

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 15 May 2023

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

All Members signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk before the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting. Peter Duckworth and Sallie Shaw did not re-stand for election and were thanked for their contribution to the Council. Terry Thompson is the new Ward Member representing Doddington.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to write letter of thanks to David Simmons.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Colin Jones (holiday); apologies accepted.

It was agreed that Cllr Jones could sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting he attends.

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting); apology noted.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Attwood **PROPOSED** Cllr Coates to the office of Chairman; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **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**.

It was agreed that Cllr Jones could sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting he attends.

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

Playing Field- Cllr Fraser

Highways- Cllr Cuthbert

Defibrillator- Cllr Coates

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

5. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** 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: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

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

It was agreed that any discussion relating to item 19: Clerk's Annual Appraisal be held in closed session.

8. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 APRIL 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.

9. MATTERS ARISING

All items covered on agenda.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Covered in the Annual Parish Meeting report.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

12. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Fraser reported that the 30 mph sign which had been knocked over after a recent accident has not been re-instated.

ACTION: Cllr Fraser to report on the Kent Highways Portal.

Some pot hole patching has been carried out on The Street road surface but we have still not heard back from Alan Blackburn about our request to resurface the whole of the Street before a serious accident occurs. The Clerk continues to chase. Going forward, Cllr Jones suggest undertaking another detailed survey of the road surface over the summer.

ACTION: reminder to residents to report issues on the online portal be included in Newsletter report.

ii. HGVs

Cllr Coates reported that there had been a significant reduction in the amount of HGVs using the village as a rat run and this item should now be removed as a standing item from forthcoming agendas. However, we will continue to monitor the situation.

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Coates said the Council is grateful to Mr Richard Oldfield (as landowner) and Cllr Kevin Attwood --for their support in implementing the flood mitigation measures.

The second stage of the works to slow the water flow down the Old Lenham Road will be undertaken by KCC this summer. This will involve creating a low earth bund, supported by

new hedging and fencing, to the pasture fields below the Kings Acre lagoon, and channelling water coming down Sprats Hill into the nearby woods.
The six-monthly inspection/ cleansing of Old Lenham Road drains is due and will include the sites near Filmers Wood and the junction with Faversham Road. We are awaiting a date from KCC.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

Ref: 23/501035/FULL Address: Temple Lodge Frangbury Doddington ME9 0NX
Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and loft conversion including 2no. rooflights to the front elevation and 2no. rooflights to the rear elevation.
Cllr Coates informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 23/501189/LBC Address: Solomons Temple Old Lenham Road Doddington ME9 0NX
Proposal: Investigation and opening up works to Grade II listed building.
Councillors considered the application and had no objection to the proposal.
Cllr Coates said that a decision is yet to be made.

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.
Cllr Coates informed Members that the application has been refused.

14. FINANCE

i. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

Councillors considered the Annual Governance Statement and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept it. The statement was duly signed by Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

ii. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2022- To receive the end of year return and to consider the adoption and signing of the return.

Councillors considered the Annual Return and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the accounting statement, this was duly signed by Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

iii. Internal Auditor's report

Item for next agenda

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

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

v. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

vi. Precept - To confirm receipt

Cllr Coates reported that the first instalment of precept, £4407.50, had been received.

vii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay BHIB £485.44 in respect of the insurance premium (cheque no 1329).

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Doddington Village Hall £36.00 for hall hire (cheque no 1330).

c. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the KALC subscription of £277.26 (cheque no 1331).

d. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Maylow Construction Ltd £417.60 for playing field gate repairs (cheque no 1332).

viii. 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: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** (cheque no 1333).

15. SPEED WATCH

Covered in the Annual Parish Meeting report.

16. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Fraser reported the grass has been cut and needs another cut.

ACTION: Clerk to request another cut.

Cllr Fraser reported that the trip hazard at the west gate has been repaired; the gates have also been repaired and the eastern gate may need further work next year. Moss control continues and tree work is ongoing.

Cllr Clark asked if contact details could be put on the Council notice board.

ACTION: Clerk to draft details.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report and sterling work.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 03.04.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up
2. 06.04.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - The Street, Doddington - 6th April 2023
3. 06.04.23- NALC CEO bulletin
4. 13.04.23- NALC newsletter
5. 14.04.23- KALC Newsletter
6. 14.04.23- Kent Police Community Engagement Event - 26 April 2023
7. 14.04.23- KALC: National Testing of the UK's new Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 23rd April 2023
8. 14.04.23- Kent Highways: National Testing of the UK's new Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 23rd April
9. 20.04.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up
10. 21.04.23- NALC CEO bulletin
11. 24.04.23- KCC Highways: Help with testing a new Highways Reporting Tool
12. 24.04.23- NALC newsletter
13. 24.04.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up
14. 24.04.23- Kent Sussex Surrey Air Ambulance: letter of thanks for donation
15. 26.04.23- NALC newsletter
16. 28.04.23- KCC Highways: Update - Temporary Road Closure - Hopes Hill, Doddington - 22nd May 2023
17. 28.04.23- KCC Highways: Update - Temporary Road Closure - Old Lenham Road, Doddington - 8th May 2023 (Swale District)
18. 02.05.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up
19. 09.05.23- KALC Newsletter
20. 09.05.23- NALC CEO bulletin
21. 10.05.23- NALC newsletter
22. 11.05.23- Kent's Plan Bee April 2023 Newsletter
23. 12.05.23- KCC Highways Soft Landscaping Works Programme 2023/2024
24. 12.05.23- NALC CEO bulletin

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Information Items only

Cllr Coates reminded all Councillors that they must return their DPI form and the election expenses form to Swale Borough Council.

19. CLERK'S ANNUAL APPRAISAL

Cllr Coates reported that Cllr Jones had conducted the Clerk's Annual Appraisal and **PROPOSED** to increase her salary by one Spinal Column Point: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 5 June 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 5 June 2023