

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 12 February 2024

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

Also present were Ward Member Terry Thompson, Mr Ian Gilman, Chairman of
Wychling Parish Meeting and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies had been received from Cllr Kirsty Clark (unwell); apologies accepted,
Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another
meeting); apologies noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Attwood declared a pecuniary interest in item 10. PROW ZR281 (Part) Doddington and
Milstead).

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

None were identified.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2024

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

Cllr Coates reported that the Planning Officer had been contacted in respect of the
application for Old School House concerning the length of time it has taken to reach a
decision, The Planning Officer has said that he is endeavouring is to determine the
application as soon as possible.

Cllr Coates reported that the water leak in Chequers Hill has been repaired.
Swale Borough Council has been chased regarding the missing litter bins.

6. CRIME REPORT

PC Gary Morris sent a report which Cllr Coates summarised as:

- PC Morris will be holding a public surgery in Painters Forstal on 20 February.
- Suspicious activity by two males was reported at a property in The Street
- An off-road quad bike was reported as being used on the public road.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A resident asked for an update on the blocked soakaway on the Ringlestone Road, it is now
causing flooding further along. The drain by the water works is blocked and the drains by
the pumping station are also blocked.

Cllr Jones reported that an engineer has made a site visit, KCC Highways has accepted responsibility for the soakaway and have confirmed that works need to be carried out and this will require a road closure.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jones reported that he is waiting for confirmation of a date for clearance of the waterworks drains.

ii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that works have been completed expanding the capacity of Kings Acre lagoon by a third; two new water retention ponds of 150 sq metres each have been installed; 1500 metres of earth bunding has been created at the field edges; 1500 metres of new native hedging has been planted; 500 metres of new fencing and a new field gate to take water flow from Sprat's Hill has been installed.

Councillors expressed gratitude to everyone for their help and support, especially Mr Richard Oldfield, Cllr Attwood, Jodi Gore and Max Tant (KCC Highways) and Cllr Lehmann. Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his report.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 23/503908/FULL

Address: Southdown And Periwinkle Cottage Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BN

Proposal: Conversion of existing dwelling to 4no. residential apartments including part demolition and erection of a single storey side extension and a two-storey rear extension, erection of two storey extensions to either side of existing cottage, and erection of 4no. new residential dwellings, with associated parking, biodiversity and landscape enhancements.

Councillors considered the revised details and noted that the development had been reduced by one unit, however concerns regarding access, sight lines and bio-diversity had not been addressed. It was agreed to re-iterate previous concerns.

ACTION: Cllr Attwood and Cllr Jones to draft response.

ii. Ref: 23/505722/FULL

Address: Woodlands Dully Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BY

Proposal: Proposed flat roof including insertion of 1no. roof lantern and erection of balcony to rear elevation.

Councillors considered the application and had no objection to the proposals.

10. PROW ZR281 (PART) DODDINGTON AND MILSTEAD)

Councillors considered the Order and raised no objections.

11. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Trevor Muller Playground Inspection Ltd £200.00 (chq no 1359).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr N Swatland £420 for annual grounds maintenance (chq no 1360).

12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed Watch sessions continue, the traffic volumes have been lower and better driving has been noticed.
Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

13. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser report that work continues to treat the moss, however this have been hampered by inclement weather, the inspector noted that there are signs of the moss dying back. The minor tree works continue to be carried out. The goal post struts have been repaired and a new net will be installed.
Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

ii. To consider play area inspection report.

Cllr Fraser said the report did not raise any major issues; the swings need some spare parts which will be obtained. One of the benches may need to be removed as it is getting near the end of its life.

14. NOTICE BOARD

Councillors considered quotations from five companies and noted that the Village Hall has a new notice board. It was agreed to get a similar notice board.
ACTION: Clerk to obtain further quotations and seek grant funding.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.01.24- KALC News
2. 11.01.24- KALC training bulletin
3. 11.01.24- NALC CEO bulletin
4. 11.01.24- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington - 11th January 2024
5. 18.01.24- NALC CEO bulletin
6. 18.01.24- KCC Highways: KCC Urgent Road Closure - Faversham Road, Wychling - 20 January
7. 24.01.24- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Chequers Hill, Doddington - 24 January
8. 25.01.24- NALC CEO bulletin
9. 26.01.24- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Seed Road, Newnham - 26th January
10. 26.01.24- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Old Lenham Road, Doddington - 2nd February
11. 30.01.24- KALC Area Committee: SBC Street Vote Development Orders Consultation
12. 02.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin
13. 02.02.24- KALC News
14. 06.02.24- KALC bulletin
15. 09.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates said that in his absence KCCllr Lehmann had sent a very helpful update which had been circulated with meeting papers. However, key points were:

- *proposals by KCC to close household waste sites have been removed from the 2024/25 draft budget so Faversham Tip should be safe for at least the coming year (but may be under threat again in 2025).*
- *Swale Borough Council's new waste collection contract will be starting from Monday 25 March, when Suez will be the new provider (in place of Biffa, although the majority of the current staff will be retained). Around 40% of households will have a new day of the week for their collection. Letters about this will be going out to all households in the coming weeks.*

- *the Kent Karrier service is due to be reduced in April and will only be serving Doddington on Wednesdays (currently it serves the village on Tuesdays and Thursdays). KCllr Lehmann has passed this information on to the working group for the Faversham Community bus team, as they had planned a timetable to visit the villages on the days that the Kent Karrier did not. He his that the timetable can be amended to cover Doddington on Tuesdays and Thursdays.*

Cllr Coates said there had been a complaint (to Faversham Town Council) regarding a ploughed Public Right of Way.

Cllr Attwood said that inclement weather had stopped field operations and precluded re-instatement of the paths.

ACTION: Clerk to respond.

Cllr Cuthbert reported that it had been difficult to source the same trophy for the KALC Award but Gravesham Trophies had a similar design.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to order trophy.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Cuthbert for his help and perseverance.

Cllr Coates reported that Cllr Clark is drafting the citation for the High Sheriff.

Cllr Jones said the drains clearance needs to be diarised for six months' time.

It was agreed to order a free framed portrait of the King.

SBCllr Thompson reported that he has agreed to give £350 each for Doddington and Newnham towards the Faversham Community Bus scheme. Cllr Coates thanked SBCllr Thompson for the donation.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 11 March 2024

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 11 March 2024