

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 13 June 2022

Present: 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 County Councillor Rich Lehmann, Ward Councillor David Simmons and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Jones took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Steve Coates (holiday); apology accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

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

None were identified.

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 2022

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

Ref: 22/501431/FULL Address: Graces Place Homestall Road Doddington Kent

Proposal: Siting of 1no. additional mobile home at existing traveller's site (retrospective).

Cllr Attwood reported that, as agreed he had attended Swale Planning Committee meeting and withdrew the Parish Council's objection. Temporary permission was granted to July 2023.

Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Attwood for attending the committee meeting.

The Clerk reported that Wicksteed have said the installation of the Toddler Tower will begin mid to late August, this is later than previously stated.

ACTION: Clerk to chase site visit.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Jones said the Co-ordinator had reported no issues. PCSO Jessica Stocks will be holding a Police Surgery on Monday 20 June in the Village Hall, the sergeant has agreed the Parish Council can pay for the hall hire.

Cllr Fraser said a resident has just reported a dog attack on her sheep, two sheep were killed and one savaged. Dogs can be shot if out of control worrying sheep.

Item for Newsletter

Cllr Fraser said vehicles on the grass verge at Northdown continue to be an issue, though one had now been removed. Swale Borough Council has been informed of residents' complaints. This has also impacted on the maintenance of the area.

ACTION: Clerk to chase

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A resident raised concerned about parked vehicles on the verge at Northdown, he said one of the vehicles has not been taxed or insured since 2019. It is an eyesore particularly in a conservation area. Other villages have installed wooden posts or flower beds to deter parking on the verge, is this something which can be done here? KCC has said it is illegal to park a SORN or untaxed vehicle on public land.

Cllr Fraser said it was a good suggestion but the land belongs to Swale Borough Council.

ACTION: Clerk to update Swale Borough Council and also offer suggestions for preventative measures.

SBCllr reported that Graham Thomas, Area Planning Officer, has retired and there is no information as to who the lead Planning Officer for Faversham will be. Flo Churchill is the interim Head of Planning. The Council has changed from a cabinet system to committee system and the first cycle of Committee meeting is starting. A letter from SBCllr Mike Baldock, Leader Swale Borough Council, has been sent to Parish Councils reminding them of the need to object to planning applications on material planning grounds.

Cllr Jones thanked SBCllr Simmons for attending and for his report.

KCCllr Lehmann reported that the outcome of the bus consultation was due to be reported at the Environment and Transport Committee meeting on 19 May but there were two thousand five hundred responses so the matter will be considered at the meeting on 6 July. Officers have mentioned the cost of replacement services for school pupils and it is unclear what the proposals are. Kent County Council has received £35,000,000 from Government but it can only be used for capital projects or to encourage people to use the buses, it cannot be used to subsidise rural bus services. Any bus service which survives the current round of cuts will be safe for two years.

Cllr Jones thanked KCCllr Lehmann for attending and for his report.

The meeting was reconvened

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Cuthbert said there was nothing to report.

ii. HGVs

KCCllr Lehmann reported that the Golf Club opening date has been pushed back to the end of July so lorry movements were likely to continue until then. Cllr Fraser said HGVs have started going through the village again.

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that there has been nothing further since the CCTV survey of the drains at Sunnyside on 10 May, this is still showing on the portal as works scheduled.

Cllr Jones informed Members that land owners and KCC have agreed measures to mitigate flooding on the Old Lenham Road, and KCC were undertaking a costing exercise with the hope of starting works after harvest.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 22/502491/LAWPRO

Address: Nesfield The Street Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed drive with vehicle access to include removal of front beech hedging and replacement of part existing lawn with permeable material.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 13 June 2022

Ref: 22/501465/FULL

Address: Brewster House Brewster Road Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0AY

Proposal: Demolish existing conservatory and part of the dual pitched garage building and erection of single storey rear/side extension with roof lantern. Demolish and rebuild existing brick built wall with reclaimed brick. Re-location oil tank.

Cllr Jones said the application has been permitted.

Ref: 22/501431/FULL Address: Graces Place Homestall Road Doddington Kent

Proposal: Siting of 1no. additional mobile home at existing traveller's site (retrospective).

Cllr Jones said the application has been permitted.

10. FINANCE

i. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

Councillors considered the Annual Governance Statement and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept it. The statement was duly signed by Cllr Jones and the Clerk.

ii. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2022- To receive the end of year return and to consider the adoption and signing of the return.

Councillors considered the Annual Return and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the accounting statement, this was duly signed by Cllr Jones and the Clerk.

iii. To Certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. The certificate was duly signed by Cllr Jones and the Clerk.

iv. Internal Auditor's report

Councillors considered the Internal Auditors report and noted its comments.

v. Councillors Expenses

There were none

vi. Insurance

Cllr Jones said the insurance was agreed out of meeting due to the lateness of quotes coming in, to ensure continuity of cover. The current insurer had increased premium by 20%. It was agreed to go with BHIB for a three-year long-term agreement at £475.73, a significant saving from the premium of £642.30 in 2021

vii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr L Robbins £90 for the internal audit (cheque no 1295).

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 said both of the contractors are keeping the Playing Field in good condition. The support for the goal net is currently being made and also the block netting behind it.

ii. To consider request for archaeological dig at the Playing Field

Cllr Shaw said she has been liaising with the group.

Cllr Cuthbert said he had not received a response from the land owner and will contact him again.

Cllr Jones said full details of the dig needs to be obtained including information regarding the timescale of dig; clarification of where work will be; and also an agreement that the ground will be properly reinstated.

Cllr Cuthbert said it would be best to avoid the school holidays as the new play equipment is due to be installed then and also if the turf is disturbed in the summer it will require extra maintenance. It would be best to have the dig in the autumn.

ACTION: Cllr Shaw to obtain further details.

iii. To consider quotation for Summer port-a-loo

The Clerk reported the company had sent a quote for a site toilet and she has requested a quote for an event toilet.

Item for next agenda.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.05.22- NALC CEO bulletin
2. 11.05.22- Swale Borough Council: briefing from South East Councils on the Queens Speech
3. 13.05.22- Cllr Rich Lehmann: update on Tonge Golf Course
4. 16.05.22- Faversham Horticultural Summer Show
5. 16.05.22- Kent Police: Fraud scam information
6. 17.05.22- NALC CEO bulletin
7. 19.05.22- Swale Borough Council: Area Committee meeting dates
8. 26.05.22- NALC CEO bulletin
9. 31.05.22- KCC National Bus Strategy update
10. 07.06.22- KALC Swale Area Committee minutes and documents
11. 07.06.22- Cllr Mike Baldock, Swale Borough Council Leader: letter regarding the planning process
12. 08.06.22- NALC CEO bulletin

Cllr Fraser said that he will attend the Swale Borough Council Eastern Area Committee on Thursday 16 June 2022.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

KCCllr Lehmann said the Faversham Magna Carter is now on display in Faversham Town Hall.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 11 July 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.27pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 11 July 2022