

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 12 January 2026

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

Also present were Mr Rob Gibbs, Office Manager Faversham Town Council and one
member of the public

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Linda Lumsden (personal): apologies accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Attwood declared a pecuniary interest in item 7.i due to landownership within the
application; and in item 7.ii as a neighbouring landowner.

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

It was resolved that item 15. KALC Community Award be discussed in closed session.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2025

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Coates reported that the new “*Unsuitable for HGV*” road signs for the Old Lenham Road
were installed before Christmas. He had written to thank Kent Highways for their support
with this.

Cllr Jones said residents are pleased and will monitor the situation.

6. FAVERSHAM SHOPPER BUS

Mr Gibbs gave an update on the Shopper Bus which started in April 2024 aided by a grant
to cover the vehicle lease from Kent County Council. Passenger numbers are increasing
and the Town Council will be developing a funding plan for beyond 2027 when the existing
vehicle lease ends.

Cllr Coates thanked Mr Gibbs for attending and for his report.

7. 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
Kent

Awaiting the Inspector’s report.

ii. Ref: 25/504226/FULL

Address: The Paddock Green Seed Road Newnham Kent ME9 0NN

Proposal: Change of use from former stables to Pet Cremations, including installation of an incinerator and flue. Creation of 2no. additional parking spaces.

Amended plans and change of description

Councillors considered the application and noted that the Council had not been consulted about a previous, linked, application. No objections were raised.

iii. Any other planning matter received by 12 January 2026

Ref: 25/504158/LBC Address: Homestall Farm Homestall Road Doddington Kent ME9 0HF. Listed Building Consent for internal alterations and alterations to well head/capping. (Works Started)

Application permitted 5 January.

Ref: 25/504747/FULL Address: Hillcott The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BY

Proposal: Erection of a part two storey rear extension and part single storey side extension.

Awaiting decision

Ref: 25/503851/PNQCLA Address: Orchard Barn Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0JW

Prior notification for the change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from agricultural to 1no. residential dwellinghouse and associated operational development. For its prior approval to: - Transport and Highways impacts of the development. - Noise impacts of the development. - Contamination risks on the site. - Flooding risks on the site. - Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use to C3 (dwellinghouses). - Design and external appearance impacts on the building. - Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses.

Awaiting decision

8. POLICE REPORT

PC Gary Morris was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a report that there had been no crime or anti-social behaviour incidents in the village.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No matters were raised.

10. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Jones informed Members that the road sweep of the Old Lenham Road continues to be chased and the matter referred to Ward Councillor Terry Thompson. There are flooding issues on the Ringlestone Road, the soakaway needs to be replaced but no date given for this yet. A request for drain clearance has been submitted.

Cllr Coates reported that the white lines on the Faversham Road have been reported for refresh.

11. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerks pay and expenses Oct – December 2025

ii. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence salary and expenses October – December 2025 £1175.61 (cheque no 1429).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC- £244.20 (cheque no 1430).

iii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Faversham Town Council: £500 in respect of the Community Shopper Bus (cheque no 1431).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence: £62.00 reimbursement of garden waste bin fee (cheque no 1432).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr R Oldfield: £1 in respect of allotment rent (cheque no 1433).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr N Swatland: £500 in respect of grounds maintenance (cheque no 1434).

iv. To consider request from Marie Curie for a grant

Councillors considered the grant request and agreed that while the charity carries out fantastic work, being a small Parish Council with a small precept and having spent the grant budget, they were unable to make a donation.

v. To consider membership of CPRE

Councillors considered the invitation to join CPRE and agreed not to join.

vi. To consider budget and set precept for 2026- 27

Councillors considered the budget and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set a budget of £11,877.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set a precept of £9,681. Band D property £41.77.

12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed Watch sessions continue with encouraging results. More volunteers are needed.

Cllr Coates thanked the volunteers for their sterling work

13. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that the moss has been treated although further applications are required.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his excellent work.

ii. To consider quotation for play area inspection

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Trevor Muller Playground Inspections Limited for £210, being no increase from last year.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 11.12.25- Swale Borough Council: Planning Policy newsletter

2. 11.12.25- NALC CEO bulletin

3. 11.12.25- Kent Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Faversham Road, Newnham - 11 December 2025

4. 11.12.25- Swale Borough Council: proposed revision of car park tariffs in Swale Borough Council car parks

5. 15.12.25- Swale Borough Council: policy round up

6. 15.12.25- Kent and Medway Resilience Forum project update

7. 18.12.25- NALC CEO bulletin

8. 18.12.25- Swale Borough Council: Community Governance Review consultation

9. 19.12.25- request for voluntary service opportunity

10. 19.12.25- Kent Highways: Road Safety and Active Travel Newsletter

11. 19.12.25- Swale Borough Council: policy round up

12. 05.01.26- Swale Borough Council - bitesize Planning training opportunities for Councillors

13. 06.01.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round up

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Defibrillator training

Cllr Coates informed Members that he had found an organisation to run the training session at no charge but the volunteers would need travel expenses. The precise date for this session had yet to be agreed but March was a likely month.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the group's reasonable travel expenses.

Cllr Coates said SBCllr Thompson had some grant funding available, the Clerk has informed the Village Hall, the church and the games group.

16. KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2026

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 be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the KALC Community Awards

Councillors considered the nominations and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make the award to a resident for their outstanding contribution to the village.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 9 February 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 9 February 2026