

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Jones (Vice Chairman), Cllr Kevin Attwood, Cllr Graham Cuthbert, Cllr Kevin Fraser 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.
Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Duckworth (personal); apologies accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9.iii as his wife signed the application for a grant.
Cllr Cuthbert declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9.iii as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

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

None were identified.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 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

Cllr Coates reported that the Clerk had written to Optivo regarding the fence at Sunnyside and thanked Cllr Fraser for providing excellent photographic evidence.

Cllr Coates informed Members that he had attended the virtual KALC AGM which had been well run. The motion that fast food outlets should put vehicle registration numbers on packaging was carried and this will now go to NALC who will present it to Government.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Sally Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator had sent the following report:
A quiet month for all things Neighbourhood Watch, with only one report coming through from Kent Police and no reports from any Villagers.

Kent Police reported that between 6th and 9th November, a shed and garage were broken into in Gore Court Road, Sittingbourne.

Furthermore, between 8th and 9th November, 2 bicycles were stolen during a garden shed burglary in Park Drive, Sittingbourne.

Residents are reminded to keep outbuildings, sheds and garages secure.

Residents with any concerns should contact Sally Mills, NHW coordinator, on:
neighbourhoodwatch.doddington@yahoo.com
or contact Kent Police on 101 to report a crime, or 999 if it is an emergency.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

The Chairman of the Allotments Association asked for the grant application to be held in abeyance.

Councillors agreed to add the grant request to the January meeting if necessary.

The meeting was re-convened.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

i. 20/504677/FULL Slips Cottage Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0AZ Erection of timber stables and exercise menage (retrospective)

Councillors considered the application and noted the proposal has already been built. It is a Grade II listed property and there is disagreement between the neighbours regarding the boundary although this is not in itself a concern as it is open to anyone to submit a planning application. The menage affects the setting of the Grade II listed building and the access to it would further encroach on neighbours. It has the potential to affect it further if access is constructed.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the application.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 14 December 2020

18/504562/FULL Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington ME9 0NT

Cllr Coates reminded councillors that he had attended the Swale Planning Committee meeting on 15 October. A site visit was proposed but did not take place due to the pandemic although a small group attended on 4 November where video footage was taken in order that this could be considered by the planning committee.

SBCllr Simmons said the matter was discussed at the Planning Committee meeting and it was agreed that the Planning Working Group have a virtual site meeting on 21.12.20. He had concerns that this would not capture the remoteness of Ellens Court and a Member asked for dashcam footage to be taken of the road up from Doddington village. The Planning Officer thinks the application is acceptable.

ACTION 1: Cllr Attwood to take dashcam footage for the Planning Working Group

ACTION 2: Cllr Coates to attend the virtual Swale Planning Working group meeting

SBCllr Simmons said the application will be determined at the Swale Planning Committee meeting on 7 January 2021.

SBCllr Simmons informed the Council that concern has been raised by a resident regarding parking on Chequers Hill.

Cllr Attwood said the Council had raised its concerns about the lack of parking when the old foam factory was developed. The application met the minimum parking requirements and planning permission was granted.

9. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

Cllr Fraser reported that he had received the climbing frame bolt from Wicksteed and there was no charge.

ii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr D Buckett £250 in respect of the internal audit fee (cheque no1241).

It was agreed to review the internal audit arrangements in 2021.

iii. To consider request from Doddington Village Hall for a grant

Cllr Jones and Cllr Cuthbert did not take part in the discussion or decision of this item

Councillors considered the request from the Village Hall Committee for a grant towards new heaters and curtains.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make a grant of £2,500 towards the project (cheque no 1242)

iv. To consider request from Doddington Allotments Association for a grant

Deferred to January meeting.

8.10pm SBCllr Simmons left the meeting

Cllr Coates said that there needs to be a Finance Working Group meeting to look at the budget.

ACTION: Cllr Coates, Cllr Cuthbert and Cllr Jones

10. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed Watch had re-started after the November meeting with further restrictions for the team who are managing well. There is restricted day light so the sessions are 1 hour long instead of 1½ hours. Since 16 November, five hundred and twenty-three cars have passed through the village during the sessions. Thirty vehicles were recorded travelling in excess of 30mph; seven were second time offenders and received letters of warning; two drivers have received a third letter; and one vehicle is noted as a serial offender. All details are reported to Kent Police.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report and for his work with Speed Watch.

11. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that he and Cllr Duckworth carry out the weekly play area inspections and, with Cllr Jones, have cut back more ivy from the trees. The climbing frame bolt has been supplied and fitted. The sanitising of the equipment to help keep users as safe as possible continues. The advisory notices for the equipment have been replaced as necessary. The moss treatment continues to work. There are two goal posts and one net, the net is at the end of its useful life.

Cllr Fraser thanked Cllr Cuthbert for bringing the necessary equipment to clear the leaves, there was a particularly heavy leaf fall this year.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report and thanked Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Fraser for their work on the Playing Field.

ii. Play area inspection

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to have the annual play inspection carried out by Wicksteed and to have the extra written report.

8.23pm KCllr Bowles arrived

12. HIGHWAYS

i. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Cuthbert said that the working group had ascertained from the helpful meeting with Sarah-Jayne Elcock, KCC Highways, that the items in the draft Parish Highways

Improvement Plan (PHIP) were maintenance and not highways improvements, so there was no requirement for us to have a PHIP in place.

Cllr Coates said the white lines have been refreshed; Cllr Jones and Cllr Cuthbert have been working on the drainage issues. The Council now has to ask KCC to replace the poor road surface throughout the village. Ms Ellcock has provided useful advice about how to go about this. The Council needs to monitor highways issues so that they could be added to a plan if required in future.

Cllr Jones said that the public consultation was a useful exercise as it teased out the issues which are important to residents.

ii. Drainage

Cllr Jones thanked KCCllr Bowles for facilitating the meeting with KCC Highways drainage team and Cllr Cuthbert for his work on the drainage issues. KCC Drainage has been very helpful. All the gullies and drains in the Street and the six at the village end of the Old Lenham Road will be cleaned and jetted through on 15-16 December, CCTV will be used to inspect the condition of the whole drainage system. The rest of the Old Lenham Road will be cleaned in January. Part of the problem is to clear the debris from the road before it blocks the drains and the Clerk is working with Swale Borough Council to have the roads swept. KCC Highways is keen to promote their online portal to report problems with the drains and this needed to be emphasised in the newsletter report. Cllr Jones also reported that he and Cllr Attwood had discussed ideas for works to mitigate flood water flows into the village which would be put to KCC inviting them to a site visit.

Cllr Coates thanked Councillors for their work as this had been a major issue of concern for residents.

Cllr Coates referred to correspondence from Newnham Parish Council asking if the Council would support a proposal for a 20mph speed limit to be imposed in both villages. This also included a proposal to major issue reduce the national speed limit (60 mph) between the villages to 40mph This had been raised at the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting by a Newnham Councillor.

Councillors referred to the recent traffic survey which had been commissioned by Newnham Parish Council, the results of which showed that 30 mph was the appropriate speed limit.

KCCllr Bowles said a Newnham resident has started a 20' Plenty campaign and was raising a petition in support.

Cllr Coates said that it was reported to the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting that lorries are speeding through the village from the A20, but evidence from the Doddington Speed Watch activity does not support this assertion.

Cllr Fraser said that he would support a 20mph limit in the villages but unless there is clear evidence of issues it would be unlikely to succeed. 40mph limit between the villages would be good but there would need to be crash data to support this.

Cllr Cuthbert said if Newnham Parish Council has concrete evidence from the traffic survey and Speed Watch it would be something to support. There is little point in changing speed limits unless it can be enforced.

Cllr Jones said there is no explanation why Newnham Parish Council want to reduce the speed or what is hoped to be achieved by it. Doddington Parish Council cannot make a case for the change.

Cllr Shaw said that she was disappointed that it seems the scheme will not succeed; it would be a good idea.

Cllr Attwood said that he did not support the proposal as it is not evidenced from the Newnham traffic survey or Doddington Speed Watch. There is no crash data to support a scheme.

Councillors considered a 20mph village speed limit: 2 FOR, 4 AGAINST.

Councillors considered a reduction of the speed limit between the villages: 4 FOR, 2 AGAINST.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to draft response to Newnham Parish Council.

Cllr Coates said Annie Thurgarland has offered to meet after Christmas to discuss flood management.
Cllr Jones said that he will liaise with her.
KCCLlr Bowles said he will attend any meeting or site visit if available.

13. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to participate in the KALC Community Award Scheme 2021.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to draft article for the Newsletter, website and village Facebook page.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 12.11.20: Kent Community Foundation- "Knock and Check" Campaign *added to website*
2. 16.11.20: KCCLlr Bowles's newsletter
3. 18.11.20: KCC Member environment briefing
4. 20.11.20: KCC COVID-19 update
5. 24.11.20: KALC CEO Bulletin
6. 24.11.20: Message from SBC Leader
7. 24.11.20: Local Government Bulletin
8. 24.11.20: KCC Highways notice of road closure The Street Newnham 20 December
9. 24.11.20: KCC Highways notice of urgent road closure Doddington Lane 1 December
10. 26.11.20: KCC press release- Kent Local Tracing Partnership
11. 26.11.20: SBC Tier announcement - Tier 3 *-posters requested*
12. 27.11.20: KCC pothole data
13. 01.12.20: Kent Police and Crime Commissioner- annual policing survey
14. 03.12.20: Swale Area Committee funding for brown tourism signs
15. 11.12.20: Swale Eastern Area Committee details

Cllr Coates informed Members that he had completed the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner annual policing survey.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 11 January 2021

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman
Date: 11 January 2021