

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 18 April 2019

Present: Cllr Kevin Attwood (Chairman), Cllr Philip Haynes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Steve Coates, Cllr Peter Duckworth, Cllr Graham Cuthbert, Cllr Colin Jones and Cllr Kevin Fraser; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

1. Apologies

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from KCCllr Andrew Bowles and SBCllr Colin Prescott; apologies noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. To Determine whether any items should be discussed in closed session

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that item 18 be held in closed session.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 March 2019.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2019 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Attwood.

5. Matters Arising

MISSING BINS

Cllr Attwood reported that Swale Borough Council will replace the missing dog waste bin by the Vicarage with a litter bin, but not the one at Sunnyside.

Cllr Haynes said the bin at the Vicarage had been a dual bin, there is a need for a bin at Sunnyside.

ACTION: Clerk to request a bin at Sunnyside

YEW TREE

Cllr Attwood reported the resident has been written to.

WEBSITE

Cllr Attwood said the Doddington Kent Parishes website has a link to the new site.

Cllr Cuthbert reported the link has not been changed on the Swale Borough Council website.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council to update details.

6. Community Warden Report

Community Warden Dave Osborne was unable to attend and sent details of scams and the following report:

Fly tipping Report

There has been a further report of fly tipping in Sawpit Road which has been reported to Swale Borough Council for clearance.

Latest Crime Reports

A small holding at the top of Hopes Hill was targeted but fortunately nothing was taken.

Please check any sheds and out buildings and make sure they are secure. If possible security mark your power tools, gardening equipment.

7. Neighbourhood Watch Report

Mrs Jackson, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator was unable to attend and sent the following report:

The only incident during the last month is that there was an attempted break in at the smallholding on Hopes Hill during the night of 24/25 March.

Two locks were forced, though nothing was taken. An alert was sent to those on the Neighbourhood Watch network.

8. Public Question Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

9. War Memorial

Cllr Attwood reported that the work will start in June. The Swale WW1 Centenary Grant Fund has closed and an application will be made to the Heritage Grant Fund in May. Newnham Parish Council has asked that the work be invoiced separately to the two Parish Councils and the stonemason has been asked to do this. The stone mason will need access to a water supply.

10. Planning Matters

i. Ref: 18/504562/FULL Address: Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington

Cllr Attwood informed Members that the application was not on last week's Planning Committee agenda. The updated Transport Statement is now online.

Cllr Fraser said the statement listed the bus numbers serving the village but did not give details of frequency. The statement also includes the school bus.

Cllr Haynes said the document also mentions there is bed and breakfast and camping in the village.

Cllr Attwood said the application may go to Committee on 25 April and if so another Councillor will need to attend.

Councillors agreed that objections to the proposal should be that it is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the scale and building mass; and that it is not in a sustainable location.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 8 April 2019

19/500294/FULL The Old Forge Cottage The Street Doddington ME9 0BG

Construction of a first floor extension with habitable loft space over existing single storey rear extension together with alterations to fenestration as amended by drawings

DS/2109/3a and DS/2109/4a

Cllr Attwood informed Councillors that the application had been permitted.

Ref: 19/500504/FULL The Old Post Office The Street Doddington ME9 0BH

Erection of single storey rear and side extension and conversion of outbuilding to provide utility room.

Cllr Attwood said a decision is yet to be made.

19/500668/FULL Post Office Cottage The Street Doddington ME9 0BH

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

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

11. Finance

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

a. KALC: Subscription renewal- £241.82

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the KALC subscription of £241.82 (cheque no 1179).

b. Mr TJ Carter: playground painting £1315.20

Councillors considered the invoice from Mr Carter. The quotation to paint the swing frames was for two days work at £150 per day plus materials, the contractor has carried out extra work without authorisation.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr Carter £490.20 being the amount of the quotation of £300 for labour and £190.20 for the materials (cheque no 1180).

ACTION: Clerk to seek advice from the Independent Internal Auditor

iii. To consider request from Doddington Snooker Club for a grant.

Cllr Attwood said Doddington Snooker Club has requested a grant towards the refurbishment of the snooker table which will cost £500.

ACTION: Clerk to request further information and inform the Club of other grants available.

12. Defibrillator

Cllr Coates said there was nothing to report.

13. Speed Watch

Cllr Fraser reported the Speed Watch sessions continue.

Cllr Coates said he has adjusted the maximum speed the equipment can record. The new cable has been supplied free of charge.

14. Playing Field

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth reported both contractors have carried out a first cut of the season. Cllr Fraser assisted with putting the football net back up. The moss killer has worked on all safety surfaces except by the roundabout which will need another treatment.

ii. To consider request from Funday Committee to allow dogs on the Playing Field for the Funday

Cllr Attwood said the Council had granted permission last year as a trial.

Cllr Haynes said there was not the opportunity to assess the situation as it rained hard.

Cllr Cuthbert said the Committee has set out very clearly how they will monitor dogs being allowed on the Playing Field for the duration of the Funday and based on this it would seem fair to give it another trial.

Cllr Coates said that he was concerned that this might set a precedent as people are not always good at reading signs.

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** to allow dogs on the Playing Field for the Funday: **5-FOR, 1-AGAINST: MOTION CARRIED.**

15. Highways

i. Highways Update and notification of further work required

Cllr Attwood said the issues regarding the A20 junction are ongoing.

ii. Flooding issues

Cllr Attwood said Annie Thurgarland, KCC Natural Flood Management, has made a site visit. Holes have been dug to find the depth of the chalk strata but at 2.5m depth it could not be found. Ms Thurgarland has suggested a series of stepped 10m swale along the hedge line of both grass fields fronting on the old Lenham Road with a 1m depth and a bund of the dug soil between the swales and the hedge forming a continuous bund. Ms Thurgarland is in favour of gapping the hedge between Spratt's Wood and Kings Acre as well as gapping the hedge fronting the Old Lenham Road between Willow Shave and the south end of the

Stapleton field but KCC has very limited money and may only be able to afford a digger and driver to do the excavation work. This area is in the Kent Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty so they would also need to be consulted. Attenuation or drainage ponds will not work as the chalk strata is too far down.

Cllr Fraser thanked Cllr Attwood for his sterling work on the flooding issues.

16. Correspondence

1. 17.03.19: Resident's comment on Ellen's Court

2. 18.03.19: SBC Rural Sustainable Settlement Study questionnaire

Cllr Haynes said that he had responded to the questionnaire.

3. 19.03.19: KCC Streetworks- Emergency Road Closure - Newnham Lane, Newnham - 20 March 2019-added to website

4. 25.03.19: KCCllr Bowles- update on A20 Lenham Junction

5. 25.03.19: KALC Swale Area Committee meeting minutes

6. 25.03.19: Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne WW1 Peace Day Celebrations

Cllr Coates said the Funday Committee is having Peace Day Celebrations as part of the Funday. The Sittingbourne event should be publicised.

ACTION: Clerk

7. 29.03.19: PCSO engagement

8. 03.04.19: Able Care- offer of free "No Cold Calling" stickers

9. 04.04.19: Kent Police- CRAG report and latest Kent Police Rural Liaison Team report

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Haynes reported that a large beech tree has fallen in woods at the end of the set-aside field.

ACTION: Cllr Attwood to notify the land owner.

Cllr Coates said the rectangular manhole cover just above the new houses in Chequers Hill is a trip hazard and has been reported to KCC Highways.

In light of Councillor Haynes standing down from the Parish Council at this year's elections Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Haynes for all his hard work whilst on the Parish Council during his time as a Councillor as well as Vice Chairman.

18. Staffing Matters

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

i. Clerk's Appraisal

ii. National Salary Award

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

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 May 2019

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

13 May 2019