

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom on  
Monday 12 April 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 was Ward Member David Simmons

## 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
All Members were present.  
Apologies had been received from County Councilor Andrew Bowles; 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 MARCH 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 reported that BT Openreach is conducting an assessment of the Broadband status in the parish. Details of funding has been shared on Social Media.

### Play Area

Cllr Coates reported that a resident has applied to Swale Borough Council for funding towards new equipment for the play area.

### Swale Borough Council Eastern Area Committee

Cllr Fraser informed Members that he had attended the Swale Eastern Area Committee on 18 March. Applications for funding were considered and grants awarded to Faversham Town Council Parishes for its Town Project; GEM72 mobile youth provision; Boughton-under-Blean outdoor gym; Oare Parish Council for regeneration and rewilding the village; and Abbey Physic Community Garden to repair/refurbish the entrance.

There was a presentation on the Faversham and District Community Lottery. There will be a working party to review the set up of the Area Committee. Consideration will be given to the funding of plaques to be sited at places of interest to promote tourism and for historical information.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for attending the meeting and for his report.

### KALC Community Award

Cllr Coates reported that the High Sheriff will present the award to Pam Cowan for her outstanding service to Doddington at a ceremony on 13 September at 7pm.

## 6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Coates thanked Sally Mills for her report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There have been reports of scams and disturbing incidents of cars being damaged in The Street, Northdown and in Newham.

## 7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

## 8. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters to report.

## 9. FINANCE

### i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

### ii. To consider request for grant from Swale Citizens Advice

Councillors considered the request from Swale Citizens Advice for a grant.

Cllr Attwood **PROPOSED** to give £100: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** (cheque no 1260).

### iii. Invoices for Payment

a) It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the KALC subscription £272.83 (cheque no 1261).

### b) Any invoice for approval received by 12 April 2021

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence £54.84 for moss killer (cheque no 1262).

### iv. To consider quotations for Internal Independent Auditor

Councillors considered the quotations from the auditors who are on the KALC approved list.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation from Mr Lionel Robbins for £90; **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

## 10. ADMINISTRATIONS AND SYSTEMS

### i. Annual Review of Risk Assessment

Councillors reviewed the Risk Assessment and agreed to adopt it, as amended.

### ii. Annual Review of Schedule of Assets

Councillors reviewed the Asset Register, there were no additions/ deletions.

## 11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that over the past year, Speed Watch activity has been less due to the pandemic however the figures are going in the right direction. It has not been possible to continue with sessions at Wychling due to lack of volunteers from the area. Speed Watch sessions have resumed and all data is sent to Kent Police who take action when appropriate. Speed Watch has proved effective in educating drivers. There is a possibility that the equipment will be upgraded and this will help the team. Ospringe Parish Council has asked for details of the Doddington scheme.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his sterling work.

## 12. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Duckworth reported that the goal net is in poor condition and needs replacing.

Cllr Duckworth informed Members that moss and algae are growing on the surfaces around the equipment. The Clerk has ordered more moss killer. All the ivy has been cleared from the trees. The area in front of one of the goal posts is bare. The wear of the swings chains has been measured as is between 0.11- 0.2mm of wear so there is currently no concern.

Cllr Cuthbert said a local contractor repaired the area in front of the goal mouth a few years ago. The grass patch in the middle of the playing field has been tested with a soil auger, there is a layer of ash of approximately 2" thick from bonfires which had been held many years ago. It would be very expensive to make good the area. The goal is getting a lot of use, it might be better to put the goal net on the other goal to allow it to recover.

*ACTION: Clerk to order new nets and Cllr Fraser to store the spare net.*

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Mr Nick Swatland for annual maintenance of the Playing Field for £420.

### **13. HIGHWAYS**

#### i. HGVs

Cllr Coates reported that after a five-week gap when Shaw's HGVs did not come through the village because the tipping site was closed, the vehicle movements started again last week, the previous "record" was at least twenty-seven movements in one day. The Parish Council wrote a joint letter with Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council to Shaw's which was sent by email and sent by signed for and first-class post to the registered office, there has been no response. We are waiting to hear from Kent Highways Freight Team if they have had a response from the company before the Parish Council reports the matter to the Traffic Commissioner.

#### ii. To consider Lorry Watch Scheme

Cllr Coates said Lorry Watch is similar to Speed Watch, a team is deployed and vehicles are reported to the Police if they breach restrictions.

Cllr Attwood said HGVs have every right to use the roads as there are no restrictions.

Cllr Coates said the Council's objective is to stop HGVs using roads as a cut through, the Council is not concerned about legitimate business movements and Lorry Watch would pick that up.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** the Council report Shaw's Haulage to the Traffic Commissioner and request that Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council does likewise: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Coates said work at Sittingbourne Golf Centre is due to be completed in January 2022 so the problem will continue for some time. Also, another contractor is moving soil in the other direction. A 7 ½ tonne weight limit may be needed in due course.

#### iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones informed Members that two drains in The Street, which were reported in February, still have not been cleared and this has been chased. The lagoon at Kings Acre might be expanded to help mitigate the flooding issue and KCC is liaising with local landowners. KCC has commissioned a consultant to look at the water flow to ensure it would have the desired effect.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his work and also thanked the local land owners for their support.

### **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 11.03.21- Swale Eastern Area Committee meeting details (18 March 2021)
2. 15.03.21- KCC members briefing on the environment
3. 16.03.21- NALC CEO bulletin
4. 16.03.21- KCC Streetworks: notice of urgent road closure - Newnham Lane 16 March 2021
5. 16.03.21- KCCllr Andrew Bowles: newsletter
6. 19.03.21- Kent County Council - Highways Forward Works Programme
7. 22.03.21- KCC Streetworks: notice of temporary road closure – Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington – 15 April 2021
8. 22.03.21- Kent Resilience Team newsletter

9. 23.03.21- KALC CEO: newsletter
10. 26.03.21- KALC: remote meetings update
11. 29.03.21- NALC CEO bulletin
12. 01.04.21- KSSAAT- letter of thanks for donation
13. 06.04.21- Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council newsletter
14. 06.04.21- KALC newsletter
15. 06.04.21- NALC CEO bulletin

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Jones reported the school has fourteen students and in September there will be sixteen. The school is looking into new classroom space and this will require planning permission.

Cllr Jones said there will need to be a Risk Assessment before returning to the village hall for meetings in May.

**Date of Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting 10 May 2021.**

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.37pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 10 May 2021