

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 9 October 2023

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Colin Jones (Vice Chairman),
Cllr Kevin Attwood, Cllr Kirsty Clark, Cllr Graham Cuthbert, Cllr Kevin Fraser and Cllr
Linda Lumsden; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was County Councillor Rich Lehmann

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.
All Members were present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Coates declared a pecuniary interest in item 9iii being a near neighbour.
Cllr Cuthbert declared an interest in item 9iv as owner of the adjoining land.

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

None were identified.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Cllr Coates reported that he had contacted the owner of the land on The Street and a contractor has cleared most of the vegetation and is due to return to complete the work.

Cllr Coates reported that the rubbish bags left at the Playing Field after the Fete had been cleared, the issue has been raised with the Fete Group. The problem of the port-a-loo and used nappies has also been brought to the Group's attention.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Coates said a new co-ordinator is needed, unfortunately the outgoing co-ordinator's note did not go into the Newsletter. It was posted on Facebook and the Parish Council's website. PC Gary Morris has sent an update on crime and anti-social behaviour for Doddington, there was nothing to report for the village.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

KCCllr Lehmann reported that he had been working with Faversham Town Council on the Community Bus Project. The Town Council has secured funding from Kent County Council and a 15-seater minibus is on order with a 3-year lease. There are volunteer drivers and the service will run three times a day, six days a week through Newnham, Doddington and Lynsted. Parish Councils are being asked if they would contribute £500 per annum towards the bus service to help make it viable. It will be a regular bus service and bus passes will be accepted.

ITEM FOR NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Jones said that following KCCllr Lehmann's intervention concerning the condition of The Street and surveys by KCC Highways, there is to be a meeting: has a date been set yet? KCCllr Lehmann said he will chase the matter.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Lehmann for attending and for his report.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Jones reported that there is still work in hand regarding the flood mitigation work in the Old Lenham Road and contractors have been booked.

Cllr Coates informed Members that Chequers Hill had been swept.

Cllr Cuthbert reported that a resident had led a small party of volunteers to sweep the pavement and remove debris from the Chequers Hill footpath.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to write letter of thanks to the resident.

Cllr Fraser said the soakaway on the Ringlestone Road needs to be cleared.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 23/504043/LAWPRO

Address: Monks Hut Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0NT
Lawful Development Certificate for proposed installation of solar panels to north and east elevation.

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

ii. Ref: 23/504136/FULL

Address: The Retreat Elverland Lane Ospringe Kent ME13 0SP

Proposal: (Retrospective) - Temporary Change of use of the land for the stationing of two static mobiles and two touring caravans for Gypsy/Traveller occupation for a single family for a period of 3 years. Creation of access track and associated hard and soft landscaping.

Councillors considered the application and noted that it had now been eight years since the land was unlawfully occupied and enforcement and appeals have been lodged. Swale Planning Enforcement must be asked to enforce notices. This application is in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the site is remote from local services and amenities; there are issues on access to the site which would compromise highway safety; the site has gone through several appeals all of which were lost; the site is on the main road from Faversham to Lenham and impacts on residents.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposal.

ACTION: Clerk to send copy of objections to Newnham and Ospringe Parish Councils.

iii. Ref: 23/503908/FULL

Address: Southdown Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BN

Proposal Conversion of existing dwelling to 4no. residential apartments including part demolition and erection of a single storey side extension and a two storey rear extension, erection of two storey extensions to either side of existing cottage, and erection of 5no. new residential dwellings, with associated parking, biodiversity and landscape enhancements.

Cllr Coates left the meeting for this item and did not take part in the discussion or vote.

Cllr Jones took the Chair.

Councillors considered the application and while there were no objections in principle to the development of the site, concern was raised about whether there was sufficient parking, given that there could be no over-flow parking in Chequers Hill and also that the access was

not sufficient for the intensification of the site. Clarification is needed regarding the number and type of dwellings.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposal.

Cllr Coates returned to the meeting.

iv. Ref: 23/504424/FULL

Address: Hilltop Cottage Chequers Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BN

Proposal: Section 73 - Application for variation of condition 8 (to allow external surfaces to be change to Oak finish) pursuant to 22/505612/FULL - Erection of a new single storey timber frame garage.

Councillors considered the application and had no objection to the proposal

v. Any planning matter received by 9 October 2023

22/505462/FULL Tawnyhill Kennels Homestall Road Doddington ME9 0HF

Proposal: Erection of a 2 bedroom dwelling to provide essential worker accommodation, including an office, reception, and treatment room for use in connection with the existing kennels, and associated parking, access, and soft landscaping

Cllr Coates informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Address: Walnut Tree Cottage Old Lenham Road Doddington Kent ME9 0BX

Ref: 23/503411/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey rear extension and replacement of 3no. casement windows with 1no. pair of French doors.

Ref: 23/503410/FULL

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and replacement of 3no. casement windows with 1no. pair of French doors.

Cllr Coates reported that both applications had been permitted.

Ref: 23/503408/FULL

Address: Greet Cottage Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Sittingbourne ME9 0NT

Proposal: Demolition of existing residential dwelling, outbuildings and large Nissan Hut. Erection of a new detached residential dwelling complete with integral supplementary annexe.

Cllr Coates said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 23/503341/FULL

Address: Graces Place Homestall Road Doddington Kent ME9 0HF

Proposal: Siting of 2no. static caravans, 2no. touring caravans and 2no. storage sheds for a gypsy family (retrospective).

Cllr Coates informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerk's Salary and expenses July- Sept 2023

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence £1110.91 being salary and expenses (cheque no 1345).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £26.60 in respect of PAYE (cheque no 1346).

iii. Invoices for Payment

No further Invoices received

b. Any other invoice for approval received by 9 October 2023

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Kent County Playing Fields Association subscription of £20.00 (cheque no 1347).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £35.00 donation for a poppy wreath. (cheque no 1348).

iv. External Auditor's report 2022-23

Cllr Coates said that nothing was raised on the External Auditor's report although the completion letter commented that some boxes were left blank. It is anticipated that the Council will exempt itself from external audit for this financial year.

12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed Watch sessions continue and remains effective. A new volunteer has joined the team.

13. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Fraser's informed Councillors that the minor tree works, the moss control and grass cutting continues. The sign on the Playing Field main gate needs replacing.

Cllr Cuthbert **PROPOSED** a budget of £150.00 for a new sign: **SECONDED** by Cllr Lumsden: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 06.09.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure, Old Lenham Road, Doddington - 6th September 2023
2. 06.09.23- KALC newsletter
3. 07.09.23- NALC CEO bulletin
4. 22.09.23- NALC CEO bulletin
5. 02.10.23- Kent Police: Police Officers attending meetings
6. 03.10.23- KALC events flyer
7. 04.10.23- KALC newsletter

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Information Items only

i. KALC Swale Area Committee

Cllr Jones reported that he had attended the KALC Swale Area Committee. Planning was discussed and objections must be based on material planning considerations. If a Parish Councils objects to a planning application and it is called to Committee, the Parish Council must attend. There seems to be a move by Swale to restrict Parish Councils' power. There was also dissatisfaction by Parish Councils at the lack of enforcement.

ii. Local Councils Liaison Forum

Cllr Coates reported that he had attended the Local Councils Liaison Forum which also discussed planning, enforcement and the Local Plan.

Cllr Fraser said he was due to attend the Swale Eastern Area Committee but was unable to attend due to connection issues.

Cllr Fraser said a resident has asked if the vegetation overhanging the footpath from the old gas works to the old gardens at the bottom of Church Hill could be cut back.

ACTION: Clerk to contact land owner.

Cllr Cuthbert said concern has been raised regarding litter in Northdown and the road not being swept.

ACTION: Clerk to request road sweep.

Cllr Attwood said the Millennium village signs will need repainting next year.

KCCllr Lehmann reported that at the Swale Eastern Area Committee meeting, SBCllr Richard Palmer spoke about the current parking review which will primarily be an issue in Faversham concerning the parking charges in the evening. Any feedback should be sent to SBCllr Thompson. There had only been ninety-one responses to the bus consultation. There was an update on the Corporate Plan, a few headline statements have been drafted. There has been some flooding in Faversham. The consultation regarding the closure of the Faversham tip is not live yet.

Cllr Coates said the villages still need a volunteer to run the Newsletter.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 November 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 November 2023