

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 13 July 2026

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Colin Jones (Vice Chairman), Cllr Kirsty Clark, Cllr Kevin Fraser and Cllr Linda Lumsden:
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were PC Ryan Atherton and one member of the public.

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kevin Attwood (holiday); apologies accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared

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

None

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2026

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

Old Lenham Road Sweep

A stage 2 complaint was lodged with Swale Borough Council CEO on 1 June regarding the failure to carry out the road sweep when requested on 5 November 2025. This has been chased. They have apologised that the issue is not straight forward to resolve. The sweep of the Old Lenham Road is limited because of the equipment used and the most effective solution is manual excavation and the removal of the vegetation and accumulated material. This will require appropriate traffic management measures to be put in place. The complaint is on hold pending further investigations.

ACTION: Clerk to chase for update before the September meeting.

Safe Contents

Cllr Coates reported that the historic PC minutes will now be made available to the village History Group. Once these have been assessed for their local history value, they will be offered to the Kent County Archives.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Certificate of Exemption has been submitted to Mazars and the finance documents have been uploaded to the website.

6. POLICE REPORT

PC Gary Morris was unable to attend but sent a written report of a burglary to an outbuilding in The Street. His colleague PC Ryan Atherton, attending on his behalf, reported that nuisance motor cycles and E-bikes (noisy/driving off road on walking and horse-riding paths

etc) have been an issue across rural parts of the Borough. He requested the Council to publicise that the Police are asking members of the public to report incidents and any information regarding where they originate from, make of motor cycles, partial registration numbers, vans associated with the bikes etc in order that the police can build up a more effective intelligence picture.

Cllr Coates thanked PC Atherton for attending and for his report. Item to be included in the newsletter.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

Is there was a budget for planting the traffic calming by The Chequers.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set aside a budget of £100; payment will be made on submission of receipt.

Cllr Coates thanked the volunteers for the work they do on the traffic calming areas.

There are a lot of coaches and M&S lorries coming through the village, the signs say the road is unsuitable for HGVs. Recently a lorry knocked branches off a tree which could have damaged a car.

Cllr Fraser said the M&S lorries are collecting soft fruit from Neaves Farm, the vehicles have a set route to follow. KCC Highways are responsible for raising the height of trees to above the height of a double decker bus.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Coates said a problem with a drain cover had been raised by a resident and that he will contact Jennie Watson, KCC Highways, to discuss the matter. Cones could be put there as a temporary measure.

Cllr Jones reported that he had referred the six-month inspection of the drains in the Old Lenham Road to Cllr Lehmann who is looking into the matter.

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

Cllr Coates informed Members that a report has been submitted to the secretary of State by the Chairman of the Inquiry; the decision will be published in September.

ii. Ref: 26/501794/FULL

Address: The Oast Driving Range Church Road Tonge Kent ME9 9AR

Proposal: Refurbishment of existing golf course through engineering works to raise the level of the ground and relay and shape the new golf course and create drainage, new greens and tees for a 6 hole golf course including ecological enhancements.

Councillors considered the application and the potential traffic implications for Doddington and other parishes.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to write response.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerk salary

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the Clerk £507.24 in respect of salary and quarterly expenses (cheque no 1453).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £36.40 in respect of PAYE & NI (cheque no 1454).

iii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Chop and Change £696.00 in respect of tree work (cheque no 1452).

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue with encouraging results. The Day of Action will take place this week.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that Landscape Services has cut the field today; the number of cuts will be monitored. The Fete is on 30 August and a cut needs to be completed before then.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Landscape Services.

Cllr Fraser said the wild verge has been left but will be tidied up before the Fete. Minor tree works continue, eg removing ivy, and the major tree works have been carried out by the contractor, large logs have been left for beetle banks.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

ii. To consider upgrade to play area

Councillors considered replacing the slide and surface around it; replacing the safety surfacing under the flat swings and replacing the horse rocker.

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** the Clerk apply for grants for the scheme; **SECONDED** by Cllr Lumsden: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk.

iii. Playing Field ownership update.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Clark for her supportive research. Documents regarding the ownership of the Playing Field have been sent to Mr Arthur Leigh-Pemberton who agrees with the Council's position in that "ownership" of the field belongs to the council unless a change of use is considered in the future. In this case, ownership will revert to the Torry Hill Estate. The documents will be retained for future reference.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.06.26- NALC CEO bulletin
2. 15.06.26- Swale Borough Council: Policy round-up
3. 17.06.26- Kent Highways: Start of Works Notification for Down Court Road 23.06.26
4. 18.06.26- NALC CEO bulletin
5. 22.06.26- KALC bulletin
6. 25.06.26- South East Water: update on water supplies
7. 25.06.26- South East Water: hosepipe restrictions to be introduced
8. 25.06.26- Kent Highway: Emergency Road Closure - Lady Margaret Manor Road 25.06.26
9. 25.06.26- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 26.06.26- Kent Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Chequers Hill, Doddington – 26.06.26
11. 01.07.26- Aprille Hall; introduction as the new Community Engagement Officer for Swale in the KCC Highways Improvements Team
12. 02.07.26- resident's concern regarding raised drain cover in The Street

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">13. 06.07.26- Kent Highways: reminder the next Virtual Road Safety & Active Travel Group Seminar on 9 July.14. 06.07.26- Kent Highways: Road Safety and Active Travel Group newsletter15. 06.07.26- Helen Whately MP: copy of letter sent to Steve Reed, the Secretary of State for Housing, calling on him to refuse the Highsted Park planning applications16. 07.07.26- Kent Highways: notice the Parish Meetings will be paused for 12 weeks17. 07.07.26- Swale Borough Council: Policy round-up18. 09.07.26- KALC newsletter19. 09.07.26- Swale Borough Council: Policy round-up20. 10.07.26- KALC: call for motions for consideration at the KALC Annual General Meeting21. 13.17.26- Swale Borough Council: Policy round-up |
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14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Clark reported that the Shopper Bus will run on Saturday from September. The service is well-used now.
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Date of next Meeting:- Monday 14 September 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.23pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 14 September 2026