

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 8 November 2021

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

Also present were two members of the public.

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting) and from Ward Member David Simmons; apologies 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 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

Cllr Coates informed Members that the notice board is due to be painted this week. The picnic benches have been installed and look good.

Cllr Coates reported that he had attended the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting, there was a presentation from Larissa Reed, Chief Executive Officer, Swale Borough Council, regarding the change from cabinet to committee structure. Ms Reed has commissioned a review of the Planning Department, particularly the enforcement side; concern was raised regarding the lack of communication. Acting Chief Inspector Joel Mitchell gave a briefing; concern was raised regarding the lack of PCSOs attending Parish Council meetings.

Cllr Coates said he had attended the Kent Police Public Engagement Event Safeguarding Women and Girls.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Sally Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator was unable to attend but had submitted a report, the contents of which were noted.

Cllr Coates thanked Ms Mills for her report and her ongoing work in support of Neighbourhood Watch.

PCSO Dennis Pashov had sent apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and sent a report.

Cllr Coates thanked PCSO Pashov for his report.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time.

A resident gave an update on the fence at Sunnyside.
Cllr Coates said the response from Optivo was disappointing.

A resident thanked the Council for the new benches at the Playing Field.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Cuthbert raised concern about the ruts in the road through the village which are a hazard to cyclists.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to report to KCC Highways.

ii. HGVs

Cllr Coates said it has been six months since the Council agreed to apply for a 7 ½ tonne weight limit, with local exemptions. No progress has been made. Sarah-Jayne Ellcock, KCC Highways, has now moved departments and discussions with Kent Highways have stalled. There are minutes of a meeting which wrongly refer to Eastling when we believe that it is Wychling which should be referred to, this has been challenged and nothing has happened. Cllr Jones said the matter should be escalated to managers.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Ryan Shiels, copying in Cllr Lehmann

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that more work is needed on the drains at Sunnyside. A meeting with KCC and Aecom, the consultants carrying out the further assessment of flood risk, was held on 26 October. Cllr Jones, Cllr Attwood and Mr Oldfield attended. Concern was raised that it has been three years since the flooding and KCC has done nothing. The challenge is assessing the most meaningful mitigation measures and the KCC consultant's report is awaited. The Parish Council continues to press for action.

Cllr Attwood said the volume of water on the Old Lenham Road at the junction with Broomhill Farm Road needs to be dealt with at that point before flowing further down the Old Lenham Road where it is more problematic, this would help the situation.

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for their work on the issue.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 21/505131/FULL

Address: Greet Cottage Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Sittingbourne ME9 0NT
Proposal: Demolition of existing residential dwelling, outbuildings and large Nissan Hut.
Erection of a new detached residential dwelling complete with integral supplementary annexe.

Councillors considered the application and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that they had no objections to the proposal.

ii. Any planning matter received by 8 November 2021

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Attwood for attending the Local Plan Review event.

Cllr Attwood reported that there is a re-run of the Regulation 18 consultation, Local Plan Issues and Preferred Options, and it runs to 29 November. There are elements which are relevant to the parish such as the allocations and where development will be. The Parish Council had raised concerns regarding Teynham, Lynsted and Dargate Farm. Councillors agreed that the consultation needs to be publicised so that residents are aware of the issue.

ACTION 1: Clerk to request posters
ACTION 2: Clerk to circulate previous response to Councillors
ACTION 3: Councillors to send comments to Clerk.

Hill Top Farm, Elverland Lane

Cllr Coates said there had been further communication from Ospringe Parish Council regarding a resident's response to the application.

The Retreat

Cllr Jones said we need an update from Swale Borough Council.

ACTION: Clerk to request update on the prosecution and copy in Larissa Reed, CEO Swale Borough Council.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Commercial Services £196.96 for Playing Field mowing (cheque no 1256).

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Upchurch Parish Council £10.00 being share of Finance Conference (cheque no 1255).

Cllr Coates reported that he had received the poppy wreath and had passed the cheque over.

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue in the village, numbers of speeders has reduced and all data is reported to Kent Police. One driver was abusive to the team and this has been reported to the Police. Herne Hill Parish Council is seeking advice from the team regarding starting Speed Watch.

Cllr Jones said there were no speeding vehicles the previous week.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth said the three new benches have been installed; the memorial bench has been moved. Another bench needs to be removed. There needs to be the last cut of the peripheral areas. The football net supports need maintenance before the new net is installed. The brambles at the top of the field will be cut back. The moss has been sprayed and this usually takes two to three weeks before being visibly effective.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

Cllr Cuthbert said that he will remove the bench.

ii. To consider suggestion for play area equipment

Cllr Coates reported that the Council is supportive of adding toddler equipment to the play area and has secured a grant of £1,000 from the Bensted Charity towards the equipment. Quotation have been obtained for toddler multiplay equipment and further grants will be sought. Cllr Attwood said the maintenance of the equipment needs to be considered and the equipment should be low maintenance.

ACTION: Clerk to apply to the Swale Eastern Area Committee for a grant.

The Clerk said one company would like to meet with Councillors.

ACTION: Cllr Fraser to attend meeting on 17 November.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.10.21- NALC CEO bulletin
2. 14.10.21- Kent Fire & Rescue Service: fire hydrant initiative project
3. 15.10.21- Lenham Parish Council: information regarding Lenham Heathlands
4. 19.10.21- Kent Police Public Engagement Event
5. 19.10.21- NALC CEO bulletin
6. 21.10.21- KCC Highways: Preparation Works for M2 junction 5 improvement works October 2021 – January 2022
7. 26.10.21SBC: newsletter from SBC Leader.
8. 26.10.21. Notice of the virtual KALC AGM on Saturday 13 November
9. 26.10.21- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 28.10.21- Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review Regulation 19 Consultation
11. 03.11.21- KALC Newsletter
12. 03.11.21- Ospringe Parish Council concerning Hill Top Farm, Elverland Lane 21/504300/FULL
13. 04.11.21- KCC Highways: salt bags
14. 05.11.21- KCC Highways- Emergency Road Closure Faversham Road, Newnham 5th November

Cllr Coates said the salt bag in the car park is half full.

Cllr Fraser said another bag is needed and residents need to be informed that this is available.

Cllr Duckworth reported that he had previously listed all the fire hydrants.

ACTION: Cllr Duckworth to send the list to the Clerk.

Cllr Jones said Swale Borough Council is changing from Cabinet to Committee system. The Local Councils Liaison Forum will be worth participating in.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jones reported that Councillors visited the school on 28 October, there are twenty-three special needs pupils drawn from a wide area and twenty-two staff. The teachers had been highly motivated and were keen to be involved more in the village as appropriate.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 December 2021

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 December 2021