

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 14 February 2022

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

Also present were Ward Member David Simmons and one member of the public.

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. APOLOGIES

All Members were present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

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

It was agreed to discuss item 16. KALC Award in closed session.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2022

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

Ref: 21/506577/FULL

Address: The Paddock Seed Road Newnham Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0NN

Proposal: Erection of a detached garage with games room above

Cllr Cuthbert reported that he had been informed that this was not a new application but a variation, planning permission was granted two years ago.

Cllr Coates said that when the Council had considered this application at the last meeting, Councillors thought that there was not enough information and we had responded to Swale Borough Council accordingly. The Clerk had subsequently asked the Area Planning Officer Swale Borough Council for more information, but there had been no reply.

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.

Cllr Coates thanked Ms Mills for her report and her ongoing work in support of Neighbourhood Watch.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised

8. HIGHWAYS

i. HGVs

Cllr Simmons asked if Shaws HGVs were still an issue.

Cllr Coates said a request has been made to Kent Highways for a 7 ½ tonne weight limit with local exceptions, Kent Highways is concerned that this would push HGVs onto less favourable roads.

Cllr Fraser said as well as Shaws there have been other HGVs connected with the building trade, which are not delivering locally. There has been an increase in HGVs over the last three years which are not related to this area. The drivers have found a rat run and the vehicles are damaging the roads and edges.

Cllr Cuthbert said the issue will be long term and the issue needs to be raised with planning officers.

Cllr Coates reported that James Freeman, Head of Planning Swale Borough Council, has offered to broker a meeting between Doddington Parish Council, Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council and the developer.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to ask James Freeman to set up a meeting and also to include a representative from Tonge Parish Council.

ii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that the drains near Sunnyside were cleaned on 9 February although more work is required and on 10 February the drain was cleaned on one side of Chequers Hill and they will come back to clear the other side.

Cllr Jones informed Members that there was a constructive meeting with KCCllr Lehmann and the KCC Flood Manager on 1 February. Measures were discussed to mitigate flood water run off into the Old Lenham Road from surrounding fields and to take water off the road. Further meetings are planned with local land owners.

Cllr Cuthbert said the drains at the end of Down Court Road need cleaning.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to report.

Cllr Coates thanked the land owners, Mr Oldfield and Mr Attwood, for their support of the measures.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Ref: 21/506732/FULL

Address: The Flintstones The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Erection of part single, part two storey side extension and first floor rear extension, with external alterations.

Councillors considered the application and noted the objection on the portal. Councillors had no objections to make and would request that neighbour's comments be taken into account.

10. PROW HEARING 22 MARCH 2022

Cllr Coates said there was no need for anyone to attend as the information the Council has provided is sufficient.

11. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr R Oldfield £1.00 in respect of allotment rent (cheque no 1282)

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr N Swatland £420.00 (cheque no 1283) in respect of maintenance of Playing Field

d. To consider grant request from the Church

Councillors considered the application for a grant towards the replacement of cast iron water pipe.

Cllr Attwood **PROPOSED** to give £500 towards the work: **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **5-FOR, 2-AGAINST: MOTION CARRIED.**
(cheque no 1284)

12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions in the village continue and all offences are reported to Kent Police.

Cllr Coates informed Members that the Speed Watch team have decided not to upgrade to recording equipment.

13. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth reported that the grass is getting long and there may be a need for an extra cut. The gate near the garage has been looked at by Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Fraser and it is now closing faster. A contractor has been asked for an estimate to repair the fence behind the goal, it has possibly been vandalised. The goal post frame is still to be welded and the trees and bushes are still to be trimmed. The moss on the safety surfaces is dying back and will be monitored. The two broken tables have been removed. The last safety inspection suggested a "No climbing" sign for the basketball hoop.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain sign.

Cllr Fraser reported that the new goal nets had been received and will be put up when the goal post has been welded.

ii. To consider quotations for the play equipment

Cllr Coates thanked SBCllr Simmons for his support of the grant funding bid at the Swale Eastern Area Committee. It has been agreed in principle to purchase a multi-play unit for toddlers and the Council now has £12,000 of grant funding towards this. Concerns had been raised about safety surfacing for the equipment and further quotations have been received. Councillors considered the quotations.

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for a Unicorn's Lair for £13,217.15; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Attwood **PROPOSED** that the balance of the money be taken from reserves: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

iii. To consider request from Fete Committee to permit dogs on the Playing Field during the Fete

Councillors considered the request and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to permit dogs on leads on the Playing Field during the fete.

14. DEFIBRILLATOR

There was nothing to report.

15. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Cllr Coates said that at the last meeting it was agreed for the Council not to run an event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Village Hall Committee will be holding a coffee morning; the Church is organising a picnic and the Fete Committee will have it as its theme although the date of the Fete will remain the same. Mr Oldfield will have a sausage and drink party around the bonfire and details of the national beacon lighting has been sent to him.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.01.22- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Doddington Lane, Newnham - 31 January 2022
2. 12.01.22- Kent Police: Rural reports
3. 12.01.22- Kent PCC newsletter
4. 14.01.22- KCC Highways- Temporary Road Closure – Various Roads, Maidstone & Swale – 21 January
5. 17.01.22- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Seed Road, Newnham - 7 February 2022
6. 18.01.22- NALC CEO bulletin
7. 20.01.22- Swale Borough Council Eastern Area Committee Meeting - Thursday 3 February

8. 20.01.22- NALC Chairman open letter
9. 21.01.22- KCC Members Newsletter Waste Management Update
10. 22.01.22- KALC events flyer
11. 22.01.22- Swale Borough Council Local Councils' Liaison Forum - note of agreed actions
12. 27.01.22- NALC Policy Briefing attached regarding OFCOM's Postal Regulation Consultation
13. 28.01.22- Swale Borough Council Omicron Covid-19 business grant schemes
14. 31.01.22- Faversham Town Council: Parishes to Town: Active Travel Network
15. 30.01.22- Kent Downs AONB Unit: Experience Swale - Linking Coast to Downs
16. 01.02.22- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Various Roads - 14 February 2022
17. 03.02.22- NALC Newsletter
18. 03.02.22- Swale Borough Council: Swale CCTV Control Centre Visits
19. 04.02.22- KALC newsletter
20. 10.02.22- Swale Borough Council: Area Committee meetings

Cllr Coates informed Members that he had received a complaint about pavement parking between Sunny Side and Chequers Hill. Unfortunately, there is nothing the Parish Council can do about this legally. Previously leaflets have been put on offending cars. It can also be put in the Newsletter.

ACTION: Leaflets to be put on cars.

Cllr Coates reported that there has also been an FOI request in relation to Speed Watch a response has been made within the deadline.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Simmons said that Colin Prescott, former Ward Councillor, has passed away.

Cllr Cuthbert said Mr Prescott had served the community well for a long time.

18. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** Cllr Duckworth be nominated for the award: **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to write the citation.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 14 March 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 14 March 2022