

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 14 March 2022

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

Also present was one member of the public.

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Duckworth (personal); apologies accepted. Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting) and 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

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2022

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

"No climbing" sign for the basketball hoop

Cllr Coates said on investigation of an appropriate sign, the sign was not ordered. The matter is low risk.

KALC Citation

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Cuthbert for writing the citation which has been sent to KALC. The High Sheriff has been invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to make the presentation.

KALC Swale Area Committee

Cllr Coates reported that he had attended the meeting, KCC Highways refused to send a representative to the meeting to discuss 20mph speed limits.

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 Jessica Stokes was unable to attend but had submitted a report.

It was noted that there had been criminal damage in The Street and this had been dealt with by the Police. Also, in another incident, threats had been made to a member of the public. Cllr Coates thanked PCSO Stokes for her report.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A resident said he was concerned about a tall copper beech tree in his front garden, the tree has a Tree Preservation Order on it and it is in the conservation area. Previous applications to have the tree crowned have been refused. It is a beautiful tree but in the wrong place, the roots are breaking the pavement tarmac, there is concern that the tree may fall down.

Cllr Attwood said an application would need to be made to Swale Borough Council for permission to remove the tree on Health and Safety grounds.

The meeting was reconvened

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coates reported that dialogue has been continuing with KCC Highways regarding a weight limit restriction. Cllr Coates said he had attended a meeting at Tonge Golf Course; KCCllr Lehmann, representatives from Tonge Parish Council and Bapchild Parish Council were also in attendance, KCCllr Mike Whiting Chaired the meeting. Tonge Golf Club explained what was happening with the development, the end date has been revised and the works have to be completed before the golf range opens in June. Tonge Parish Council has raised issues with the state of the road and the temporary one-way system.

Cllr Fraser said KCC Highways concerns that a weight restriction would push HGVs onto other road are unfounded as through Doddington is the only suitable rat run, this needs to be impressed on KCC Highways.

Cllr Cuthbert said the current situation may not be stopped but Swale Planning needs to ensure there is a Traffic Management Plan in force.

Cllr Attwood said this is usually a condition when planning permission is granted but it did not happen with this application.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to raise concerns regarding the failure to Larissa Reed, CEO Swale Borough Council, and copy James Freeman, Head Swale Planning Department.

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that the outstanding issue regarding the blocked drains near Sunnyside were being checked by CCTV.

Cllr Jones reported that there had been an encouraging meeting with Max Tant, KCC Flood Risk Manager, and local landowners. It was agreed to take steps to reduce the water run off onto the Old Lenham Road from surrounding fields by constructing cascading ditches at the field edges and other preventative measures. In tandem with this the Kings Acre lagoon would be extended to take flood water off the road. Kent County Council has commissioned Annie Thurgarland, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership Officer, to oversee the work. There will be a site meeting with Cllr Attwood next week.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones and Cllr Attwood for their reports.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

21/506732/FULL Address: The Flintstones The Street Doddington Sittingbourne ME9 0BH

Proposal: Erection of part single, part two storey side extension and first floor rear extension, with external alterations.

Cllr Coates informed Members that the application has been permitted.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. National Pay Award for 2021-22

Cllr Jones **PROPOSED** to accept the Clerk's National Pay Award for 2021-22; **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

iii. Clerk Salary and expenses

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence: salary and expenses £1003.49 (cheque no 1285).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC PAYE £166.00 (cheque no 1286).

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions in the village continue and all data is reported to Kent Police.

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that he will cut back the brambles. A quotation has been requested to repair the fence by the garage.

Cllr Cuthbert said he will try to stitch the wire together.

Cllr Fraser asked if a fully itemised quotation had been received for the new toddler play equipment, the contractor must not ask for more money.

The Clerk reported that she had received the revised itemised quotation for £14,772.63 due to significant price increases in the industry.

Cllr Fraser said he will get two keys for the Playing Field gate cut, one for himself and one for the grass cutting contractor.

ii. To consider quotation for maintenance

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £420 from Mr Nick Swatland for the maintenance of the peripheral areas of the Playing Field.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 16.02.22- KALC: Training events
2. 16.02.22- NALC Policing Online Event - 30th March 2022
3. 17.02.22- NALC: Newsletter
4. 21.02.22- NALC CEO bulletin
5. 24.02.22- KCC consultation on proposed reduction of bus services
6. 02.03.22- NALC: Newsletter
7. 08.03.22- KALC: Newsletter
8. 10.03.22- NALC: Newsletter

14. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Coates informed Members that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 9 May 7pm and will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS –

Cllr Jones asked if there could be an update on The Retreat.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Cuthbert reported that he had hosted the Parishes to Town: Active Travel Network meeting; Adrian Berendt of Berendt Consulting attended and there were two representatives from Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council and a representative from Newnham Parish Council. The consultant was more interested in cycle paths.

Cllr Fraser reported that the footpath at the bottom of Wychling Hill is blocked by a large fallen tree.

Cllr Cuthbert said a gap needs to be cut in the trunk.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert.

Cllr Coates said KCCllr Lehmann has asked if the Parish Council would pay for the use of the Village Hall to hold a public consultation regarding the proposed cuts to the bus services. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay for the Village Hall as this would be beneficial to residents.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 11 April 2022

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 11 April 2022