

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of Doddington Parish Council on Monday 12 January 2015

Present: Cllrs Cuthbert (Chairman), Coates, Duckworth, Haynes and Jones and Mrs Licence (Clerk).
Also present were SBCllr Prescott and three members of the public

1 Apologies Apologies had been received from Cllr Attwood who was on holiday- apology accepted. Apologies had also been received from KCllr Bowles who was on holiday- apology noted.
2 Declarations of Interest None were identified
3. To Determine whether any items should be discussed in closed session IT WAS AGREED to discuss agenda item 6.i KALC Awards due to the confidential nature of business.
4. Vacancy on Parish Council for a Co-opted Councillor Cllr Cuthbert advised that no applications had been received.
5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 December 2014 Item 16 was amended to delete "Cllr Haynes" and insert "Cllr Coates". The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 December 2014 were then signed as a true record by Cllr Cuthbert.
6. MATTERS ARISING i. KALC Awards This item was deferred to the end of the meeting to be discussed in closed session. ii. Wall at Chequers Inn Cllr Cuthbert informed members that the wall has been reported to Building Control who have issued a Section 77 Notice to Shepherd Neame. Building Control were concerned that there were benches beside the wall which potentially could be dangerous so advised the landlord to upturn tables and also advised that Harris fencing should be put round the area. Building Control are monitoring the situation.
7. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT i. Report from the Community Warden Cllr Cuthbert told Councillors that Dave Osbourne had nothing to report. No one has made contact with either Dave or Paul Crispe, Community Warden Supervisor, concerning any issues. Dave still comes into Doddington once a fortnight on a Thursday and at this time of year he is finding it best in the mornings as it is lighter. Paul assured the Council that the Community Wardens would come in more often if it is needed.
8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT Cllr Cuthbert reminded Members that the Neighbourhood Watch Report had previously been circulated. Mrs Jackson apologised for being unable to attend the meeting.
9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME The meeting was adjourned for the public question time but no questions were raised from the floor.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Application: 14/506093/TCA

Address: Doddington County Primary School The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BG

Proposal: Trees in a conservation area notification - Area 1 - 11 Ash trees - remove dead wood on all trees and remove any limbs overhanging the playgrounds. Crown lift to 8 metres. Area 2 - 6 Sycamore trees - cut ivy at base and remove dead wood. Area 4 - 2 Beech and 2 Ash trees - crown reduction to remove any overhanging limbs and clear any deadwood. Crown reduction by 2.5 metres on the south and east faces. 2 metres on the north and west faces. Area 5 - 16 Ash trees - crown reduction to remove any limbs over hanging the school building. Cut ivy at base. Reduce crown by 2.5 metres on the east face over building and 1.5 metres on north, south and west faces

Cllr Cuthbert explained that the Parish Council had been notified for information only.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 12 January 2015

No Other planning applications had been received

The Square, Chequers Hill

Cllr Cuthbert reported that this application came before the Planning Committee on Thursday 8 January and Cllr Haynes went on behalf of the Parish Council to speak. There is a site meeting on 19 January at 9.30am and Cllrs Cuthbert, Haynes and Coates will attend. The application will then be reported back to committee on 29 January for them to determine the application. Cllr Cuthbert thanked Cllr Haynes for attending the Planning Committee Meeting.

The Swale Borough Local Plan Part 1: Bearing Fruits 2031: The Swale Borough Local Plan.

Cllr Cuthbert explained that the document is the latest stage of SBC Local Plan and the Consultation is open until 30 January 2015. It is the planning framework for the Borough to guide development and investment to 2031. It looks to deliver, for example, new jobs, homes and shops, while safeguarding our outstanding environment for the future. Also, it provides development management policies to help in the determination of planning applications.

Cllr Attwood had emailed prior to the Meeting to request the school boundaries be put back. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Duckworth to request the school boundaries be put back in the plan; SECONDED by Cllr Haynes.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Swale Borough Council.

11. PROVISION OF A DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Cuthbert reported that the Village Hall Committee have agreed for the defibrillator to be sited on wall of hall. The defibrillator needs to be accessible and seen. The defibrillator has been ordered and will be delivered to the Chairman. So far the Parish Council has received £250 in donations and £500 from Colin Prescott's budget. A request for a grant has been sent to Swale Lions Club. The defibrillator will be added to the Parish Council's insurance.

12. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none

ii. Precept Bid 15/16

Cllr Cuthbert explained that he had met with Cllr Jones and the Clerk to consider the precept bid. A spread sheet had been circulated. The Committee considered the fact that there will be election expenses and after due consideration suggested the Precept be set at £7600.00- £100 more than last year but includes an allowance of £700.00 for election costs. It is difficult to calculate exactly what the Parish Council will spend and a third of the sum is set aside as a contingency reserve. Last year there had been a larger amount of money rolled over from previous years.

Cllr Cuthbert PROPOSED to set the Precept at £7600.00; SECONDED by Cllr Haynes. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

iii. Clerk's Salary and Expenses

Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that Cllr Jones is considering setting a formal appraisal system for the Clerk including testing and setting targets. The Clerk's Salary and expenses claim were considered. Cllr Cuthbert PROPOSED to pay the Clerk the quarterly salary of £581.22 (cheque no 1040) and expenses of £34.34 (cheque no 1041); SECONDED by Cllr Haynes. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

Invoices for Payment

Any invoice for approval received by 12 January 2015

Cllr Cuthbert told Councillors that the half yearly invoice for meetings in Doddington Village Hall for £90.00 was due. Cllr Cuthbert PROPOSED to pay the Doddington Village Hall invoice for £90.00 (cheque no 1042) dated 24 December 2014; SECONDED by Cllr Haynes. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth reported that the Playing Field equipment is in order.

Cllr Cuthbert said he had checked a couple of times and there were no problems with falling branches

Cllr Duckworth assured Councillors that he will continue to monitor the trees especially during windy periods.

ii. To consider quotation for repair to Playing Field

Cllr Cuthbert advised Councillors that Mr Swatland has quoted £170.00 to fill the void and re-turf the area at the goal mouth, including fencing off the area. Landscape Services has quoted £515.23.

Cllr Cuthbert PROPOSED to accept Mr Swatland's quote to repair the area at the goal mouth; SECONDED by Cllr Haynes. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

14 HIGHWAYS

i. Highways Update

Cllr Cuthbert told Councillors that the drain in Down Court Road is blocked and he will clear it. The drains in the village must be monitored.

Cllr Duckworth reminded members that KCC Highways had promised to carry out work in the Ringlestone Road by the end of the financial year but the road is a sea of mud. Concern was expressed that by setting up a field to store and process wood effectively changed the field into an industrial base.

Concern was expressed that this has been an ongoing issue and that the field is a storage yard. Mud is continually pouring out onto the road and this needs to be addressed urgently. There have been previous site meetings with the owner who has put channels in to divert the wash but this has not resolved the problems. Councillors considered referring the matter to KCC Highways and SBC Planning Department but want to give the owner the opportunity to comment on the situation. IT WAS AGREED to contact the owner prior to reporting the matter to other authorities.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the owner and copy in Milstead Parish Council.

Cllr Duckworth to draft letter for KCC Highways and SBC Planning.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

2. Local Government Boundary Commission: notice of an electoral review of KCC

ACTION: Clerk to circulate details to Councillors and put in Newsletter

3. KALC: Information concerning elections May 2015

4. Email from resident concerning lack of gritting Chequers Hill/ Lynsted Lane.

Cllr Cuthbert advised that this has been reported to KCC Highways who says the road is a secondary route and is only gritted during prolonged cold spells. Up to a few years ago Lynsted Road was gritted as a bus route and it still is a bus route so it should continue to be gritted. A request has been made to upgrade the road and the Parish Council is currently awaiting a response.

5. KALC: Planning Conference & Workshop Friday 27 March 9.30am- 4pm

6. KALC: Notification of KCC's consultation on future delivery of Library, Registration and Archive services from Monday 12 January- 8 April 2015.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate details to Councillors and put in Newsletter

7. Invitation to Civic Service at Rochester Cathedral on 10 March at 11am.

Cllr Cuthbert hopes to attend.

Already circulated

1. KALC Parish News
2. Andrew Bowles' Newsletter

16. AOB

Cllr Haynes expressed concern that the broadband Service in the village is particularly bad. BT says that not enough people are complaining. Residents must contact BT to complain and get a reference number.

ACTION: Clerk to put a note in the newsletter.

6. i. KALC Awards

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the KALC Awards.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Date of next meeting:- Monday 9 February 2015