

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on  
Monday 10 October 2022

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

Also present were Ward Member David Simmons and two members of the public.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting):  
apologies noted.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Attwood declared a pecuniary interest in items 9.i, 9.iii and 9.v being neighbouring properties.

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

None were identified.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2022

Item 8ii was amended. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes, as amended, as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Coates duly signed the minutes as a true record.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

### Council meetings

Cllr Coates said the Council did not meet in August and the September meeting was cancelled as a mark of respect following the death of the Late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The availability of the hall had meant it was not possible to reschedule the meeting in September.

### Rural bus service

Cllr Coates reported that County Councillor Rich Lehmann had given an update on the bus situation; the bus subsidy cuts were due to have been debated at the Full Council meeting on 15 September. The meeting was cancelled because of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the debate will now take place at the Full Council meeting on Thursday 20 October. Cllr Coates informed Members that the play area inspection will take place on 9 January.

### Defibrillator

Cllr Coates said there have been a couple of administrative issues with the defibrillator, The Circuit has been contacted.

## 6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Coates said that the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and the PCSO have reported that there have been no issues for the village.

## **7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time*

A resident said that she had applied for permission for change of use of agricultural land to residential garden but this had been refused by Swale Borough Council. She plans to appeal and asked if the Parish Council would support the appeal.

Cllr Coates said the Council had been unable to comment on the original application as the September meeting had been cancelled. At this time, we were unable to make any further comment about her appeal and would have to wait until we were contacted again by Swale Borough Council.

SBCllr Simmons reported that the Swale Eastern Area Committee funding scheme is open for a second round, there is £12,763 available and will be allocated at the December meeting.

Cllr Coates said the Parish Council is pleased with the new play equipment and there has been positive feedback from residents. The Council is grateful to the Committee for the grant received.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

## **8. HIGHWAYS**

### i. To receive an update

Cllr Coates said that there is still an issue with Shaw trucks coming through the village again as they are still delivering spoil to the golf club at Tonge The Clerk has contacted Tonge Parish Council for an update but has not had a response.

### ii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that a package of mitigation works is planned in several stages:

1. Autumn 2022- work started on 3 October on the arable fields at the top of the Old Lenham Road, creating run offs from the road into two retention ponds supported by bunds at the field edges to keep the overflow from going back onto the road, and a major hedge planting programme totalling some one thousand metres.
2. Kings Acre lagoon is scheduled to be expanded to increase flood water storage by Christmas 2022.
3. Summer 2023- a similar programme of work (retention ponds, bunds and hedging) to the grass fields above Kings Acre lagoon.
4. Existing drains on the Old Lenham Road are programmed to be cleaned every six months, the first deep clean took place on 23 September.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones and Cllr Attwood for their sterling work and perseverance.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

### i. Ref: 22/503517/FULL

Address: The Bungalow Temple Farm Frangbury Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0NX  
Proposal: Replace existing pre-fabricated garage with the erection of a single storey garage with office space in the loft.

Cllr Coates informed Members that the application has been permitted

### ii. Ref: 22/503539/FULL

Address: Nesfield The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH  
Proposal: Insertion of a dropped kerb with vehicle crossover and a new driveway including landscaping.

Cllr Coates said that the application 22/502491/LAWPRO had been refused as the agent had thought the matter could be dealt with under a Lawful Development Certificate but because it is on a classified road, it needs to have planning permission. KCC Highways wanted details of the visibility splay which has now been lodged with Swale Borough

Council. The plan has been amended so the dropped kerb will be more central, they are not extending the existing dropped kerb but creating a new one. This will go out again to KCC and Doddington Parish Council with a two-week window for comment. The applicant is keeping landscaping which the Planning Officer has said that they like to be retained. In 2003, approval was given for a dropped kerb but this was never done so the planning permission expired.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that they had no objections to the proposal.

iii. Ref: 22/503763/FULL

Address: Old Oaks Farm Seed Road Newnham Kent ME9 0NN

Proposal: Partial demolition and conversion of existing outbuilding from workshop and storage to garage, bicycle workshop, gym, pool room, tea and wellness room and storage, including renovation works and alterations to fenestration.

Councillors considered the application. Concern was raised regarding increased traffic; a new business being established in a rural location; it is not a rural business.

*ACTION: Councillors to send comments to Clerk By 12.00 the following day for submission.*

iv. Ref: 22/504124/TCA

Address: Infiniti School The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BG

Proposal: Conservation area notification: Remove one group of Leylandii trees (G5); remove one Leylandii tree (T6).

Cllr Coates reported that the application had been decided- no objections

v Ref: 22/504456/LAWPRO

Address: 1 Down Court Cottages Down Court Road Doddington Sittingbourne ME9 0AT

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed installation of 12 x Photo Voltaic panels to the south facing (rear) roof slope of the property.

The application was noted.

vi. Any planning matter received by 10 October 2022

Update on Local Plan

Swale Borough Council had advised the Council that *on 6th October, a report went before the Planning and Transportation Policy Working Group (PTP WG) to propose that the next stages of the local plan review consultation are paused. With mounting uncertainty around the government's direction of travel for the planning system, any consultation now will likely have to be repeated in the future to take into account the Council's response to those changes.*

*Following the PTP WG meeting, the report will also be discussed by the Policy & Resources committee on 19th October*

Cllr Attwood raised concern that this also pauses the Gypsy & Traveller planning stream particularly in the local area where there are a number of Gypsy & Traveller sites with temporary planning permission. This is a failure of the planning department and the Parish Council should write to Larissa Reed, Chief Executive, Cllr Mike Baldock, Leader of the Council, and Flo Churchill, Interim Head of Planning.

*ACTION: Cllr Attwood to draft letter.*

## **10. FINANCE**

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerk's Salary and expenses July- Sept 2022

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence: salary and expenses £1028.79 (cheque no 1306).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC PAYE £15.40 (cheque no 1307).

iii. Invoices for Payment-

- a) It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Royal British Legion £35.00 donation for poppy wreath (cheque no 1307).
- b) It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Kent County Playing Fields Association subscription £20.00 (cheque no 1308).

Cllr Coates reported that invoices were paid out of meeting as the September had been postponed:

- a. Wicksteed leisure Ltd: Toddler Towers £17,727.16 (cheque no 1301).
- b. Landscape Services: Playing Field maintenance £204.84 (cheque no 1302).
- c. Four Jays: Summer portaloos hire £246.00 (cheque no 1303).
- d. Newington Parish Council: share of SLCC fees £54.00 (cheque no 1304).
- e. Eastling Parish Council: share of KALC Clerks Conference fees £10.00 (cheque no 1305).

**11. SPEED WATCH**

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

**12. PLAYING FIELD**

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that the mower cuts have resumed following the dry weather and the local contractor has cut the peripheral. The Roman Road dig was very successful and drew lots of interest from residents and visitors to the village fete. The dig is nearly completed and the area will be reinstated.

ii. To consider quotation for arboriculture survey

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £395.00 from Lushland Ltd for an arboriculture survey: **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**13. WAR MEMORIAL**

To consider quotation to replace the hedge

Cllr Coates reported that Mr Gaze has kindly scrubbed the hedge in preparation.

*ACTION: Cllr Coates to write a letter of thanks to Mr Gaze.*

Councillors considered the quotations for the hedging.

Cllr Cuthbert said the bigger the plant the less chance there is of it getting away, it would be better to have smaller bare rooted plants.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £260 and £11.40 delivery plus VAT from Ashridge Nurseries for fifty bare rooted plants. The War Memorial Team to order the plants.

Cllr Coates said the poppy wreath has been ordered

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 12.09.22- Friends of Citizens Advice Swale newsletter
2. 12.09.22- Helen Whately's tribute to Her Late Majesty The Queen
3. 30.09.22- Swale Borough Council: update on Local Plan
4. 03.10.22- KCC Autumn Parish Seminars 2022
5. 03.10.22- Swale Borough Council: Rural England Prosperity Fund Survey.
6. 04.10.22- NALC CEO bulletin
7. 05.10.22- Police & Crime Commissioner: Annual Policing Survey 2022

Cllr Coates reported that he had responded to the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner annual policing survey.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to support the Village Hall User consultation to help the committee evidence their grant application to the FCC Communities Fund. The Village Hall is well-used and an asset to the community. The project will give much needed long-term investment in the building and will reduce heating costs.

*ACTION: Clerk to complete consultation document.*

Cllr Coates said there has also been an email regarding the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments central external auditor appointment arrangements and the possibility of opting out of the arrangements.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** not to opt out.

#### **15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Fraser reported that he had attended the Swale Borough Council Eastern Area Committee meeting which was well attended. The information from the meetings may be useful to the Parish Council in the future.

Cllr Coates said he will attend the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting on 11 October.

Cllr Jones said Swale Enforcement has advised that it is looking at the evidence concerning The Retreat. There needs to be a meeting with Newnham Parish Council and Ospringe Parish Council. Paul Casey has taken over Swale Planning Enforcement.

*ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting.*

Cllr Jones reported the mobile van has returned and is parked on the verge.

*ACTION: Cllr Fraser to contact owner.*

Cllr Cuthbert said there has been extra traffic through the village since the closure of junction 5 M2.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 14 November 2022**

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 14 November 2022