

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes for the meeting of Doddington Parish Council on 9 November 2015

Present: Cllr Cuthbert (Chair), Cllr Attwood, Cllr Duckworth, Cllr Fraser, Cllr Haynes, Cllr Jones and Mrs Licence (Clerk). Also present were Mr Guy Rollinson (Kent Community Speed Watch) and four members of the public.

<b>1 APOLOGIES</b> Apologies had been received from Cllr Coates (holiday): apology accepted.
<b>2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> None were declared
<b>3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION</b> It was agreed to consider item 16 KALC Community Award Scheme in closed session.
<b>4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2015</b> Cllr Cuthbert thanked Cllr Haynes for Chairing the last meeting. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 October 2015, the minutes were approved unanimously. Cllr Cuthbert signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
<b>5. MATTERS ARISING</b> There were none.
<b>6. SPEED WATCH</b> Cllr Cuthbert welcomed Guy Rollinson from Kent Community Speed Watch to the meeting. Mr Rollinson explained that Speed Watch was started nationally in 2006 and Kent Community Speed Watch was formed in 2007. The Speed Watch Scheme operates through small groups of volunteers going out with a device to measure the speed of vehicles. If a car is speeding, a volunteer captures the data including registration and car model, and at the end of the session the data is sent to Kent Police to analyse to see if a letter will be sent to the owner. Speed Watch is educationally based and does not generate prosecutions or formal sanction. Letters of advice are sent out after two observations, however high end offenders are sent a letter every time. Statistics show that ninety five per cent of drivers who receive a letter never speed again. Speed Watch allows Police to target persistent offenders. A small reduction in speed is enough to help reduce the casualty rate. Some drivers do not realise their speed so Speed Watch acts as a reminder. Most offenders are in the mid range of speeding offence and they are sent a letter on the second offence. Speed watch is effective and there is proportionality as the more times a group operates the better the effect. Mr Rollinson explained that Parish Councils need to have their own equipment and it is possible to share. Parishes can look to their KCC Member who has a Highways Fund and Speed Watch satisfies a lot of the criteria to spend money in the Parish. Speed Watch recommend a Speed Indicator Device which is non confrontational as it displays the speed of the vehicle and this costs approximately £2,000.00. A static board costs £5,000.00-7,000.00 and most drivers actually ignore these. Cllr Cuthbert said that Newnham Parish Council has some equipment. Cllr Haynes said the problem is after dark as during the day parked cars slow down the traffic. Mr Rollinson explained that Speed Watch is not the only tool to combat speeding traffic, the Community Warden, PCSO and Road Crime Enforcement Unit can be deployed. Special patrols will be out in later in the month and they will prosecute. The Parish Council needs to have someone willing to set up the scheme, obtain the equipment and organise a training

session. Speed Watch will support the Parish Council's scheme.

*ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to check what equipment Newnham Parish Council has.*

Cllr Cuthbert invited residents to ask questions.

#1- How early would drivers be aware of a Speed Watch radar?

Mr Rollinson said that the range of the radar is one hundred and fifty feet and there is a new version of the radar which will double the distance.

#2- When drivers see someone in a high visibility jacket they will slow down.

Mr Rollinson said that this will mean that the car will go through the village at thirty miles per hour and this is the desired result.

Cllr Cuthbert proposed that Speed Watch is on next month's agenda and an article be put in the Newsletter for volunteers.

Cllr Cuthbert thanked Mr Rollinson for attending the meeting.

## **7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Cllr Cuthbert thanked Mrs Jackson for her report that this month has been news free.

## **8. COMMUNITY WARDEN**

Cllr Cuthbert informed Councillors that Community Warden Dave Osborne is unable to attend the Parish Council meeting as he is on annual leave and he sends his apologies.

There has only been one issue this month which was reported by a resident. It was regarding an abandoned car along the Ringlestone Road a ¼ mile past the junction with Ashdown Road heading towards Maidstone. The Community Warden reported the car to Swale Borough Council for removal. It transpired that the car is in the Maidstone area and Maidstone Borough Council has been contacted for the car to be removed.

## **9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

#1- I am one of the volunteers for the War Memorial and the recent accident has highlighted the fact that volunteers are exposed because as people go down the steps they are not visible to traffic. There is also an issue when cleaning the gully. Some times I work there on my own and there are no cones at the site anymore.

Cllr Haynes said there needs to be a risk assessment.

Cllr Cuthbert said it needs to be considered properly and will go on to the next agenda.

*ACTIONS: Cllr Cuthbert to arrange a site meeting with Councillors*

#2- Does the village have a disaster plan in the case of an emergency?

Cllr Cuthbert explained that the Parish Council does not have a plan and usually the Police or KCC would investigate.

*ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to research.*

#3- I have run the Post Office in The Chequers every Tuesday for the last four years and I have come to publicise this. There are many services such as cash withdrawals and payment of bills which can be transacted there.

Cllr Cuthbert thanked the Post Master for coming and for what he is doing in the village.

*ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to liaise with Post Master and to write an article for the magazine.*

## **10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, MEETINGS & COURSES**

i. Finance Conference

The Clerk had attended the Finance Conference and circulated a report.

## **11. DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr Cuthbert reported that the defibrillator is working and that there are no problems.

*ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to give Doddington in Bloom a paving slab to put in border.*

## **12. PLANNING MATTERS**

i. Meeting with SBC Planning

Cllr Attwood informed members that he, Cllr Haynes and Cllr Fraser had met James Freeman

and Graham Thomas. They discussed the Parish Council's concerns about some of the planning permissions which have been granted. Mr Freeman and Mr Thomas suggested it might be worthwhile to meet with a few Parish Councils early in 2016 and give a presentation on the evolution of Planning applications through to decisions. It will change the way in which Parish Councils will object to an application and it would be a small training session to include Newnham, Eastling and Lynsted.

Cllr Attwood explained that the school site was also discussed and that Mr Freeman could not trace the Parish Council's response to the Local Plan consultation, the original email and acknowledgement has been forwarded to Mr Freeman by the Clerk.

Cllr Cuthbert thanked the Councillors for attending the meeting.

ii. Any planning matter received by 9 November 2015

Cllr Cuthbert explained that SBCllr Prescott had notified the Parish Council that the Land North of Homestall Road Doddington was going to Committee last Thursday. Notice of the decision has not been received yet.

### 13. WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Cuthbert reported that the Service of Remembrance was well attended.

Cllr Cuthbert will get details of the driver who damaged the area and there will be a site meeting to consider repairs.

### 14. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Half Yearly Accounts for approval

Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that he and Cllr Jones had met with the Clerk and checked through the half yearly accounts checking the payments and bank accounts. Cllr Cuthbert **PROPOSED** to approve the half yearly accounts: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Invoices for Payment

Cllr Cuthbert informed Councillors that there is one payment to Newington Parish Council for £20 being one third of the cost of the Finance Conference. **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** (cheque no 1074)

Cllr Cuthbert said that the bank mandate for Cllr Fraser needs to be completed.

### 15. ADMINISTRATION

To consider the purchase of a laptop to comply with the Transparency Code.

Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that there is a fund to help Parish Councils comply with the Transparency Code and up to £350 (net) can be claimed for a laptop. The Internal Auditor has recommended that all Parish Councils should have their own laptop and all Parish Council business would be on that. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to purchase a laptop.

*ACTION: Cllr Haynes to find best option for Parish Council.*

### 17. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly update

Cllr Duckworth reported that there had been an extra free cut but only by the gang mower. There have been thirteen cuts during the year and it needs to be established if both mowers do thirteen cuts.

*ACTION: Clerk to check on cuts.*

### 18. HIGHWAYS

i. Highways Update and notification of further work required

Cllr Haynes reported that the drains from the top of Ladewood Hill down had been cleaned.

Cllr Duckworth said that the grid on the corner is about two feet out into the road and the water will not run into the drain.

Cllr Cuthbert said evidence must be obtained if there is a problem.  
Cllr Cuthbert reported that a pot hole in Down Court Road had been repaired and there are more to do.

Cllr Haynes reported that the drain, near the garage, is collapsing.

*ACTION: Clerk to report*

Cllr Haynes told Councillors that 30 mile per hour speed limit signs are being put in at the junction of the Faversham Road and Old Lenham Road.

Cllr Haynes said several residents have complained about the hedge encroaching on the footpath on Chequers Hill and also the leaves on the ground which are slippery and dangerous.

Cllr Cuthbert said he will strim the area.

#### **19. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 13.10.15 Kent Police- survey as to how to improve their website- *circulated*

2. 15.10.15- KCC Budget consultation- *circulated*

3. 19.10.2015 KALC- Parish news- *circulated*

4. 19.10.2015 KALC SAC agenda- *forwarded to Cllr Haynes and Cllr Jones*

5. 19.10.2015 SBC- notification that from 6 November to 8 February 2016 there will be a programme of upgrades on the Planning website possible disruption

6. 21. 10.2015 SBC Sittingbourne Local Engagement Forum - *request for agenda items*

7. 23.10.2015- Andrew Bowles newsletter- *circulated*

#### **20. AOB**

Cllr Haynes expressed concern about Broadband speed and said that Newnham and Eastling have fibre and BT Infinity.

*ACTION 1: Cllr Cuthbert to check with Newnham and Cllr Jones to check with Eastling.*

*ACTION 2: Clerk to contact BT*

Cllr Fraser told Members that he had been approached by a resident who was concerned about the dead branches in the yew tree out side of Yew Tree House.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact tree conservation officer.*

#### **16. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME**

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.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 14 December 2015**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

.....Chairman

Date: 14 December 2015