

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 9 January 2023

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

Also present was Ward Member David Simmons

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Duckworth (unwell); apologies accepted. Councillors sent their best wishes to Cllr Duckworth.
Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (work); 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 12 DECEMBER 2022

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 (except those issues appearing under specific headings)

Cllr Coates said the issue on footpath ZR281 had been reported, the Public Rights of Way Officer had made a site visit and the matter is awaiting allocation.

Cllr Coates said residents had raised issues regarding the garden bins not being collected, this is a contract management issue. This was reported and Donna Seager (Swale Borough Council Contracts Monitoring Officer) said that Biffa had cancelled the collection but failed to inform Swale Borough Council and they were unable to put in another collection.

SBCllr said the garden waste service is a constant source of irritation and it only gets recorded as a missed bin if reported within forty-eight hours. It is a discretionary service which is paid for by residents. The missed collections should be added on at the end of the resident's contract. The number of subscribers has reduced by a thousand since October 2022.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Coates said that Sally Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator had submitted a report and there were no issues for Doddington. Cllr Coates thanked Ms Mills for her sterling work.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

SBCllr Simmons reported that Swale House has now re-opened. The hedging for the War Memorial can be paid for with a grant from the Members' Fund.

ACTION: Clerk to request grant

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that the new hedging is being planted at the edge of the fields at the top of the Old Lenham Road to support the new bunds, so far 600 metres of the 1000m to be planted has been completed. To help the hedges get established, wood pulp kindly donated by Mr John Leigh-Pemberton of Torry Hill, will be applied as mulch in March. Work to raise the perimeter of the grazing fields near Kings Acre, supported by shallow bays to disperse the water is planned for early summer; this will be hedged in the autumn. The major part of the flood mitigation measures is now complete.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to write a letter of thanks to Mr Oldfield

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coates said the Clerk had requested a road sweep for Old Lenham Road, The Street and Chequers Hill, some roads were swept between Christmas and New Year. Biffa has been asked to keep a close eye on the area especially during the winter months

Cllr Coates said concerns continue to be raised about the state of the road surface in The Street, residents must continue to report issues on the KCC Highways portal.

Cllr Cuthbert said it is extremely dangerous for cyclists.

Cllr Fraser said the large pot hole near the edge of the road by "Eynsford" had been repaired but unfortunately it has collapsed. This has been reported again.

Cllr Coates said patching is not adequate.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to escalate to Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways Manager for Swale, and copy KCCllr Lehmann.

9. PLANNING

Ref: 22/504761/FULL

Address: Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Kent ME9 0NT

Proposal: Section 73 - Application for minor material amendment to approved plans condition 2 (to allow revisions to the weatherboarding and roofing material, reduction of some areas of weatherboarding and replacement with brickwork, revisions to windows and doors, and minor internal arrangement alterations) pursuant to 18/504562/FULL for - Alterations and extensions to existing residential care home to provide 12no. bedrooms and 2no. self contained two bedroom units with associated facilities. Erection of a single storey building to provide 4no. supported living self contained apartments, a new work shop building and associated landscape works.

Cllr Coates reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505331/FULL

Address: Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Kent ME9 0NT

Proposal: Erection of a single storey supported living building to provide additional 8 no. single occupancy rooms with shared living accommodation. Revised scheme to 18/504562/FULL, including changes to windows, doors and external materials.

Cllr Coates said that at the last meeting, it had been agreed that the Council would object to the proposal. Subsequently, further information was received and considered by Councillors via email. There were three continued objections to the proposal; three wanting to withdraw the objection; one abstention due to ill-health: the objection was withdrawn on the Chairman's casting vote.

Ref: 22/505034/LBC

Address: Doddington Place Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BB

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the erection of a three storey garden pavilion.

Ref: 22/505033/FULL

Address: Doddington Place Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BB

Proposal: Erection of a three storey garden pavilion.

Cllr Coates said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505462/FULL

Address: Tawnyhill Kennels Homestall Road Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0HF

Proposal: Erection of a 2 bedroom dwelling to provide essential worker accommodation, including an office, reception, and treatment room for use in connection with the existing kennels, and associated parking, access, and soft landscaping.

Cllr Coates informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505612/FULL

Address: Hilltop Cottage Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BN

Proposal: Erection of a new single storey timber frame garage and store for the sole use of Hilltop Cottage.

Cllr Coates reported that a decision is yet to be made.

10. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Cllr Coates said Faversham Town Council has contacted parishes to ascertain if there is a need for a community transport service, what that need is and if they would be interested in supporting a scheme and, if so, whether financially or volunteer time. Also, would the Council nominate a representative to sit on a separate committee?

Cllr Fraser said there is a need for local community transport, a shopper bus to Faversham twice a week. It could be funded as per the former Wealden Wheels scheme previously run in the village which had stopped because the funding had run out. There would often be ten passengers on a twelve-seater mini bus, half of whom could not have travelled to Faversham due to health reasons or lack of transport; others had cars but liked the idea of supporting the service. It became a social event, it helped bring the two villages together and it supported vulnerable people.

Cllr Cuthbert said some residents use the Kent Karrier which is their only means of getting out. The service is available to disabled or older people and people on low income, you have to pay for the service. Kent Karrier offers dial-a-ride and a round robin service.

Cllr Jones said that everyone wants a bus service for residents but it must be used.

It was agreed that there might be a need for the service as there had been previously when Wealden Wheels offered a shoppers bus. In principle the Council is supportive and it was felt that there may be a need for a twice weekly service. Cllr Kevin Fraser to be the nominated representative for the Council.

11. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerks pay and expenses October – December 2022

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence: salary and expenses £1198.30 (cheque no 1315).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC PAYE £64.60 (cheque no 1316).

iii. Invoices for Payment

a. Doddington Village Hall: Hall Hire- £72.00 (cheque no 1317).

iv. To consider budget and set precept for 2023- 24

Councillors considered the budget and the recommendation of the Finance Working Group not to increase in the precept for a Band D property due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** the budget be set at £9130; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** a precept of £8815; **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser said Speed Watch sessions continue in the village and all data is reported to the Police. Cllr Clare Boggia, Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council, wants to meet representatives from the Speed Watch Team on 11 February to find out more about the Doddington scheme and setting up a scheme in their parish.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his sterling work and report.

13. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Fraser reported that the play area Inspection has taken place and the report is due by the end of the week. The older equipment has non-compliance issues but as the regulations came into effect after the equipment was installed there is no need to remedy. The gates are closing too slowly and this needs to be remedied. The goal still needs attention and this will be done when the weather is better. The bearings on the roundabout are showing signs of wear and will need to be addressed. The top of the toddler tower posts have been deliberately damaged but this has been made safe; photos have been sent to Wicksteed to assess whether repair is possible and Cllr Fraser will report the incident to the police as potential criminal damage. The moss growth will be treated when the weather is better.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

14. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** not to participate in the scheme this year; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 14.12.22- NALC: Newsletter
2. 14.12.22- NALC: legal update
3. 15.12.22- KALC: Community Awards Scheme
4. 16.12.22- NALC: Newsletter
5. 04.01.23- KALC: elections bulletin
6. 04.01.23- KALC: training events
7. 04.01.23- Briefing Note from KCC- Public Transport Department

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates said he will be attending the KALC Swale Area Committee at The Alexander Centre on 10 January 2023.

Cllr Jones said he had circulated a draft article for the Newsletter and Facebook regarding the elections in May to get more people interested.

Cllr Coates said the April and May meetings fall on Bank Holidays.
The dates to be changed to 3 April at 7.30pm and 15 May at 8pm.

Date of next Meeting: - Monday 13 March 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 February 2023