

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 13 March 2023

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Kevin Attwood, Cllr Graham Cuthbert, Cllr Kevin Fraser and Cllr Alison Shaw:
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was Ward Member David Simmonds and one member of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Colin Jones (holiday) and Cllr Peter Duckworth (unwell); apologies accepted.
Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting) apology noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

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

None were identified.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 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 (except those issues appearing under specific headings)

The Street

Cllr Coates reported that Cllr Jones and Cllr Fraser had inspected The Street and the Clerk reported faults on the portal; Kent Highways will carry out some patching.

Bins

Cllr Coates reported that there have been issues with brown bin collections for a long time; there has also been problems with the blue bins and other bins not being collected on time. The service is not what residents deserve.

SBCllr Simmonds said there have been lots of concerns particularly with the brown bins, the contractors will change next year.

Cllr Coates said there has been a lack of communication between Maidstone Borough Council and Swale Borough Council, Maidstone does not inform Swale if there are problems.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Coates noted that the report from Sally Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, had been circulated. There were no questions.

Cllr Coates thanked Ms Mills for her report.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A resident raised concern about foul water leak in Lady Margaret Manor Road, there have been problems in getting the matter resolved.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Highways Steward.

SBCllr Simmonds reported that Swale Borough Council had passed its budget for 2023-24. From 1 April, there will be an increase in parking charges in Faversham and also a charge between 6pm to midnight. The Swale Area Committees are losing their grant funding and the Members' Grant pot has been reduced from £2,400 to £1,000.

Cllr Coates thanked SBCllr Simmonds for attending and for his report.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jones sent the following report:

The latest on KCC exchanges on The Street has been circulated. It would be much more sensible and cost effective to resurface the whole of the Street, at least from the Chequers to Church Hill but it looks like we will have to make do with piecemeal temporary repairs. This should be monitored and revisited this every three/ six months and keep the pressure up

ii. Drainage and Flooding

Three sets of blocked drains have been reported:

-junction of Street/ Ringlestone Road and according to the KCC Highways portal this is scheduled to be cleaned although no date given.

- junction of Old Lenham Road and Faversham Road, and on Old Lenham Road near Filmers Wood, portal still records theses as under investigation. I have suggested to KCC these be looked at as part of the scheduled six-monthly cleanse of all Old Lenham Road drains due at the end of March, and will follow up.

Nothing to report on flooding - next stage will be works (raising field edges/ bunds/ ponds) to the grazing fields opposite Kings Acre in early summer. Helen Whately MP will visit the site.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his report.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 23/500529/FULL

Address: Hill Crest Dully Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BY

Proposal: Erection of a single storey front and rear extensions and changes to fenestration.

Councillors considered the application and noted that works were taking place at the site.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that there were no objections but it has been observed that a significant amount of work was already taking place on site.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 13 March 2023

Ref: 23/500378/TPOA Address: Eynesbury The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: TPO application to crown thin one Copper Beech by 20% (removing minor and secondary growth only) and to crown lift to 6m; Crown lift one Yew to 6m to clear road and pavement

Cllr Coates said a decision is yet to be made.

SBCllr Simmonds said the decision on the application for Ellens Court has not yet been made because officers are waiting for Kent Strategic Commissioning to comment.

Ref: 22/504761/FULL Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Kent ME9 0NT

Proposal: Section 73 - Application for minor material amendments

Cllr Coates said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505331/FULL Address: Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Kent ME9 0NT

Proposal: Erection of a single storey supported living building to provide additional 8 no. single occupancy rooms with shared living accommodation. Revised scheme to 18/504562/FULL, including changes to windows, doors and external materials.

Cllr Coates said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505034/LBC Address: Doddington Place Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BB

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the erection of a three storey garden pavilion.

Cllr Coates reported that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 22/505033/FULL Address: Doddington Place Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne ME9 0BB

Proposal: Erection of a three storey garden pavilion.

Cllr Coates reported that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 22/505462/FULL Address: 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 said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505612/FULL Address: Hilltop Cottage Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BN

Proposal: Erection of a new single storey timber frame garage and store for the sole use of Hilltop Cottage.

Cllr Coates reported that the application has been permitted.

10. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Cllr Coates reported that Faversham Town Council had been successful in its grant bid to support the implementation of a Faversham Community Bus scheme and will receive £59,295

11. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerk Salary and expenses

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence salary £1035.62 (cheque no 1324) in respect of salary and expenses and HMRC £86.20 (cheque no 1325) in respect of PAYE.

iii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Lushland £395 (cheque no 1325) for the tree survey.

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr N Swatland £200 (cheque no 1326) in respect of cutting back the overgrowth at the basketball area.

12. SPEED WATCH

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

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

13. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser informed Members that the area around the basketball court had been cleared by the contractor. The moss control continues. The damage to the toddler tower has not been repaired yet and the temporary repair is holding up well.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

ii. To consider quotations for Playing Field maintenance

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £399.43 from Landscape services for the mowing of the Playing Field.

Councillors considered the quotation for the gate repairs.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** not to accept the quote; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **2- FOR. 3- AGAINST: MOTION FAILED.**

It was **AGREED** to accept the quotation as it was a Health & Safety issue. Cllr Fraser will meet with the contractors.

Councillors considered the Arboricultural report; Cllr Fraser will assess and action issues raised.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 14.02.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
2. 17.02.23- NALC: newsletter
3. 20.02.23- SBC: Swale Joint Transportation Board details
4. 22.02.23- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Doddington Lane, Newnham
5. 22.02.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Seed Road, Doddington
6. 27.02.23- NALC: newsletter
7. 27.02.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
8. 27.02.23- KALC Swale Area Committee: meeting details
9. 02.03.23- Civility and Respect March Newsletter
10. 02.03.23- NALC: newsletter
11. 03.03.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
12. 06.03.23- KALC: newsletter
13. 07.08.23- concern regarding lighting at Oriels
14. 08.03.23- concern regarding sewer leak- Lady Margaret Manor Road
15. 08.03.23- NALC: newsletter
16. 10.03.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
17. 10.02.23- Faversham Town Council: success in grant bid for the Faversham Community Bus scheme
18. 10.03.23- Doddington Fete Committee: request to allow dogs on Playing Field during the summer fete.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to permit dogs on the Playing Field during the summer fete, subject to the usual conditions (including compliance with ROSPA guidelines) being complied with.

Councillors noted the receipt of an anonymous letter regarding obtrusive lighting and commented that there was little that could be done. They also noted that if the writer's identity had been disclosed, some advice could have been given to them.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Shaw reported that a resident asked about the traffic calming beds which used to be maintained by volunteers in the village.

Cllr Fraser said this has been raised previously and the Parish Council decided not to take on the responsibility or undertake the maintenance of the areas. Currently five residents maintain the bed at the west end of the village and some people help with the one in the centre of the village.

Cllr Coates said students from the school may be interested in helping the community.

ACTION 1: Cllr Coates to liaise with the school.

ACTION 2: Cllr Shaw to look at the beds.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 3 April 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 3 April 2023