

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on  
Monday 8 September 2025

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).

## 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
All Members were present.  
Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann: apologies noted.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Attwood declared a pecuniary interest in item 9.i. Proposed Highsted Park development as landowner within the application.  
It was agreed to move the item to the end of the meeting.

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

None.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2025

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.  
Cllr Coates duly signed the minutes.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

### Drain Inspection

Cllr Jones reported that the bi-annual drain inspection on the Old Lenham Road took place on 27 July.

### Post Office

Cllr Jones said the visiting Post Office service at The Chequers, on Wednesday 10-12 noon, had been suspended several weeks ago due to staff shortages. A new operative had now been recruited and discussions were ongoing about restating the service

Cllr Coates reported that he will attend the next meeting of Newnham Parish Council on Thursday.

### Local Government Reorganisation

Cllr Coates informed Members that he has been attending meetings regarding the review.

### Swale Eastern Area Committee

Cllr Fraser reported that he had attending the recent meeting of the Swale Eastern Area Committee: discussions included public toilets in Swale; cycleways and footpaths in and around Faversham; a presentation on the boundary of Blean Wood; flags appearing in Faversham and the perceived influence of the Far Right: there was nothing pertinent to Doddington.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for attending the meeting.

## 6. POLICE REPORT

PC Jez Chittim was unable to attend the meeting.

## 7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were in attendance.

## 8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Coates reported the pavement on Chequers Hill has been cleaned. The pavements on The Street, Chequers Hill and to Newham reported to KCC Highways have been risk assessed and they have concluded that no action was required.

More complaints have been received regarding HGV's using inappropriate routes through the village, especially the Old Lenham Road. It had previously been agreed with KCC Highways that the Parish Council would monitor the situation. New evidence of this problem has now been provided by a resident and Cllr Coates had discussed this with his KCCH contact. As a result, KCC Highways will now install extra "NO HGV" signage and fund this. This will be added to a Parish Council Highways Improvement Plan.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS

### i. Proposed Highsted Park

Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT Location: Land South And East Of Sittingbourne Kent

Ref: 21/503906/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham

Deferred to end of meeting.

### ii. Any planning matter received by 8 September 2025

Ref: 25/502600/FULL Amber Lodge Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington ME9 0NT

Proposal: Demolition and removal of the existing first floor bedroom flat roof extension and erection of a two storey chalet style side extension to form a bedroom and living room area below, a single storey rear bedroom extension, and an infill extension to the rear court yard to form a kitchen.

Application permitted

## 10. THE CHEQUERS INN: ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Cllr Coates informed Members that the current listing will expire on 4 November.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to reapply to list The Chequers as an Asset of Community Value.

*ACTION: Cllr Lumsden to apply.*

## 11. FINANCE

### i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

### ii. Invoices for Payment:

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Four Jays Ltd for summer port-a-loo hire £252.00 (cheque no 1418).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Doddington Village Hall for hall hire, £108.00 (cheque no 1419).

### iii. Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the Local Government Services Pay Agreement.

## 12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed watch sessions continue in the village and remains effective. Cllr Coates said a complaint had been received and was reported to the Police. The Police found the team had acted appropriately and the matter is concluded.

### 13. PLAYING FIELD

#### Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser said there was nothing much to report. The fete Committee and their helpers cleared the Playing Field after the event.

*ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of thanks.*

### 14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 17.07.25- KALC bulletin
2. 17.07.25- NALC CEO bulletin
3. 17.07.25- Kent Wildlife Trust regarding Biodiversity Net Gain
4. 25.07.25- KCC Highways: National Highways & Transport Network- Survey
5. 25.07.25- NALC CEO bulletin
6. 25.07.25- SBC: consultation on Statement of Licensing Policy
7. 25.08.25- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure Ringlestone Road, Doddington - 8 September
8. 30.07.25- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Doddington Lane, Doddington - 29 July
9. 30.07.25- SBC: Local Government Review workshop
10. 01.08.25- NALC CEO bulletin
11. 04.08.25- SBC: Policy round-up
12. 05.08.25- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington - 4 August
13. 06.08.25- KALC newsletter
14. 08.08.25- NALC CEO bulletin
15. 08.08.25- KALC: webinars for Swale - Community Resilience
16. 11.08.25- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Down Court Road- 7 August
17. 11.08.25- SBC: Policy round-up
18. 18.08.25- NALC CEO bulletin
19. 18.08.25- SBC: Policy round-up
20. 18.08.25- resident email regarding Speedwatch
21. 19.08.25- KALC bulletin
22. 22.08.25- NALC CEO bulletin
23. 26.08.25- SBC: Policy round-up
24. 26.08.25- KALC training bulletin
25. 02.09.25- SBC: Policy round-up
26. 02.09.25- KALC: KCC Highways fault reporting tool trial
27. 05.09.25- NALC CEO bulletin
28. 05.09.25- KALC newsletter

### 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Faversham Foodbank: Following a previous request for funding support, the council had asked for further information to be provided. Cllr Coates said the Faversham Foodbank had responded saying that the largest cost is the hall hire and that there is no way of assessing who uses the Foodbank. There is concern that the service, currently situated in Faversham, is not reaching vulnerable people in the parishes.

Councillors were sympathetic to supporting the project but were unsure if residents would benefit from this new outreach service which would be located in Eastling Village Hall which was not accessible by bus.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** not to support the Eastling hub at present but will monitor the situation: **SECONDED** by Cllr Clark: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Lumsden reported that there is an issue with parking on pavements, especially by visitors and also dog fouling in the village.

*ACTION: item for newsletter.*

Cllr Fraser asked if he should attend the Kent County Playing Fields AGM, there was nothing on the agenda of interest to Doddington.  
It was agreed not to attend.

#### **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

*Cllr Attwood left the meeting and did not take part in the discussion of this item.*

##### i. Proposed Highsted Park

Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT Location: Land South And East Of Sittingbourne Kent

Ref: 21/503906/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham

Cllr Coates said the Public Inquiry is in recess until October. Fund-raising for The Action Group is continuing.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 October 2025**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 October 2025