

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on Monday 14 May 2018 at 8pm

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

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Philip Haynes (holiday) and Cllr Peter Duckworth (holiday); apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Andrew Bowles (at another meeting) and SBCllr Colin Prescott (at another meeting); apologies noted

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr Attwood called for nominations for the office of Chairman.

Cllr Cuthbert **PROPOSED** Cllr Attwood for the office of Chairman: **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser. **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Attwood duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Attwood **PROPOSED** Cllr Haynes for the office of Chairman: **SECONDED** by Cllr Coates. **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

4. To Appoint Representatives to External Bodies

i. Representatives at KALC Swale Committee Meetings

The Committee meetings are currently on the second Monday of the month and clashed with the Parish Council meetings. It was agreed that representatives would be sent to the Committee meetings when available.

ii. Councillors areas of Interest

IT WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY for the Parish Council to be represented as follows:

FINANCE- Cllr Attwood, Cllr Coates, Cllr Cuthbert and Cllr Jones

PLANNING- Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Haynes

PLAYING FIELD- Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Fraser

HIGHWAYS- Cllr Cuthbert

DEFIBRILATOR- Cllr Coates

SPEED WATCH- Cllr Fraser, Cllr Coates and Cllr Jones

FAVERSHAM ENGAGEMENT FORUM- Cllr Coates, Cllr Fraser and Cllr Jones

5. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

6. To Determine whether any items should be discussed in closed session

It was **AGREED** for item 16 to be discussed in closed session.

7. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 April 2018

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 April 2018 were amended to read item 14 Speed Watch "Sixteen vehicles out of one hundred were recorded as speeding" and it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as amended as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Attwood.

8. MATTERS ARISING

The defibrillator battery has a five year life-span.

The junction on the A20- Alan Blackburn has been contacted twice, he has passed it onto another officer, still waiting for a response.

Cllr Cuthbert said he has approached the junction from both directions and re-siting the island has created somewhere for vehicles from Ashford to wait without blocking the A20.

The width of the path makes it difficult for large vehicles to turn into Faversham Road.

ACTION: Clerk to invite Alan Blackburn to a site meeting.

9. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Dave Osborne, the Community Warden, reported that he has received a report concerning an attempted theft of a wooden gate on the night of the 20th April 2017. The gate was removed from the entrance to a field in Old Lenham Road opposite the allotments. The gate was found further along the road.

On the night of the 25th April 2017, sheds at the allotments in Old Lenham Road were broken into. A lawn mower, strimmer and other gardening tools were stolen. On the same evening/night, a garage in Dully Hill was broken into and a quantity of lead was stolen. All incidents have been reported to Kent Police.

Mr Osborne asked for everyone to be vigilant for any suspicious activity in the village and to report any concerns to Kent Police on 101

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

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Apologies had been received from Mrs Jackson, the neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for being unable to attend and she reported that on 6 May she had learned from Cllr Fraser that around 1st May a quantity of lead was stolen from a garage in Dully Hill. This had been removed from the roof a house which was being renovated.

Details of the thefts at the allotments which took place towards the end of April at the Doddington Allotments have also been reported. Five sheds were visited (they are unlocked as it is not really viable to lock them as more damage is caused when they are broken into). Hand tools were taken from each of the five sheds (at least twenty items in total, plus one strimmer and one mower). Some tools were very new stainless steel ones but most were older and less valuable. The forensic team came out from Sittingbourne Police Station on the same day that the thefts were noted (Tues 24th April) but could not find anything suitable to take fingerprints from.

A five-bar gate was removed from the entrance to the set-aside field, opposite the allotments in the Old Lenham Road, a few days before and was dumped further along the lane.

A number of the lavender plants which had been planted on the West End traffic calming bed last year have been removed.

Mrs Jackson urged that everyone in the neighbourhood should be very aware of this increase in local crime and to take extra care to keep their homes, sheds and garages locked to discourage snoopers, even when they are nearby, as well as reporting anything suspicious to the police.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public said she was pleased to be at the Annual Parish Meeting and see Cllr Cuthbert receive the Award.

12. WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Attwood said he has the posts and gravel boards and has contacted a carpenter for a quotation.

Cllr Attwood informed Members that it has been difficult to secure quotes to amend the names on the War Memorial, one quotation has been received and another stone mason

has indicated he is unable to carry out the work on site. There may be other names to be added and until there is a definitive list it will be difficult to carry out the work.

ACTION: Clerk to send quotation to Newnham Parish Council.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

No planning matters had been received.

14. ADMINISTRATION AND SYSTEMS

Members considered that under HMRC rules the current rates for mileage is still 45p per mile. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to keep the mileage allowance at 45p per mile.

15. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none

ii. Precept

The first instalment £4,151.00 of the precept had been received.

Invoices for Payment

i. Came & Co- insurance

There is a Long Term Agreement in force and Councillors **AGREED** to pay the premium of £571.94 (cheque no1118)

ii. Any invoice for approval received by 8 May 2017

No other invoices had been received.

16. DEFIBRILATOR

Cllr Coates said there were no issues to report.

17. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser informed Members that four of the team attended the Speed Watch Conference which was very interesting. Twenty-seven motorists were recorded speeding in Wychling in one evening session, a morning session in Doddington recorded eight vehicles speeding and nothing was recorded on a third session. All details are reported to the Police and there will be a specialist team sent to the area. Cllr Fraser thanked the team for all their hard work.

18. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Duckworth reported to Members that all the equipment is in good order. The moss has died off and the gang mower has been out twice. There are no plastic liners in the bins.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council for bin liners.

20. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Duckworth reported nothing has happened about the drain in Ringlestone Road. Cllr Cuthbert said that thanks to Mrs Attwood, the pot holes in Down Court Road have been repaired.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.04.17- Village of the Year competition - *circulated*
2. 12.04.17- KCC Response regarding the sign on the Faversham Road - *circulated*
3. 13.04.17- Doddington Allotments AGM - *circulated*
4. 15.04.17- Came & Co Council matters - *circulated*
5. 26.04.17- KALC Parish News – *circulated*

6. 26.04.17- email from resident concerning farm vehicles in village- *circulated*
Cllr Attwood said that this was not particularly a Parish Council matter and this has been mentioned to staff. If a registration number could be noted it would be easier to determine the driver.

7. 04.05.17- Rural policing update *circulated*

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk asked if the Council would be interested in jointly purchase a Dictaphone with another Parish Council.

Councillors declined the request.

CLERK'S ANNUAL REVIEW

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 were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the Clerk's Annual Review.

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

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 12 June 2017