

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on Monday 14 November 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Haynes (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Coates, Cllr G Cuthbert, Cllr P Duckworth, Cllr K Fraser and Cllr C Jones; and Mrs W Licence (Clerk).

Also present were SBCllr C Prescott, Community Warden Dave Osborne and two members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Haynes took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Attwood (work): apology accepted.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Duckworth declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 Planning Matters, iv. Ref:16/507458/TCA as he is a member of the Church Yard Steering Group.

### **3. To Determine whether any items should be discussed in closed session**

It was **AGREED** to discuss the confidential minutes in closed session.

### **4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 October 2016**

Councillors considered the minutes and the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 10 October and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Haynes.

### **5. Matters Arising**

Cllr Haynes informed Members the High Sheriff has been invited to present the KALC Award.

### **6. Community Warden**

Mr Osborne, the Community Warden, informed Councillors that a bird of prey has escaped from its owner in North Down and has been causing problems for residents. Mr Osborne is liaising with Swale Borough Council with regards to the issue.

Cllr Cuthbert said Palace Farm has lost eight pigeons, two chickens, a cockerel and two chicks to the bird.

Cllr Coates said he had received calls from two residents who have had problems with the bird.

Mr Osborne said he attended the Faversham Footpath Group meeting. Any footpath or public right of way which is not on the definitive footpath map by 2026 will be lost.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain a copy of the definitive map of footpaths.*

Cllr Haynes thanked Mr Osborne for attending the meeting and for his report.

### **7. Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Haynes informed Members that Mrs Jackson was unable to attend and has sent a report which has been circulated.

### **8. Public Question Time**

*Cllr Haynes adjourned the meeting for the Public Question Time*

A resident reported a pot hole outside Abbey House, The Street.

*ACTION: Clerk to report*

## **9. Planning Matters**

i. Address: Sharsted Lodge Sharsted Road Doddington Kent ME9 0JS

Ref:16/507130/FULL

Proposal: Detailed application for the use of the existing lawful structure which is laid out as two apartments, for the use as two holiday let units at the Annexe at Sharsted Lodge  
Cllr Haynes informed Members that previously the Parish Council had not commented on the application and the applicant had carried out more work than permission was granted for.

Cllr Duckworth said he felt the proposal caused no problem due to its location.

Councillors considered that traditionally the Parish Council has always objected to retrospective planning applications. Permission had been granted for a garage to the cottage but it was never used as a garage and was converted into holiday lets and this has now come to the attention of the Planning Enforcement Officer at Swale Borough Council. It was **PROPOSED** to object to the application: **FOR- 5 AGAINST-1; MOTION CARRIED.**

### ii. LINKED APPEALS:-

Address: Sharsted Lodge Sharsted Road Doddington Kent ME9 0JS

Appeal Ref :- 3152890 (Grounds a, d, g) - Appeal against Enforcement Notice - Without Planning Permission (i) The construction of front entrance gates; (ii) The construction of internal fencing on the land; (iii) The stationing of sheds on the Land and (iv) The construction of a small timber and plastic extension immediately adjacent to the Listed Building.

Appeal Ref:- 3152839 (Grounds a, d, f ,g) - Appeal Against Enforcement Notice - Extensions to the garage outbuilding (permitted under planning reference SW/08/0826) have been developed and, UPVC windows have been inserted in the garage outbuilding, without the benefit of planning permission. The garage outbuilding has also been converted and is in use or has been used as 2 self-contained flats without the benefit of planning permission and in breach of condition (5) of planning permission SW/08/0826.

Councillors considered the appeal against the Enforcement Notices and were concerned that there was a breach of the conditions of the planning permission granted. Councillors **AGREED** with the Enforcement Notices on both breaches of conditions of planning permission granted.

### iii. Ref: 16/507392/OUT

Land Off The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BP

Outline application for single storey one bedroom bungalow (Access and Scale being sought).

Councillors considered the application and raised concern as to whether the proposal would meet the requirement of building regulations in respect of the distance needed from the septic tank. However, there are single people who need affordable housing and this proposal would meet a need. Councillors also considered the proposal would be out of place in a conservation area; it is out of line with other buildings in the road; it is infilling; it would impact on neighbouring properties who would suffer loss of amenity; it could set a precedent for further infilling; the dwelling would be on a tiny plot of land causing over-intensification of the land; and the whole of Sunnyside is open plan and it is proposed to erect two metre high close boarded fencing around the plot.

Cllr Haynes **PROPOSED** to object to the application: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### iv. Ref:16/507458/TCA

Address: St Johns Church Church Hill Doddington

Proposal: Trees in a Conservation Area: Remove 1.no self seeded Yew, coppice 2no. Elm trunks one foot above ground level, coppice 3no. self sown Sycamore trees and 2no. self sown Ash trees to one foot above ground level, crown lift 2no. Yew trees and remove adventitious growth around the base of 6no. Lime trees to crown lift.

*Cllr Duckworth left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision of this matter.*

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make save that the yew trees should be proportionally cut.

v. Any other planning matter received by 14 November 2016

There were no other planning matters.

## **10. War Memorial**

### To consider repairs to handrail

Cllr Haynes informed Members that there is a grant available from SBC World War 1 Centenary Grant Scheme and invited Mr Seyler to address Councillors concerning the repairs to the War Memorial.

Mr Seyler said the railings were damaged in an accident a year ago and close inspection has revealed that the posts are rotten and need replacing along with the gravel boards.

Cllr Haynes **PROPOSED** that Cllr Attwood liaises with Mr Seyler to cost the project:

### **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr Seyler informed Councillors that in 2018 there needs to be a suitable commemoration for the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Cllr Cuthbert said that there were names read out at the Remembrance Service which were not in the memorial and this needs to be addressed.

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain a list of names for the memorial.*

Cllr Cuthbert thanked Mr Seyler and Mr Fryer for the hard work they do to maintain the War Memorial.

## **11. Finance**

### i. Councillors Expenses

There were none

### ii. Invoices for Payment

#### Commercial Services Trading Ltd

Councillors **AGREED** to pay the amended invoice for six cuts, one football pitch set out and three pitch marking for £292.72 (cheque no 1102)

#### AKS Electrical (Kent) Ltd

Councillors **AGREED** to pay the invoice for the light over defibrillator for £156.25 (cheque no 1103)

### Any other invoice for approval received by 14 November 2016

Councillors **AGREED** Newington Parish Council £15.00 (cheque no 1104) for ¼ share of Finance Conference.

### iii. Request for grant

#### Request from Doddington in Bloom

Councillors **AGREED** to a request from Doddington in Bloom for £100 for further planting to continue making the village more attractive. (Cheque no 1105)

#### Request from Porchlight

Councillors considered the request from Porchlight and that the Parish Council usually only supported organisations which affect the village and **AGREED** not to make a donation at this time.

It was also felt the Parish Council should consider all applications for a donation on their merit.

*ACTION: Future agenda item.*

## **11. DEFIBRILATOR**

Cllr Coates informed Members he was actioned to arrange for a light to be installed above the defibrillator and this has been done.

## **12. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Haynes informed Members that the funding for the Speed Watch equipment is now in place.

Cllr Fraser said he has secured a KCC Grant of £1000.00 towards the equipment and SBCllr Prescott and KCCllr Bowles have also pledged money and the equipment has been ordered.

Cllr Fraser said that at one Speed Watch session there was a definite increase in speeding vehicles including an incident where a speeding motorbike rode towards the equipment at over 50 miles per hour and then sped off. The last session was quieter with two drivers recorded speeding. The team is working well together. There are national action days at the end of November and it is anticipated that there will be sessions during that time, possibly working with Newnham.

Cllr Haynes thanked Cllr Fraser and the team for their work.

### **13. Playing Field**

#### i. To receive an update

Cllr Duckworth informed Members that the gang mower does a good job but the small mower does not always come out and he has obtained a quote from a contractor to cut the areas the gang mower cannot reach.

Cllr Duckworth **PROPOSED** not to have the football pitch marked out; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

*ACTION: Clerk to obtain quote to gang mow the playing field only.*

Cllr Duckworth reported he had sprayed the moss and will monitor the area. The new notices have been put on the fence.

#### ii. To consider quote for repairing the play area surface

Cllr Duckworth said it had been impossible to obtain another quote to repair the safety surface and a second contractor offered to sell a repair kit. Cllr Duckworth **PROPOSED** to accept the quote from Barge Landscapes for £397: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

*ACTION: Clerk to arrange for the contractor to meet with Cllr Duckworth on site.*

### **14. Highways**

Cllr Haynes informed Councillors that he had contacted Kent Highways about the hedge cutting as nothing has been done.

### **15. Correspondence**

- i. 14.10.16 Came & Co Newsletter
- ii. 07.11.16 Kent County Playing Fields Association Newsletter
- iii. 07.11.16 Speed Watch Newsletter
- iv. 12.11.16 CAB letter thanking the PC for the donation.
- v. 14.11.16 Andrew Bowles's Newsletter

### **16. Any Other Business**

Cllr Duckworth reported he had attended the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting on 7 November. The meeting heard that the Borough Council wants to improve Tourism in Swale and have set up a Visit Swale website which is free for businesses to advertise on the website. There was also a presentation from the Head of Kent Highways management about soft landscaping. KCC will be reducing the amount of work they have previously done and want the Parishes to take on the maintenance. There will be grant money available but this will not be enough.

Cllr Cuthbert said this is the thin end of the devolution wedge and Doddington Parish Council, being a tiny parish, would not be able to take on this work.

Cllr Haynes thanked Cllr Duckworth for attending the meeting.

Cllr Jones said the problem of poor Broad Band in some areas has been raised previously.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact BT regarding the upgrading.*

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the Confidential minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.52pm

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 12 December 2016 at 7.30pm**

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

.....Chairman  
Date: 12 December 2016