

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 9 February 2026

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).

Also present were Ward Member Terry Thompson and PC Gary Morris

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting

<p>1. APOLOGIES Apologies had been received from Cllr Colin Jones (holiday): apologies accepted.</p>
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None were declared.</p>
<p>3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION None identified.</p>
<p>4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2026 It was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Coates duly signed the minutes.</p>
<p>5. MATTERS ARISING Cllr Coates reported that the white line refresh for the Faversham Road is still being investigated.</p>
<p>6. PLANNING MATTERS</p> <p>i. <u>Proposed Highsted Park</u> <u>Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT Location: Land South And East Of Sittingbourne Kent</u> <u>Ref: 21/503906/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham Kent</u> Awaiting the Inspector's report.</p> <p>ii. <u>Any other planning matter received by 9 February 2026</u> <u>Ref: 25/504226/FULL</u> <u>Address: The Paddock Green Seed Road Newnham Kent ME9 0NN</u> <u>Proposal: Change of use from former stables to Pet Cremations, including installation of an incinerator and flue. Creation of 2no. additional parking spaces.</u> <u>Amended plans and change of description</u> Application permitted</p> <p><u>Ref: 25/504747/FULL Address: Hillcott The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BY</u> <u>Proposal: Erection of a part two storey rear extension and part single storey side extension.</u> Application refused</p>

The proposed rear extension, by virtue of its size, scale, positioning and massing, would represent an overly large and unacceptable addition to the property. The extension would not amount to a subservient addition and would have an overbearing impact on the neighbouring garden, adversely impacting neighbouring amenity, contrary to the aims and objectives of policies CP4, DM11, DM14 and DM16 of the Swale Bearing Fruits Local Plan 2017.

Ref: 25/503851/PNQCLA Address: Orchard Barn Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0JW
Prior notification for the change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from agricultural to 1no. residential dwellinghouse and associated operational development. For its prior approval to: - Transport and Highways impacts of the development. - Noise impacts of the development. - Contamination risks on the site. - Flooding risks on the site. - Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use to C3 (dwellinghouses). - Design and external appearance impacts on the building. - Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses.

Awaiting decision

7. POLICE REPORT

PC Gary Morris reported that since December there had been no crimes reported. Hare coursing and poaching are still an issue in the local area, vehicle registration numbers and number of occupants, if safe to note, should be reported to the Police quoting Operation Galileo.

PC Morris reported that he had met the Doddington Speed Watch Team and will come out to support them.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

SBCllr Thompson reported that he is liaising with the War Memorial volunteers regarding the timber needed for the steps.

Cllr Coates thanked SBCllr Thompson for his support.

The meeting was reconvened.

9. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Coates reported that he, along with representatives from other Councils in Swale and Maidstone, had attended a meeting with Helen Whately MP at which the issues with local road closures was raised. Together with the respective Chairmen of Newnham and Lenham Parish Councils and a representative from Wichling Parish Meeting, he also attended a meeting with Kent County Councillor Sarah Emberson and KCC Highways to express concerns about the number and manner of road closures. Both meetings centred on: the inappropriate use of emergency powers to close roads; road closed signs being left in place after the work had finished; the need for works signs to have "road closed at....." added; badly planned diversions and diversions along inappropriate roads.

Both meetings were very useful and it is hoped that measures will be put in place to improve the situation. One aspect of note was that we were informed that South East Water were studying the feasibility of a major infrastructure upgrade in our local area, but would consult with Parish Councils regarding closures once the plan had been agreed.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Commercial Services: £115.06 in respect of the playing field maintenance (cheque no 1435).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Trevor Muller Playground Inspections Ltd £252.00 in respect of play area inspection (cheque no 1436).

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed Watch sessions continue with encouraging results. More volunteers are needed.

Cllr Coates thanked the volunteers for their sterling work

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that further moss control treatment has been difficult due to adverse weather conditions. has been treated although further applications are required. The play area inspection has been completed; the eastern gate is closing slowly but currently not an issue; there is some rust on a slide step which will be monitored; the rocker needs new grips.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his excellent work.

Cllr Lumsden said that the new signs have been installed, the old signs need to be removed.

ACTION: Cllr Fraser

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 13.01.26- KALC newsletter
 2. 13.01.26- Kent Resilience Team: webinar to help strengthen community resilience and preparedness
 3. 14.01.26- Swale Borough Council: consultation on Regulation 18 of the Local Plan
 4. 15.01.26- NALC CEO bulletin
 5. 19.01.26- Faversham Healthy Futures: report on the NHS 10 Year Plan
 6. 20.01.26- KALC bulletin
 7. 20.01.26- Kent Fire and Rescue: resilience training sessions
 8. 21.01.26- Kent Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Faversham Road, Newnham - 21 January 2026
 9. 22.01.26- NALC CEO bulletin
 10. 27.01.26- KALC: free online workshop designed to help councils better understand Neighbourhood Area Committees and how they operate in practice
 11. 27.01.26- NALC CEO bulletin
 12. 03.02.26- Swale Community & Voluntary Services: Loneliness in Swale Project, Champion Training
 13. 05.02.26- NALC CEO bulletin
 14. 05.02.26- Wychling, Doddington & Newnham History Group: request for permission to add their record of the Roman road foundations at the Playing Field to the KCC Historic Environment Record
Permission needs to be obtained from Mr Leigh-Pemberton
- ACTION: Clerk*
15. 06.02.26- KALC newsletter
 16. 16.02.26- Swale Borough Council: Local Government Reorganisation consultation

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates reported that the waste ground by Sunnyside has been cleared and some fences moved.

SBCllr Thompson said he is collating feedback on the Local Government Review.

Pavement Parking

Cllr Lumsden requested the notice be amended.

ACTION Cllr Lumsden

Defibrillator training

Cllr Coates informed Members that this will take place on Saturday 14 March, there will be limited places with priority being given to Doddington residents.

ACTION: Clerk to collate list of attendees.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 9 March 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.04pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 9 March 2026

DRAFT