

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on  
Monday 12 July 2021

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Colin 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 was one member of the public

## 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded attendees of the COVID rules. Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting) and 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 14 JUNE 2021

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes 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 has dismissed the concerns of the Council and also the resident. In their letter, Optivo refers to the garden as being a back garden whereas it is considered to be the front garden.

The resident gave an update on the situation and stated that he has escalated his complaint which has been acknowledged by Optivo.

Councillors considered the matter and were fully supportive of the resident and noted that the fence was out of keeping with other houses in the village. The fence is oppressive and Optivo has shown no compassion to the resident. It was agreed to escalate the matter and that a Councillor would attend a site meeting with Optivo.

*ACTION: Cllr Jones to draft a further letter to the CEO of Optivo in support of the resident, The Retreat*

Cllr Jones reported that James Freeman, Swale Borough Council Head of Planning, has said the Council is taking legal action and is waiting for a court date.

## 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

No matters were raised.

## 8. PLANNING MATTERS

i.

Address: Slips Cottage Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0AZ

Ref: 21/502855/FULL

Proposal: Demolition of existing outbuilding. Erection of a garden store and a two bay open garage with a new access and driveway.

Ref: 21/502856/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for demolition of existing outbuilding. Erection of a garden store and a two bay open garage with a new access and driveway.

Councillors considered both applications and had no objections.

ii. Address: The Old School Cottage Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BD

Ref: 21/503527/FULL

Proposal: Change of use of the holiday let to a single dwellinghouse.

Councillors considered the matter and had no objection to the proposals.

iii. Any other planning matter received by 12 July 2021

21/500014/FULL 2 Primrose Place The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0DA

Proposed single storey rear extension

Cllr Coates informed Members that an appeal has been lodged on this application and asked if Councillors wanted to comment to the Planning Inspector.

Cllr Attwood said one application had been refused and resubmitted and was then passed, the Council raised no objections previously so there are no grounds to comment on the appeal.

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).

Cllr Coates reported that the application has been permitted.

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 reported that the application has been refused.

## 13. FINANCE

i. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

Councillors considered the Annual Governance Statement and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept it. The statement was duly signed by Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

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.

Councillors considered the Annual Return and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the accounting statement, this was duly signed by Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

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

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. The certificate was duly signed by Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

iv. Independent Internal Auditor's Report

Councillors considered the report and noted that the General Power of Competence does not need to be renewed annually.

v. Councillors Expenses

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr S Coates £12.50 for the KALC Award engraving (cheque no 1265).

vi. Clerk's Salary and expenses April- June 2021

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence £797.14 for salary and expenses (cheque no 1266).

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £220.80 in respect of PAYE (cheque no 1267).

vii. Invoices for Payment

a. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr Lionel Robbins £90.00 being the internal audit fee (cheque no 1268).

b. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Surrey Hills Solicitors £570.00 in respect of legal advice (cheque no 1269).

**14. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Fraser reported the regular Speed Watch sessions are continuing and all data is reported to Kent Police.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

**15. PLAYING FIELD**

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth reported the regular grass cutting is proceeding, the field was last cut on 9 July. The new ivy growth on a tree has been dealt with by Cllr Fraser. An extra item of toddler play equipment could be sited between the roundabout and the bench.

Cllr Fraser reported that, following concern raised about the safety surfacing at last month's Public Question Time, this has been inspected and no damage was found.

Cllr Duckworth said that another issue raised was that some small children can open the gates, there is a sign at the gate reminding parents and carers that children should be supervised.

Cllr Fraser reported that the annual ROSPA inspection will take place at 7am on 21 July.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Fraser for their reports and for checking the safety surfacing.

ii. To consider quotation for summer port-a-loo

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Four Jays for £35.00 per week for four weeks plus £18.00 delivery each way.

Cllr Coates informed Members that whilst the Village Fete will be going ahead this year, it will be on a slightly reduced scale and without classic vehicles.

**16. HIGHWAYS**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coates said that the Council had previously agreed that the resurfacing of The Street was a priority and that although KCC Highways had relined the road the quality of this is poor. The Council needs to continue to push for the resurfacing of The Street.

Cllr Cuthbert said KCC Highways also needs to be reminded to remove road work signs.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Alan Blackburn.**

## ii. HGVs

Cllr Coates informed Members that Sarah-Jayne Ellcock, KCC Highways Project Manager (Swale), is convening a meeting with the parishes and County Councillors, some Parish Councils were included and others were not. It has been several weeks since it was agreed to proceed with a 7½ tonne weight limit and little progress had been made. Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council are extremely supportive of proposal. The key elements to be discussed at the meeting with Sarah-Jayne Ellcock are the 7½ tonne weight limit with appropriate exemptions for local businesses; whether a traffic survey is needed; and other parishes need to be incorporated.

Cllr Jones reported that he and Cllr Coates had meeting with Wychling Parish and they are fully supportive of the weight limit application.

## iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that KCC Highways has cleared the drain blockages on the Old Lenham Road and this is a relief to residents.

Cllr Coates said that some residents had expressed their gratitude for all the Parish Council is doing on their behalf.

Cllr Jones said KCC Highways is also looking at the Kings Acre lagoon to ascertain if it can be expanded to take more rainwater. There has been a topographical survey and an impact assessment.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his sterling work and thanked the landowners for their support.

Cllr Fraser said the pipework is blocked at Sunnyside and water runs across the road for about 150 yards.

Cllr Jones said the issue is still being investigated.

## **17. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 16.06.21- KALC CEO bulletin
2. 18.06.21- SBC: Great Big Green Week, 18 – 26 September
3. 25.06.21- KALC: request for information about rural crime issues
4. 25.06.21- NALC CEO bulletin
5. 28.06.21- KALC News
6. 28.06.21- KALC Swale Area Committee minutes
7. 28.06.21- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons - 2nd June 2022
8. 30.06.21- NALC Newsletter
9. 06.07.21- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 07.07.21- Kent Rural Police reports
11. 07.07.21- NALC Newsletter

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Fraser reported that he had attended the Swale Eastern Area Committee, officers were elected although no decision could be made regarding funding. Brown tourism signs were discussed, some need to be removed and some installed; there is a blue plaque campaign in Faversham; bus services from Faversham to other areas were considered. The next meeting will be in September in Selling Village Hall.

Cllr Cuthbert said CPRE has a campaign, Save Rural Life - Buses For Every Community, for every village to have regular buses.

Cllr Duckworth said that along The Street from Dully Hill to Chequers Hill, there is a lot of vegetation overhanging the pavement which means pedestrians have to walk in the road.

*ACTION: Article for the Newsletter.*

Cllr Fraser said the sycamores at Sunnyside still need to be cut back.

*ACTION: Clerk to chase.*

Cllr Duckworth said the land at Sunnyside needs proper fencing and maintenance.  
*ACTION: Clerk to report to landowner.*

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 September 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: 13 September 2021