DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 14 September 2026

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

Also present was Ward Councillors Terry Thompson

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

1. APOLOGIES
Apologies had been received from Cllr Steve Coates (holiday) and Cllr Kevin Attwood (holiday); apologies accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None were declared

3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION
None

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2026
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Jones duly signed the minutes.

5. MATTERS ARISING

War Memorial

Cllr Jones thanked SBCllr Thompson for the provision of the wood for maintenance at the War Memorial site. The work has been completed.

Old Lenham Road Sweep

Cllr Jones reported that there was no further news on the timing of the promised work to clear vegetation and accumulated material following the stage 2 complaint to SBC. This has been chased again.

Play Area

A grant application was submitted to the National Lottery Awards for All for the full amount on 17 July; a decision is expected within sixteen weeks

Safe Contents

The History Group now has all the papers from the safe.
The Village Hall Committee has asked if they can use the safe to store some papers, this has been agreed.

6. POLICE REPORT
PC Gary Morris was unable to attend but sent a written report:

17 August 2026, Chequers Hill – An outbuilding was unlawfully accessed; nothing was reported stolen.
16 August 2026, The Street – Residential burglary.
26 August 2026, Down Court Road – An outbuilding was unlawfully accessed and garden furniture was stolen.
During the past two months, there have been reports relating to suspected poaching activity. Poaching and hare coursing remain priorities under Operation Galileo, the national policing operation aimed at tackling these offences and protecting rural communities.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

SBCllr Thompson reported that he has a grant pot of £1,000 to cover his whole ward and invited applications for small projects. The Local Government Reorganisation has been paused pending a review.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Jones informed Members that following reports about damage to the traffic calming and incorrect highways signage Kent Highways had responded straight away.
Cllr Fraser reported that three posts have been knocked down at West End and another post has been knocked down by Yew Tree Cottages traffic calming. Cllr Jones said a few blocks in the traffic calming at the top of Chequers Hill were also missing.
ACTION: Clerk to report.
Cllr Jones said a few blocks in the traffic calming at the top of Chequers Hill are missing.
Cllr Cuthbert said egressing Down Court Road is dangerous because of speeding vehicles, the sign warning of the left-hand turn is missing and the *SLOW* sign needs refreshing.
ACTION: Clerk to report.
Cllr Jones reported that following the flooding in 2018, Kent Highways agreed there would be six-monthly inspections of the drains in the Old Lenham Road; these are long overdue. He has phoned and written multiple times but there has been no response. The Director of Highways has been contacted, if there is no response, the MP will be contacted.

9. 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
Cllr Jones informed Members that the decision has been put back to November.

ii. Ref: 26/503198/FULL
Address: Hill Cottage Dully Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BY
Proposal: Erection of part single storey, part two storey side and rear extensions.
Only comment to date is DWN History Group would like to visit the site when foundations are dug to record any evidence for the Roman road foundations.
Councillors considered the proposal and had no comment to make save that neighbours' comments be taken into account.

iii. Ref: 26/503322/FULL
Address: Woodstock The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BH
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension.
Councillors considered the proposal and had no comment to make save that neighbours' comments be taken into account.

iv. Any other planning matter received by 14 September 2026
Ref: 26/501794/FULL Address: The Oast Driving Range Church Road Tonge ME9 9AR
Proposal: Refurbishment of existing golf course through engineering works to raise the level of the ground and relay and shape the new golf course and create drainage, new greens and tees for a 6 hole golf course including ecological enhancements.
Awaiting decision

v. Swale Borough Council: Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation
Cllr Jones informed Members that the consultation does not mention Doddington specifically and so no response is needed.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses
There were none.

ii. Clerk salary
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the Clerk £434.25 in respect of salary (cheque no 1460).
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £36.40 in respect of PAYE & NI (cheque no 1460).

iii. Invoices for Payment
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Commercial Services Ltd in respect of Playing Field cutting (cheque no 1458).
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Four Jays Ltd £261.60 in respect of the summer port-a-loo (cheque no 1459)
ACTION: Clerk to check details in quote regarding servicing.

iv. Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the Local Government Services Pay Agreement.

11. SPEED WATCH
Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue with encouraging results.

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report
Cllr Fraser reported that the cutting has kept pace with the need and there have been eight cuts of the Playing Field to date. Thanks go to the Fete Committee and helpers for tidying the Playing Field after the Fete.
ACTION: Clerk to write letter of thanks.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 15.07.26- resident query: Overhanging Trees on Lady Margaret Manor Road

Response sent

2. 16.07.26- Swale Borough Council: Government decision on Local Government Reorganisation
3. 16.07.26- Kent Highways: South East Water - Urgent Road Closure- Faversham Road, Newnham – 16 July
4. 16.07.26- NALC CEO bulletin
5. 20.07.26- Kent Highways: South East Water - Emergency Road Closure - Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington - 20 July 2026
6. 20.07.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
7. 23.07.26- NALC CEO bulletin

8. 24.07.26- Kent Highways: UK Power Networks South Eastern - Emergency Road Closure - The Street, Doddington - 20 July 2026
9. 27.07.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
10. 27.07.26- Swale Borough Council: Planning Policy Newsletter
11. 27.07.26- Kent Highways: South East Water - Emergency Road Closure - Doddington Lane , Doddington - 25 July 2026
12. 27.07.26- NHS Kent and Medway: commissioning intentions for 2027/28
13. 30.07.26- NALC CEO bulletin
14. 31.07.26- KALC: training bulletin
15. 31.07.26- Kent Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Faversham Road, Wichling - 31 July 2026
16. 03.08.26- Kent Highways: Openreach - Temporary Road Closure - Doddington Lane, Doddington - 29 September 2026
17. 10.08.26- Swale Borough Council: Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation
18. 11.08.26- KALC: newsletter
19. 11.08.26- NALC CEO bulletin
20. 11.08.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
21. 18.08.26- NALC CEO bulletin
22. 20.08.26- Swale Borough Council: Your Swale survey
23. 24.08.26- KALC: National Rural Crime Action Week 2026
24. 24.08.26- invitation to the screening of the National Emergency Briefing Film at Doddington Village Hall

Unfortunately, no one is available that evening and comments will be sent to be read out. It was agreed to defer to next meeting to agree wording.

25. 25.08.26- NALC CEO bulletin
26. 03.09.26- resident concern regarding traffic

Response sent

27. 04.09.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
28. 07.09.26- KALC: newsletter
29. 10.09.26- NALC CEO bulletin
30. 11.09.26- Swale Borough Council: Councillors & Residents Forum - Tuesday 13 October at 7 pm.
31. 11.09.26- Swale Borough Council: update on the Local Government Reorganisation

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jones reported that the poppy wreath has been ordered.

Cllr Lumsden reported that the cone she had put on the drain cover on the footway opposite the Old Lenham Road was moved regularly and has now disappeared. The cone was to deter people from parking on the footway and damaging the drain.
Cllr Cuthbert said a resident had raised concern that they had found it difficult to pass the vehicles parked on the footway with a buggy.
ACTION: Item for newsletter.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 9 November 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.08pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman Date: 12 October 2026