

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on Monday 13 January 2020

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

Also present were County Councillor Andrew Bowles and Community Wardens Dave Osborne and Jack Gilbey.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr Attwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from Ward Member David Simmons (at another meeting); apology 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 9 DECEMBER 2019**

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Attwood duly signed the minutes of the meeting.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Duckworth asked for an update on the mobile catering van.

Cllr Fraser said the owner had been unwell.

Cllr Attwood said the Land on The Street has been tidied up.

Cllr Duckworth said the land had been cleared but the fence is still there.

*ACTION: Clerk to thank the owner for tidying the area.*

Cllr Duckworth reported that the bungalow next to the piece of land was now empty and the housing association have started work to presumably re let it and this should eventually lead to the overgrown garden being dealt with.

The Clerk reported that she had emailed Lenham Storage to request signage in foreign languages be put up regarding the unsuitability of the Faversham Road.

Cllr Attwood said the tipper lorries were no longer coming through the village.

### **6. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT**

Cllr Attwood welcomed Dave Osborne and Jack Gilbey.

Dave Osborne said that Jack Gilbey will be taking over as Community Warden for Doddington, Mr Gilbey has been a Community Warden in Faversham for four years.

Cllr Attwood thanked the Community Wardens for attending.

7.40pm KCllr Bowles arrived.

## **7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

Mrs Mills was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

*November / December was relatively quiet for Neighbourhood Watch, with only three incidents reported, two of which came from Kent Police and one from a concerned Village resident.*

*Kent Police reported that sometime between 21st and 28th November, four tyres of a vehicle at Sunnyside in Doddington were slashed. No further details were given.*

*Kent Police also reported that between 5th and 11th December, a catalytic converter and exhaust were stolen from a van in Highsted Road, Sittingbourne.*

*On 7th December, a concerned resident from Doddington reported seeing two suspicious looking young men appearing to photograph or video houses along The Street in Newnham. Dashcam footage was taken and the incident was reported to Kent Police.*

Cllr Attwood thanked Ms Mills for her report.

## **8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No matters were raised.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

i. Ref: 19/506268/FULL

Address: Little Tracy Warren Street Lenham Maidstone Kent ME17 2EG

Proposal: Erection of a part single storey and part two storey side and rear extensions. Conversion of existing outbuilding together with roof alterations and changes to fenestration to provide annexe accommodation and store. For information

Cllr Attwood said the application was sent to the Council by Wychling for information. Application noted.

ii. Any planning matter received by 13 January 2020

19/506344/FULL The Old Post Office The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH Erection of single storey side and rear extension, side canopy and conversion of outbuilding to provide utility room with insertion of new side door (resubmission: 19/500504/FULL).

Cllr Attwood said notification has just been received, an extension of time will be requested so the matter can be considered at the next meeting.

*ACTION: Clerk to request extension.*

iii. The Retreat Elverland Lane Ospringe Kent ME13 0SP

There was nothing to report.

*ACTION: Clerk to request an update.*

## **10. FINANCE**

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none

ii. Clerks pay and expenses

It was agreed to pay Mrs W Licence salary and expenses (October, November, December 2019 ) £692.43 (cheque no 1207) and HMRC- PAYE £109 (cheque no 1208)

iii. Invoices for Payment

a) It was agreed to pay Wicksteed Leisure Ltd £85.20 for the play area inspection (cheque no 1209).

b) It was agreed to pay Doddington Village Hall £90.00 for hall hire (cheque no 1210)

iv. Precept Bid 20/21 - To consider budget workings and set precept

Cllr Attwood reported that he, Cllr Fraser and the Clerk has met to consider the budget. To keep the same precept would result in an increase of 15p per band D Property. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set a precept of £8732.

Cllr Shaw said that Natwest now has a different banking mandate form.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain a new form.*

**11. DEFIBRILATOR**

Cllr Coates reported that there is a need to order new pads and that he will look at this before the next meeting.

**12. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Fraser said the Speed Watch sessions continue to be held in the village.

**13. PLAYING FIELD**

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth reported the ground is soft and muddy.

Cllr Duckworth said that ivy needs to be cut back from fifteen trees and asked for volunteers to help him and Cllr Fraser.

Cllr Cuthbert and Cllr Jones agreed to help with the work.

Cllr Duckworth said there are branches overhanging the parking bay and these need to be cut back to give a four-metre clearance.

Cllr Cuthbert said that he will look at the issue.

Cllr Duckworth said there have been no further reports of the rough sleeper.

Cllr Shaw reported that she had contacted Porchlight but they could not find any evidence.

Cllr Fraser said there has been no evidence since before Christmas.

Community Warden Dave Osborne reported that there was evidence of a fire but the person had moved on. A tent was found in the churchyard and the Community Warden contact details and also that of Porchlight were left but there has been no response. Swale Borough Council homeless department has also been informed.

ii. To consider play area inspection report

Cllr Duckworth said the report says the roundabout should be greased every six months and this will be done when the weather is warmer. The inspection of the double arch swing was by sight only. but some links could be seen to have some wear in them. Cllr Duckworth said that he intended to measure the links before the next meeting and would present a report at the meeting.

Cllr Cuthbert said previous guidance is that up to 40% wear is acceptable.

Cllr Attwood said this needs to be brought back to Council in February to confirm if any action is required.

Cllr Duckworth said that he and Cllr Fraser have tighten the horse spring and it is now solid, this will be monitored. The report says the hand grips are missing.

Cllr Cuthbert said the item has never had hand grips.

Cllr Attwood said the horse spring fixings should be monitored in three months to ensure is still solid.

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

iii. To consider quotations to fell sycamore tree

Cllr Attwood reported that three quotations have been received.

The Clerk said another contractor had promised to send a quote before the meeting but it had not arrived.

Cllr Fraser said the wood chippings from the topping can be chipped and scattered under the brush.

It was agreed that there should be a log pile left for wildlife habitat and the chippings scattered under the brush.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain contractors' insurance details and ascertain if they can complete the work by the end of March.*

*ITEM FOR FEBRUARY AGENDA*

iv. To consider quotation for peripheral maintenance

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £420 from Mr Nick Swatland for the playing field peripheral maintenance,

#### **14. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Coates reported that Chequers Hill will be closed to allow the installation of gas to Oreskatan.

#### **15. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 18.12.19: KALC CEO Newsletter
2. 18.12.19: Details of the Bensteds Charity
3. 18.12.19: KCC Highways notice of temporary Closure, Chequers Hill on 20 January 2020- added to website
4. 20.12.19: KALC Newsletter.
5. 20.12.19: Draft Swale Heritage Strategy 2020 – 2032 and initial 3-year Action Plan: Public Consultation

#### **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Attwood reported that the War Memorial working party has said the banks are too wet to work on at present. They are reluctant to park a vehicle at the base of the steps to the War Memorial because of the risk of an accident but feel that replacing the warning cones would suffice. The cones would be put in the road when they are working on the War Memorial. The Risk Assessment will need to be updated.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to purchase five cones.

The Clerk said the April meeting is on Easter Monday.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to change the date to 16 April at 6pm.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 10 February 2020**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman:

Date: 10 February 2020