

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on Monday 9 March 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 Jack Gilbey, Community Warden and four members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Attwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.
All Members were present.
Apologies had been received from County Councillor Andrew Bowles (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 10 FEBRUARY 2020

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

There were none.

13. PLAYING FIELD

This item was brought forward on the agenda.
Cllr Duckworth informed Members that he had measured the swing fixings. The main movement is between the top shackle and the mounting blocks on the frame. This cannot be measured without removing the bolt which is pinned to prevent its release. In all four connections on swing A and B the movement was small and estimated at 1mm. The connection from the shackle was measured for wear.

Swing A (nearest the roadside viewed looking towards the Garage):

		New	Worn	Wear
Right chain		1.13mm	0.95mm	15.92%
Left chain		1.16mm	0.96	15.04%

		New	Worn	Wear
Lower chain ring for chain to divide into two legs	Chain 1 right	8.1mm	6.9mm	14.8%
	Chain 2 left	8.0mm		

Swing B

	New	Worn	Wear
Right chain	8.0mm	6.8mm	15%
Left chain	8.0mm	6.8mm	15%

Cllr Duckworth said the inspector from Wicksteed said the chains should be renewed but the previous inspector said the chains should be replaced at 40% wear.

Cllr Attwood said that in view of the detailed assessment undertaken by Cllr Duckworth, the Council has assessed the shackles and chains and they remain in a satisfactory condition and they will be reviewed again in a year.

Cllr Duckworth said the grass could do with cutting.

ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor to cut the playing field.

Cllr Duckworth reported that a few sticks need to be cleared from the playing field following recent winds. It is hoped to spray the moss this week, weather permitting, more spray might be required. The diseased sycamore tree will be felled soon and the Council will take precautions to keep members of the public from the area during the work. A list of the trees needing ivy removed has been compiled for Councillors to action.

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Duckworth for his sterling work and report.

Cllr Duckworth left the meeting.

6. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Jack Gilbey, the Community Warden, reported that there have been no major issues in the village. The main concern is the coronavirus COVID-19. There is no need to stock pile. If there is anyone socially isolated, they should inform Mr Gilbey.

Cllr Jones said the Village Hall Committee is taking precautions regarding the coronavirus and has put up notices in the hall.

Cllr Coates said a resident has asked raised concerns about elderly people having to self-isolate, information needs to be included in the Newsletter.

Cllr Fraser said the honesty box at Lady Margaret Manor Farm has been stolen.

Cllr Jones reported there has been fly tipping along the Old Lenham Road.

Cllr Fraser said there is also some in the woods on the Lenham Road heading south out of the village and that he will contact the landowner.

Cllr Attwood thanked Mr Gilbey for attending and for his report.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Ms Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator was unable to attend but sent details of telephone and internet scams to the Council.

Cllr Attwood thanked Ms Mills for her report.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A resident said that he and a neighbour had spent time last Thursday digging out the drains which prevented flooding in the village. Torrential rain is forecast for tonight and neighbours are concerned. What can the Parish Council do from its own reserves to take up the slack from Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council?

Cllr Attwood said the drains are the responsibility of KCC Highways and they have been out and cleared some drains since the last major rainfall event, the Parish Council can request them to come out. Further up the Old Lenham Road the drains get blocked by debris and need manually sweeping off. Mr Matthew Attwood has spent time at the lagoon at the bottom of Kings Acre cleaning the drains and monitoring the effectiveness of the system. There are measures which can be taken but the drains will be covered with debris again and these need to be swept off during the rainfall which it was not reasonable to expect KCC to do. KCC Highways can be asked to suck out the drains, if the drains are cleaned out and kept clean it would help. Annie Thurgarland, KCC Flood Management, has said that the lagoon at Kings Acre needs to be dug out and she will put that in hand when conditions are dryer and finance is available.

The resident asked if the Parish Council had the money to pay for the drains to be sucked out.

Cllr Attwood said KCC Highways will not allow the Council to do this as it is KCC's structure. The Parish Council can ask KCCllr Bowles and Roger Gough, the leader of Kent County Council to help put extra maintenance work in place for Doddington as this is a frequent event.

Cllr Cuthbert said the drain at Spratts Hill was OK but water was coming out of the next one. There are other drains which are blocked.

Cllr Fraser said the connecting pipes need to be cleaned out as well as the gully pots.

Cllr Coates said water has forced the pavement up opposite The Chequers. All the drains had been cleaned, the rectangular inspection cover is full of water and has lifted up. Since the very severe flooding, KCC has cleared more drains in the village than before but there are still some drains being missed.

Clerk to write to KCC officer and copy Cllr Bowles and Gough requesting enhanced drain maintenance programme for the Doddington

A member of the public said that he was attending following the last Faversham Engagement Forum and that he wants to get the Local Engagement Forum back to where they used to be where Parish Councils can be heard. This has been raised. The Forum needs to go round the villages.

Cllr Fraser said that the amount of time on one particular subject was unacceptable and that he had raised this with the Clerk of Faversham Town Council. The response is that Parish Council matters will be moved up the agenda.

Cllr Coates thanked the member of the public for attending.

The meeting was reconvened.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i.

i. Ref: 20/500933/TPOA

Address: The Old Vicarage Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BD

TPO application: to carry out works to horse chestnut tree as described in Arboricultural report SA/1657/20.

Councillors considered the application and agreed to support the proposal.

ii. Any planning matter received by 9 March 2020

Ref: 19/506344/FULL Address: The Old Post Office The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH.

Proposal: 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 reported that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 20/500139/LBC Address: Southview The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Listed Building consent for installation of a lift

Cllr Attwood informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 20/500104/FULL Address: 8 Northdown Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BQ

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage, 2no. sheds and 1no log store. Erection of 1no. detached three bedroom dwelling with associated works

Cllr Attwood said a decision is yet to be made.

iii. The Retreat Elverland Lane Ospringe Kent ME13 0SP

Cllr Attwood said there was no further update.

Councillors expressed concern that the residents were moving around the site and that there is a lot of rubbish on the site.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Swale Borough Council.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerk Salary and expenses

It was agreed to pay Mrs W Licence salary and expenses (January, February and March 2020) £781.44 (cheque no 1214) and HMRC- PAYE £17.00 (cheque no 1215)

iii. Invoices for Payment

a) It was agreed to Mr N Swatland £200 second half of playing field maintenance (cheque no 1216)

b) Any invoice for approval received by 9 March 2020

It was agreed to pay Swale Borough Council for the election costs, £74.90 (cheque no 1217).

iv. To consider request for a grant from Kent Sussex Surrey Air Ambulance.

Councillors considered the request for a grant and agreed to pay £95.00 (cheque no 1218)

11. DEFIBRILATOR

Cllr Coates reported that the pads have been renewed and are dated until August 2022, the spare set is in the kitchen cupboard.

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Coates for his report.

12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser said the sessions are continuing in the village.

Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Fraser and the team for their sterling work.

14. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Attwood informed Members that the dirty road signs have been reported to KCC Highways and Gary Gibbs, the Highways Steward, has looked at the signs and agrees there are a number needing attention unfortunately KCC Highways has no funding for anything other than hazards at this point in the current financial year. In the new financial year he will get the signs cleaned and cleared

ACTION: Clerk to remind Mr Gibbs in April.

Cllr Attwood said the footpath opposite The Chequers in front of the new houses has lifted and this was reported to KCC Highways on 6 March.

ACTION: Clerk to report again to KCC

Cllr Cuthbert said the road near Newnham has been cleared by the white gates but there are lots of shallow holes for approximately three hundred metres which are a hazard to cyclists.

ACTION: Clerk to report to KCC

15. WAR MEMORIAL

Councillors reviewed the Risk Assessment.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to amend for approval at the April meeting.

Cllr Attwood reported that it was brought to his attention that some steps are beginning to rot and that he had tested them with a knife. There is only one small area of rot at the end of one tread and even that was not in any way a safety issue. Mr Seyler will monitor the situation and ask to revisit if he feels the situation has changed.

Mr Seyler has said that he will be giving up the maintenance of the War Memorial in November.

Mr Seyler has the traffic cones and will use them when maintaining the War Memorial.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 10.02.20- update on the M2 Brenley Corner traffic signal improvement and Toucan crossing installation.
2. 11.02.20- KALC Swale Area Committee: Newsletter
3. 11.02.20- KALC flyer regarding planning events
4. 12.02.20- resident email concerning water/ potential flooding in Old Lenham Road
5. 26.02.20 -KALC CEO newsletter
6. 26.02.20-Invitation to the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Civic Service 2020
7. 26.02.20- KALC Swale Area Committee agenda for 9 March- FYI
8. 26.02.20- KCC Highways Temporary Road Closure – Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington – 10th March 2020
9. 26.02.20- Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner newsletter
10. 26.02.20- KCC Highways Temporary Road Closure – Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington – 19th March 2020
11. 03.03.20- Corona Virus COVID-19 update
12. 04.03.20- KALC Swale Area Committee flyer
13. 04.03.20- KALC NEWS
14. 04.03.20- CRAG Report
15. 05.03.20- Corona Virus COVID-19 update
16. 05.03.20- resident email regarding
17. 06.03.20- Corona Virus COVID-19 update
18. 06.03.20- KCC Highways- Temporary Road Closure – Hopes Hill, Doddington – 24th March 2020

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jones said that it is time to carry out the Clerk's annual appraisal and he looked forward to Councillors contributions

The Clerk said the 12th edition of Charles-Arnold Baker Local Council Administration has been published, one copy could be purchased between the Clerks Councils. It was agreed to share the book and the cost with the other Councils.

Date of next Meeting:- Thursday 16 April 2020 at 6pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.28pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Dated: 16 April 2020