

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 8 January 2024

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

Also present was PC Matt Ongley

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

None were declared.

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 DECEMBER 2023

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. CRIME REPORT

PC Ongley informed Councillors that no crimes had been reported in December; with
regards to antisocial behaviour, a speeding vehicle was reported.
Cllr Coates thanked PC Ongley for attending and for his report.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Coates reported that Chequers Hill had been swept. Cllr Attwood was thanked for
clearing the Kings Acre drains.

Cllr Coates said the missing litter bins had been reported to Swale Borough Council who
investigated the matter and has said the bins will be replaced. This will be monitored.

Cllr Coates reported that the bank mandate had not been received by NatWest and the
changes will be made via a link.

Cllr Coates said no comments had been made on the Swale Borough Council consultation
on the draft corporate plan.

Old School Cottage- there was no update.
ACTION: Clerk to contact applicant.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Jones reported The Street had been partially resurfaced to fix potholes, it is hoped there will be a thorough resurfacing in the summer.

Cllr Lumsden said a ROAD CLOSED sign was put up when there was no road closure, this led to confusion for motorists.

ii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that the flood mitigation work protecting the Old Lenham Road has coped well with recent rain, and he thanked Cllr Attwood for ensuring the Kings Acre lagoon was kept open. The final hedge planting is underway. There is no further news on the blocked soakaway near Ringlestone Road and the flooding by the waterworks. He continues to chase KCC.

Cllr Coates said there had been blocked drains at the pub and this has been reported. It is possible that this may have come from the existing water leak on Chequers Hill.

ACTION: Clerk to report

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 23/504136/FULL PINS ref: APP/V2255/W/23/3333589

Address: The Retreat Elverland Lane Ospringe

Proposal: (Retrospective) - Temporary Change of use of the land for the stationing of two static mobiles and two touring caravans for Gypsy/Traveller occupation for a single family for a period of 3 years. Creation of access track and associated hard and soft landscaping.

Cllr Coates reported that the application is going to appeal, the matter has been ongoing for eight years.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerks pay and expenses Oct – December 2023

It was agreed unanimously to pay Mrs W Licence salary and expenses £1288.34 (chq no 1353).

It was agreed unanimously to pay HMRC PAYE £135.20 (chq no 1354).

iii. Invoices for Payment- Any invoice for approval received by 8 January 2024

It was agreed unanimously to pay Mrs W Licence £60.00 reimbursement of moss killer.

iv. To consider request from Faversham Town Council for a grant towards the Community Bus

Councillors considered the request to support the Community Bus and noted that the Town Council has the vehicle ready, a Mercedes Sprinter fully accessible minibus and is currently in the process of registering the route with KCC and the Traffic Commissioner. It is hoped to start the service in March or April once the route has been registered. The ticket machine should be able to provide information regarding the usage of the bus.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** that the Council commits £500 per annum, for three years, to the scheme starting within the current financial year; **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

v. To consider budget and set precept for 2024- 25

Councillors considered the budget.

Cllr Jones **PROPOSED** the budget be set at £10381; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Jones **PROPOSED** a precept of £8641; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

It was agreed to have a six-monthly review.

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue. The traffic flow has reduced by 40% since the ongoing road works.

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser informed Members that he had been unable to treat the moss due to inclement weather. The minor tree works continue. The contractor has flagged up extensive tree works and this was mentioned in the last arboriculture report.

ii. To consider quotations for play area inspection

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £200.00 from Trevor Muller Playground Inspection Ltd.

Comparable quotations be obtained for the 2025 inspection.

iii. To consider quotation for grass cutting

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £427.39 from Landscape Services for mowing the Playing Field; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Comparable quotations be obtained for the 2025 grounds maintenance.

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation, from Mr N Swatland, of £500 for maintenance of the peripheral areas; **SECONDED** by Cllr Lumsden: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 12.12.23- Doddington Allotments: thank you for grant information (grant received to cover cost of tools)
2. 14.12.23- NALC CEO bulletin
3. 18.12.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure, The Street, Doddington 18 December 2023
4. 20.12.23- Kent Police: Rural Police matters
5. 21.12.23- NALC CEO bulletin

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates reported that there will be a new High Sheriff for the KALC Award presentation. Cllr Cuthbert informed Councillors that he is still trying to source the trophy.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 12 February 2024

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.48pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 12 February 2024