he would support a 7.5 tonne restriction with exemptions for local access and this will not impact on businesses. A weight limit will discourage HGVs from using the roads. There will need to be a traffic survey. There has been extensive damage to the edges of the road and also the verges since the HGVs started four weeks ago. If there is development at Teynham because of the Local Plan the volume of traffic will increase.

Cllr Cuthbert reported that KCCHW had said the tipping site would have had planning permission with conditions and they would check about the route for construction vehicles.

Cllr Shaw said the speed of the traffic is alarming and the damage to the roads is also a concern.

Cllr Jones said in principle there needs to be weight restrictions and the Council needs to engage with local business on the proposal. The Council needs to understand and address their concerns. If the haulier is aware that they could be reported to the Traffic Commissioner they will take notice.

Cllr Attwood said it will be a long time before a traffic survey can take place and it is difficult to judge the speed of a large vehicle. KCC Highways needs to be contacted to ascertain how they gather information for a Traffic Regulations Order. The company needs to be warned that they will be reported to the Traffic Commissioner if they do not follow through with their agreement.

Cllr Jones said the company needs to be contacted now to give them five weeks to resolve the issue.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to draft letter.

13. PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR281

Cllr Coates said the Council had been contacted on the Order to amend the Definitive Map. A resident has thanked the Council for its support.

14. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk informed Members that the Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1 March and 1 June, the Annual Parish Council Meeting must be held in May. Traditionally, Doddington Parish Council holds both meetings on the same evening on the second Monday in May.

Cllr Coates said he had contacted the recipient of the KALC Award to ascertain their availability.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to present the KALC Award before the Parish Council meeting on 13 September.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 10 May.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 10.02.21- Helen Whately MP- Local Plan Review
2. 11.02.21- KALC SAC: meeting papers
3. 11.02.21- KALC: Planning Conference
4. 15.02.21- KALC CEO bulletin
5. 19.02.21- Resident request for play area to be updated
6. 19.02.21- KALC: remote meetings
7. 22.02.21- NALC CEO bulletin
8. 22.02.21- Kent Wildlife Trust: Spring newsletter
9. 23.02.21- Helen Whately MP- Parish update
10. 23.02.21- SBC: Fuel and Water Home Advice Service
11. 24.02.21- KCC: COVID-19 update
12. 25.02.21- Helen Whately MP: Local Plan Review survey
13. 26.02.21- KALC: MHCLG Model Design Code consultation
14. 26.02.21- SBC: Local Plan Review consultation deadline extended to 30 April
15. 02.03.21- KALC SAC: meeting papers and login
16. 02.03.21- Kent Police: Rural Task Force report and the Winter edition of Rural Matters
17. 04.02.21- Swale Economic Development News - March 2021

Cllr Jones asked if the Swale Borough Council Fuel and Water Home Advice Service can be publicised in the Newsletter.

ACTION: Clerk.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other matters were raised.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 12 April 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 April 2021