

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of Doddington Parish Council on 11 January 2016

Present: Cllr Cuthbert (Chair), Cllr Attwood (Vice Chair), Cllr Coates, Cllr Duckworth, Cllr Fraser and Cllr Jones; and Mrs Licence (Clerk).

Also present were two members of the public.

<p>1. APOLOGIES Apologies had been received from Cllr Haynes (work)- apology accepted. Apologies had been received from SBCllr Prescott- apology noted</p>
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None were declared</p>
<p>3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION None were identified.</p>
<p>4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2015 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 December 2015 were considered. It was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the minutes as a true record. Cllr Cuthbert duly signed the minutes as a true record.</p>
<p>5. MATTERS ARISING <u>Response from James Freeman</u> Cllr Cuthbert reported that a response has been received to the Parish Council's request to move the school boundary. The Borough Council does not propose to modify the village boundary back to the 2008 Plan version so as to exclude the school.</p>
<p>6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Apologies had been received from Mrs Jackson for being unable to attend and she had emailed that there were two communications over the Christmas period. First, the missing netting from the sports field. Second, a parishioner who lives on Chequers Hill noted two rather suspicious male characters on the public footpath leading to the Cuthbert's orchards on 27 December. They were strangers, who seemed more interested in the new properties than the route they were taking. The resident passed on a description just in case anything untoward happened which could have been related. Cllr Cuthbert expressed thanks to Mrs Jackson for her work as Neighbourhood Watch coordinator and said that other incidents have happened in the past few days. Cllr Coates said it appeared the village was in the middle of a crime wave, a car which had been parked in Chequers Hill had been broken into on Sunday and at the same time another car had been broken into in Dully Hill. Also there had been a shed break-in, a land rover had been broken into and there had also been problems outside The Chequers. Cllr Duckworth reported that there had been an attempted break-in at the garage although they had been unable to force the back door open. Cllr Coates said there has been a significant upturn in incidents in the last four weeks. <i>ACTIONS: 1. Clerk to report incidents to the Community Warden. 2. Clerk to include in Newsletter with preventative advice. 3. Cllr Cuthbert to write article for Newsletter. 4. Clerk to put Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator's contact details in Newsletter and on website.</i></p>
<p>7. COMMUNITY WARDEN Community Warden Dave Osborne had sent apologies for not being able to attend the</p>

meeting and said that there was nothing to report since the last meeting but he will look into the fly-tipping between Seed Road and Doddington when he is next in the area. He will be able to attend the Speed Watch Training on the 18 January.

8. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Cuthbert informed members that there are six volunteers at present and a training session has been organised with Guy Rollinson for Monday 18 January at 6.30pm in the Hall.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

#1- I would like to know what happened at the meeting at the War Memorial.

Cllr Cuthbert explained that this had not been arranged and the resident will be informed of the date when one is arranged.

Cllr Duckworth said he would like to attend the meeting.

10. DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Coates reported that the defibrillator is in good order.

11. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Any planning matter received by 11 January 2016

Cllr Cuthbert said that some caravans had been sited on the traveller site at Faversham Road junction with Elverland Lane and an update has been received stating that this is being dealt with by enforcement officers.

12. WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Cuthbert said that the repairs need to be considered but this will have to be done when the ground dries.

Deferred to next meeting.

13. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none

ii. Precept Bid 16/17

Cllr Cuthbert informed Councillors that he had met with Cllr Coates and the Clerk to draw up the budget. A few budgets have been cut back and others have allowances for small increases. The election expenses had been retained as in the case of a casual vacancy arising, ten residents could call for an election which the Parish Council would have to pay for, the figure being the quotation given by Swale Borough Council. Website costs have been removed as the Council no longer pays for one. Defibrillator has been added as the pads will need to be replaced if used and an allowance has been made for a tree survey. Football pitch marking has also been left in the budget as have been advised that if it is only marked a few times a year it would grow out. A precept of £7800 is suggested.

Cllr Jones said it would have been helpful to have seen last year's budget for comparison

Cllr Cuthbert explained that at present Parish Council budgets are not capped but if the budget varied up and down each year and a cap was put on Parish Councils, it might cause a problem in the future. By keeping this formula it gives the capacity to make grants locally. The contingency reflects NALC's recommendations. There could be a large bill from the tree survey and the contingency will be required.

Cllr Cuthbert **PROPOSED** to accept setting the precept at £7800; **SECONDED** by Cllr Attwood: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

iii. Clerk's Salary and Expenses

Cllr Cuthbert said the Clerk's claim is for quarterly salary £594, administrative expenses £36.12, football net £25.95, moss killer £47.00 making a total of £703.07. **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

<p><u>Invoices for Payment</u> There were no other invoices for payment.</p>
<p>14. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN Cllr Cuthbert said that Doddington is a very small community and if there were an incident the village hall may be needed. It would be appropriate to have a list of key contacts on the notice board and the website. Councillors agreed not to have a formal Community Emergency Plan. <i>ACTION: Clerk to draw up a list of key contacts and put on notice board and website.</i></p>
<p>15. PLAYING FIELD <u>i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly update</u> Cllr Duckworth reported that a piece had been cut out of the net and this has been reported to the Police who have classed it as theft rather than vandalism. A new net has been bought and put up. There has been considerable moss growth which has been treated with the remainder of the moss killer, a new bottle has been purchased and it will be used on the next dry day. The grass is still growing but the field is too wet to cut. <i>ACTION: Clerk to arrange for Lushland to carry out a tree survey with Councillors in attendance.</i> The Clerk had clarified from Landscape Services that both mowers cut the playing field and the football pitch is also remarked every time. Councillors considered the quotation from Landscape Services and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the quote.</p>
<p>16. HIGHWAYS <u>i. Highways Update and notification of further work required</u> Cllr Cuthbert said that he had cleared some drains on the Old Lenham Road and on Spratt's Hill, some of them were invisible with thick nettle roots. Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Cuthbert for clearing the drains. Cllr Duckworth said two pot holes around twelve inches in diameter have appeared in the new surface at the junction of Ladewood Hill. <i>ACTION: Cllr Duckworth to phone the engineer to report.</i></p>
<p>17. CORRESPONDENCE 1. 20.12.2015: Newsletter from Helen Whately MP- <i>circulated</i> 2. 21.12.2015: Provisional Local Government Finance settlement - Referendum principles - The key point on referendum principles for our sector is that the Secretary of State <u>does not plan to extend the principles to the Parish sector in 2016-17</u>. This is set out in the DRAFT "<i>The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2016/17</i>" in paragraph 10 on page 5, which says "<i>Accordingly no principles are specified for local precepting authorities for that year [2016-17]</i>". 3. 21.12.2015: DCLG Consultation - National Planning Policy Consultation on proposed changes - deadline 25 January 2016 4. KALC December Parish News- <i>circulated</i> 5. 22.12.2015 Doddington Allotment Association- <i>circulated</i> 6. Invitation to the Lord Lieutenant's Civic Service on 15 March at All Saints Church in Maidstone, reply by February 1st. 7. Faversham Local Engagement Forum request for agenda items Cllr Attwood said the Local Engagement Forums will be stopping due to lack of attendance.</p>
<p>20. AOB Cllr Coates asked who is responsible for the maintenance of trees and shrubs Chequers Hill, on 2 January some branches fell from the trees and came down on the lines. BT were called out and UK Power Network also attended and removed the trees. Cllr Attwood said it is the responsibility of Kent Highways. <i>ACTION: Clerk to report on Parish Portal.</i> Cllr Duckworth reported that a substantial amount of black bags has been dumped in Hope's Hill.</p>

Cllr Cuthbert said that this has been reported to the Community Warden.

Cllr Duckworth said a resident has spoken to him about Church Hill which seems to be getting narrower through overgrown branches and also leaves have made the road very slippery.

ACTION: Clerk to report on Parish Portal.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 8 February 2016

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

.....Chairman

Date: 8 February 2016