

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 13 September 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 were the High Sheriff of Kent Mr John Weir, County Councillor Rich Lehmann
and seventeen members of the public.

Cllr Coates welcomed every to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for the presentation of the KALC Community Award to Pam Cowan by The High Sheriff. The presentation was followed by light refreshments.

7.45pm the meeting was resumed.

1. APOLOGIES

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from Ward Member David Simmons

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Attwood declared a pecuniary interest in item 9.i. a neighbouring property and also in
9. iv.

3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

None were identified.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 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

Road signs not removed

Cllr Coates reported that Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways, had been contacted about the
removal of road signs after completion of work, he has requested the location of signs left
behind.

Cllr Jones said this can be reported via the KCC Highways portal.

Cllr Cuthbert said it is an issue as it affects the hospitality trade in the village as guests have
to take a detour unnecessarily.

Sycamores at Sunnyside

Cllr Coates informed Members that the sycamores at Sunnyside had been reported to
Optivo who said it was not their land. The land is the responsibility of Swale Borough
Council and has been reported but there has been no response.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

Fence at Sunnyside

Cllr Coates said the issue of the fence at Sunnyside has been raised and the matter is waiting for an appeal meeting, the Review Panel will make a site visit on 28 September with a decision by 5 October. The Council continues to be supportive of the resident.

ACTION: Cllr Fraser to attend the meeting.

Land near Sunnyside

Cllr Coates reported the Clerk had contacted the owner of the land near Sunnyside, no response has been received.

Cllr Fraser informed Members that the vegetation has been tidied but the fencing has not been put together again properly and is falling down.

ACTION: Clerk to thank owner for help and request the fencing be re-instated safely.

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.

Councillors were concerned to hear that GPS receivers and computers were stolen from farm vehicles at Down Court Farm.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Fraser raised concern about the pothole repair at the junction of the Old Lenham Road and also other potholes along The Street which are a hazard to cyclists.

Cllr Coates said the priority is to get The Street resurfaced.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways, to remind him that in 2016 he had said the road would need surface dressing within the next two or three years to waterproof it and keep it sound.

ii. HGVs

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Cuthbert, Cllr Fraser and the Clerk for attending a meeting with Sarah-Jayne Ellcock.

Cllr Cuthbert reported that initially Sarah-Jayne Ellcock mentioned the Council's complaint and said that more work needed to be done to look at alternative routes for lorries. The meeting discussed Lorry Watch; enforcement from the Police; the Police and Crime Commissioner be contacted for assistance. KCCllr Shellina Prendergast said the HGV signs has been a waste of money. The meeting did not address the issues which Doddington has. There was a concern that if a weight restriction were imposed that it would displace the lorries.

Cllr Fraser said the meeting should have been limited to the Parish Council's concerns and the local parishes, there were attendees from a wider area. Selling and the A251 were also discussed. If a weight restriction were imposed, it would be difficult for lorries to use other narrow rural lanes. The A251 and A249 is where HGVs should be.

KCCllr Lehmann said that Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council was unaware of the meeting. Cllr Coates said the issue is important to residents and there is strong support from Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council and Wychling Parish. Goodwin's lorries are coming through regularly and others including Lime Logistics. He also said that it looked as though the above meeting had been side-tracked and that the issue for the Parish Council,

with Lynsted and Wychling was relatively straightforward. Will KCC Highways support our application for a 7.5 tonne weight limit with exemptions for local businesses?
KCCllr Lehmann said he was now fully sighted on the issues and will contact Sarah-Jayne Ellcock.

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that KCC's consultants had provided an initial report on how flooding can be alleviated through expanding the capacity of the Kings Acre lagoon. Their assessment was that an expansion would only be of marginal benefit KCC have asked the consultants to assess other options to manage flood risk as well.

Cllr Attwood said other areas to consider could include woodlands on the east of the Old Lenham Road and near the pumping station to the west but these may not be practical.

Cllr Jones said work was scheduled to fix the drain blockage from Sunnyside to the garage.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his report and thanked Cllr Attwood for his support.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 21/504637/TCA

Address: Yew Tree House The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Conservation Area Notification for 1 x (T1) Lawson Cypress - Fell.

The Council had not been formally consulted on the application. Councillors agreed not to comment on the proposal.

iii. Ref: 21/504300/FULL

Address: Hill Top Farm Elverland Lane. Ospringe Faversham Kent ME13 0SP

Proposal: Demolition of existing stables. Erection of new stables and kennels including a dedicated tack room, feed room, toilet and welfare facilities (Part Retrospective).

The Council had not been formally consulted on the application. Councillors noted the proposal.

Cllr Attwood left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision on the next planning applications.

iii. Ref: 21/504433/LAWPRO

Address: 1 Down Court Cottages Down Court Road Doddington Sittingbourne ME9 0AT

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed external alterations to flank and rear elevations to enlarge window and door opening and provide entrance canopy. Erection of two bay cart lodge.

The Council had not been formally consulted on the application. Councillors noted the proposal.

iv. Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT & 21/503906/EIOUT

Address: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham Kent

Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved for the phased development of up to 95.51 hectares of land comprising: demolition and relocation of existing farmyard and workers cottages, up to 1,250 residential dwellings including sheltered/extra care accommodation (Use Class C2 and Use Class C3) - up to 2,200 sq.m/1 hectare of commercial floorspace (Use Class E(g)) - mixed use local centre and neighbourhood facilities including commercial, business and employment floorspace (Use Class E), non-residential institutions (Use Class F1) and local community uses (Use Class F2) floorspace, and Public Houses (Sui Generis) - learning institutions including a primary school (Use Class F1(a)) - open space, green infrastructure, woodland, and community and sports provision (Use Class F2(c)) - highways and infrastructure works including the completion of a Northern Relief Road, Bapchild Section, and new vehicular access points to the existing network - associated groundworks, engineering, utilities, and demolition works.

The Council has not been consulted on this but can comment if Councillors so wish

The Council had not been formally consulted on the outline application but had been advised of the proposal by the developer. Councillors considered the proposal and raised concern about the impact of the development on the village and the surrounding lanes; there would be an increase of traffic during the building and then afterwards; there have been no improvement to the A2; there is no route for the northern relief road; Southern Water does not have the capacity for the sewerage; the infrastructure is insufficient for the development. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposal.

ACTION 1: Clerk to request an extension for comment

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact Rodmersham Parish Council

Cllr Attwood returned to the meeting

v. Any other planning matter received by 13 September 2021

No other matters were received.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

a. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Playsafety £145.20 in respect of the Play area inspection (cheque no 1270)

b. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Commercial Services £164.14 in respect of the playing field mowing (cheque no 1271)

c. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Four Jays £198.00 in respect of port-a-loo hire (cheque no 1272)

d. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Doddington Village Hall £54.00 in respect of hall hire (cheque no 1273)

e. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Newington Parish Council £43.67 in respect of a share of SLCC fees (cheque no 1274)

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue in the village and are effective. All data is reported to Kent Police.

Cllr Coates said the team are a dedicated and pro-active group and thanked Cllr Fraser for his report and his excellent work.

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth said consideration needs to be given to the damaged bench, it needs to be replaced and quotations need to be obtained.

Cllr Jones said the Bensted Charity might be able to give a grant.

Cllr Duckworth said some of the other benches are loose and the footings may need to be reinforced. The brambles at the top of the field need attention.

Cllr Cuthbert said he has a long hedge cutter and can also take the cuttings away.

ACTION: Clerk to get quotations for 3 picnic benches and seek funding.

ii. ROSPA report

It was noted that there were no urgent issues and the further consideration of the report was deferred to the next meeting.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 21.07.21- KALC CEO bulletin
2. 21.07.21- KCC Plan Bee newsletter
3. 28.07.21- Swale Economic Development News

4. 02.08.21- NALC CEO bulletin
5. 02.08.21- KALC Newsletter
6. 07.08.21- Helen Whately MP Newsletter
7. 07.08.21- Newnham resident letter of support for 7.5 tonne weight limit
8. 13.08.21- request from War Memorial gardening team for a new lawn mower
9. 13.08.21- Kent PCC newsletter
10. 13.08.21- Swale Economic Development News
11. 13.08.21- Swale Area Committee meetings
12. 13.08.21- request for mower for the maintenance of the War Memorial garden
13. 16.08.21- NALC CEO bulletin
14. 16.08.21- Kent Downs AONB: North Downs Way Ambassador scheme
15. 19.08.21- KCC Consultation - KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres Booking System
16. 19.08.21- Swale Borough Council- Fuel and Water Service
17. 02.09.21- Lenham Parish Council: Inter Parish meeting: MBC Local Plan review
18. 03.09.21- KCC Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy launch
19. 03.09.21- Swale Borough Council: invitation to attend the official opening launch of the Sheppey Support Bus
20. 07.09.21- Kent Police Rural Task Force report and the Summer Edition of Rural Matters
21. 07.09.21- KALC newsletter
22. 07.09.21- Kent County Council: SBS Men's Shed Conference on 8 October
23. 07.09.21- NALC CEO bulletin
24. 08.09.21- KCC Plan Bee newsletter
25. 09.09.21- KCC Members Briefing on the Environment for September
26. 09.09.21- Kent Playing Fields Association: invitation to AGM
27. 10.09.21- letter from Grace Couch, Swale Climate and Ecological Emergency Project Officer regarding 'Great Big Green Week'
28. 10.09.21- KALC introduction to planning
29. 10.09.21- Kent PCC newsletter

No one was available to attend the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting.

Councillors considered the request for a mower from the War Memorial maintenance team and noted that Newnham Parish Council has agreed to pay half.
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to purchase a mower up to £295.00.

Cllr Coates reported that he and Cllr Fraser will attend the inter-parish meeting arranged by Lenham Parish Council.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates said the issue of dog fouling in The Street and Cheques Hill has been raised.
ACTION: item for newsletter

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 11 October 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 11 October 2021