

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 9 May 2022

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

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies had been received from Cllr Graham Cuthbert (holiday); apology accepted.
Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting): apology noted.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** Cllr Coates to the office of Chairman; **SECONDED** by Cllr Attwood: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.
Cllr Coates signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman in the presence of the Clerk.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** Cllr Jones to the office of Vice Chairman; **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.
Cllr Jones signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman in the presence of the Clerk.

4. TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES

i. To confirm - Representatives

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr Coates be the KALC Swale Area Committee representative.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr Fraser be the Swale Eastern Area Committee representative.

ii. To confirm and update – Councillors' areas of Interest

Councillors' areas of interest were **AGREED** as follows:

Finance- Cllr Coates (Chairman), Cllr Fraser and Cllr Jones.

Planning- Cllr Attwood and Cllr Shaw

Playing Field- Cllr Fraser supported by Cllr Duckworth

Highways- Cllr Cuthbert

Defibrillator- Cllr Coates

Speed Watch- Cllr Fraser (Lead Member), Cllr Coates and Cllr Jones

HR Manager- Cllr Shaw supported by Cllr Jones

5. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Doddington Parish Council, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, adopts the General Power of Competence until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

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

None were identified.

8. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 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.

9. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Coates reported that there was no date yet for the Wicksteed site visit, they are currently working to a twenty-week lead time and have the installation pencilled in for around end of July/ mid-August.

ACTION: Clerk to monitor.

Cllr Coates informed Members that he has registered the defibrillator with The Circuit.

Cllr Coates said the War memorial team have submitted costs.

Cllr Attwood said if the planting will not take place until Autumn there is little point in scrubbing out the remaining hedge and it would be best to leave this until after the Remembrance Sunday service.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to share the cost of the replacement hedge but the existing hedge be left until after 13 November, further quotes may be needed.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

A full report had been given to the Annual Parish Meeting.

12. HIGHWAYS**i. To receive an update****ii. HGVs**

Cllr Coates said there was nothing to report.

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that the drains at Sunnyside are being surveyed on 10 May.

Cllr Jones said there is now more positive news regarding the flooding issue and that he and a local landowner had met with KCC Flood Management team last week. Significant new hedging, bunds, ditches and water collection capacity was proposed, subject to landowner sign off. The proposals would mitigate flooding and create new habitat.

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for their support.

Cllr Jones said that as well as having this work carried out existing drains needed to be kept clear and he was hopeful KCC would agree to schedule six monthly inspections.

13. PLANNING MATTERS**i. Ref: 22/501465/FULL**

Address: Brewster House Brewster Road Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0AY

Proposal: Demolish existing conservatory and part of the dual pitched garage building and erection of single storey rear/side extension with roof lantern. Demolish and rebuild existing brick built wall with reclaimed brick. Re-location oil tank.

Councillors considered the application and had no objection to the proposal.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 10 May 2021

Ref: 22/501431/FULL Address: Graces Place Homestall Road Doddington Kent

Proposal: Siting of 1no. additional mobile home at existing traveller's site (retrospective).

Cllr Coates said the matter is going to Swale Planning Committee on Wednesday 12 May, the Planning Officer's report recommends approval subject to condition and it has been circulated. It is a hybrid meeting and needs representation from the Parish Council.

Councillors noted that the recommendation is made on humanitarian grounds; it is important that such decisions be made by the Planning Committee and not officers; concern was raised regarding judgements, decisions and extensions; the original applicants have left; current permission runs out in July 2023.

It was agreed there will be representation at the meeting.

14. FINANCE

i. Parish Council Allowances: To agree allowances for the year

It was **AGREED** that mileage be 45p per mile.

ii. Councillors Expenses

There were none

iii. Precept - To confirm receipt

Cllr Coates reported that the first instalment of the Precept, £4359, has been paid

iv. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr N Swatland £45.00 for the repair to playing field fence (cheque no 1290)

b. Insurance

Cllr Coates reported that quotations have not yet been received.

c. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay KALC £273.62 in respect of annual subscription (cheque no 1291)

d. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Trophy plaque, Mr P Haynes- £8 trophy engraving (cheque no 1292)

v. To consider request for grant from KSSAAT

Councillors considered the request from KSSAAT

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** give £100 (cheque no 1293)

vi. To consider request for grant from Victim Support

Councillors considered the request from Victim Support.

Cllr Jones **PROPOSED** £100 be given to Victim Support; there was no seconder, **MOTION FAILED**.

vii. To consider request for grant from Swale Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillors considered the request from Swale Citizens Advice for a grant.

Cllr Attwood **PROPOSED** to give £100 to Swale Citizens Advice Bureau; **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** (cheque no 1294)

15. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue. A session was held in Wychling and forty-eight speeding vehicles were reported to Kent Police, more sessions could be held there if volunteers came forward.

Cllr Coates said the Police have reported that there has been an increase in abuse to Speed Watch Teams including people throwing things at the team, this has not happened in Doddington.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report and thanked the team for their hard work.

16. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Duckworth said the order for the Toddler Tower has been placed and it is important that there is a meeting with the contractor to agree the site. There has been another grass cut and the peripheral maintenance needs to be completed. The brambles at the top of the field need to be cut back before the school holidays. The Playing Field is used by people from surrounding villages. The goal post needs to be repaired so the new net can be put up.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

Cllr Coates said the Wychling, Doddington & Newnham History Group has asked for permission to carry out an archaeological dig in Doddington Playing Field to verify the location of the roman road.

Councillors considered the request and had no objection in principle but further detail needs to be obtained before agreement. Permission needs to be sought from the Trustees of the Leigh-Pemberton family; the dig must not conflict with the installation of the toddler equipment of the village fete.

ACTION 1: Cllr Shaw to liaise with the group and obtain full details of proposed dig.

ACTION 2: Cllr Cuthbert to clarify if permission from the landowner is needed.

ITEM FOR NEXT AGENDA

17. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 12.04.22- Swale Borough Council: survey regarding Councillor allowances
2. 14.04.22- KALC: details of events
3. 19.04.22- Swale Borough Council: details of Planning Enforcement Liaison Officer
4. 20.04.22- NALC: finance survey
5. 21.04.22- Helen Whatley MP: response to KCC's proposed changes to bus subsidies
6. 22.04.22- KALC: May events
7. 22.04.22- NHS Kent and Medway CCG: Kent and Medway Patient Network Meeting on 28 April
8. 25.04.22- KALC SAC: 20's plenty and Kent and Crime Panel information
9. 24.04.22- Helen Whatley MP: update on Operation Brock
10. 24.04.22- PCSO report
11. 26.04.22- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Newnham Lane, Eastling - 16 May 2022
12. 03.05.22- KALC: information on Men's Shed movement
13. 03.05.22- Swale Borough Council CEO: notice of resignation of Head of Planning
14. 04.05.22 – NALC CEO bulletin
15. 09.05.22- KALC: Newsletter

Cllr Coates said the Council gets requests to complete surveys, some Parish Council nominate a Councillor to do this, how should Doddington Parish Council proceed with this. Cllr Attwood said it would depend on the subject of the survey and relevance.

Cllr Jones said the surveys go to all Parish and Town Councils; discretion must be used. The Clerk should circulate and a deadline for response set.

ACTION: Clerk.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jones asked for an update on The Retreat.

The Clerk said Swale Officers are now allowed to take cases before the courts. This case remains a priority, however due to the time lag they are required by the legal department to establish if there is any change in circumstances.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 June 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 June 2022