

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of Doddington Parish Council held on Monday 9 February 2015

Present: Cllrs Cuthbert (Chairman), Attwood, Coates, Duckworth, Haynes and Jones and Mrs Licence (Clerk).

Also present were KCCllr Bowles, SBCllr Prescott and one member of the public

1 Apologies

All Councillors were in attendance.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cuthbert invited Members to declare any items of interest or lobbying on this agenda. None were declared.

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

None were identified.

4. Vacancy on Parish Council for a Co-opted Councillor

Cllr Cuthbert explained that there is still a vacancy on the Parish Council and as it is near to the elections there is no need to fill the vacancy. There has been some interest in the Parish and residents will be encouraged to stand for election in May.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 January 2015

Councillors considered the minutes, including the confidential minutes, of the meeting of 12 January 2015 and the minutes were approved unanimously. Cllr Cuthbert signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

i. KALC Awards

Cllr Cuthbert informed members that Mr Hugo Fenwick, the High Sheriff, has confirmed that there is space in the diary to attend the ceremony although there will be a new High Sheriff in May. Councillors considered the arrangements for the Presentation of the KALC Awards on 11 May 2015. IT WAS AGREED that the Annual General Meeting will start at 7pm and the presentation of the award will be at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee will be served and the Annual Parish Meeting will follow.

ACTION: Clerk to invite the High Sheriff to make the presentation of the KALC Award

Clerk to publicise the event in the Newsletter.

ii. Wall at Chequers Inn

The Clerk informed Councillors that she was still waiting for information from Building Control. Councillors advised that no action had been taken to rectify the problem.

7. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

i. Report from the Community Warden

Cllr Cuthbert advised that Community Warden Paul Crispe had nothing to report.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Cuthbert advised Councillors that Mrs Jackson had nothing much to report from the previous month. There have been thefts from outbuildings in villages nearer Sittingbourne and Painters Forstal, and a recent attempted burglary in Eastling, but apart from those nothing untoward has happened in Doddington, Newnham or Wychling.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the public question time but no questions were raised from the floor.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

i. 14/501545/FULL The Square Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BL

Cllr Haynes reported that he and Cllr Coates had attended the site meeting and passed on the comments of the Parish Council.

Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that the planning applications had been approved and he thanked Cllr Haynes and Cllr Coates for attending on behalf of the Parish Council.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 9 February 2015

No other planning matter had been received.

11. PROVISION OF A DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Cuthbert informed Councillors that Swale Lions Club has generously given £300.00 to the appeal which brings the amount raised to £1050.00. The cost of the defibrillator is £1347.60 (net cost £1123.00) plus installation. Swale Lions have asked whether there can be any publicity for the Club and Cllr Cuthbert suggested that when the defibrillator is installed there should be an official "opening" and that the press should be invited to attend.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain when the defibrillator will be delivered.

12. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none

Invoices for Payment

i. Wealden Wheels: Community Bus

Cllr Cuthbert explained that SBCllr Prescott has agreed to give a grant of £250.00 to Doddington Parish Council towards the Community Bus and the invoice from Wealden Wheels is £250.00. The bus costs £65 a week to operate. There is guaranteed funding for the next six months and the cost is generally being covered by donations, grants and fundraising. A committee has recently been formed and their first fundraising event is a beetle drive on Saturday 28 February at Newnham Village Hall.

Cllr Haynes PROPOSED to pay the invoice from Wealden Wheels for £250.00 (cheque no 1043); SECONDED by Cllr Attwood AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

ii. Allotment Rent

Cllr Cuthbert informed members that the annual rent of £1.00 has been received from the Allotment Association and the Parish Council now needs to pay Mr Oldfield £1.00.

Cllr Haynes PROPOSED to pay Mr Oldfield £1.00 (cheque no 1044); SECONDED by Cllr Attwood AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

Any other invoice for approval received by 9 February 2015

No other invoices had been received.

13. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Cllr Cuthbert reminded Members that documents concerning Performance Monitoring for Clerk's annual salary review had been circulated prior to the meeting for consideration.

Cllr Jones explained that advice had been received not to back date to measure performances and suggested that an appraisal be carried out in April to discuss training and development with the Clerk, this was provided for in the Clerk's contract.

Cllr Cuthbert told Councillors that the parameters and salary point will be set in April. Cllr Jones

offered to assist with the appraisal.

Cllr Cuthbert thanked Cllr Jones for the work he had done on the appraisal document.

14. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth advised Councillors that he regularly inspects the playing Field and the equipment and there are no problems. Work has not yet started on the repairs to the goal mouth.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the contractor regarding the repairs to the goal mouth.

ii. To consider quotation for Portaloo for Funday

The Clerk had circulated details of quotations received for provision of a Portaloo for the Funday prior to the meeting. The cost of hiring one unit for four weeks including delivery and collection and weekly servicing:

Local Toilet Hire: Total: £185.00 + vat

Euro Loo: Total: £240.00 + vat

Four Jays: Total £192.00 + vat

Cllr Cuthbert reminded Councillors that for the past three years Four Jays have provided the Portaloo and have given a good service. Cllr Cuthbert PROPOSED to accept the quotation from Four Jays to provide the Portaloo for the Funday; SECONDED by Cllr Attwood. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACTION: Clerk to place the order with Four Jays.

15. HIGHWAYS

i. Highways Update

Cllr Cuthbert reminded Councillors that following January's Parish Council meeting, the Clerk had written to Torry Hill Ltd to express concern about the amount of mud on the road at the junction of Lade Wood Hill and Ringlestone Road. There had been an encouraging response from the owner outlining a schedule of improvements including an internal track.

Cllr Haynes expressed concern that the area is still problematic with a great deal of water and mud on the road.

Cllr Cuthbert suggested continual monitoring of the area.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Head of Planning SBC: invitation to a briefing session: 'Planning: Overview of recent appeal costs decisions against the Council' to be held on Thursday 5 March at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Swale House.

Cllr Attwood will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

2. Swale Rural Forum agenda (10 February at 7pm at Lower Halstow Memorial Hall)

Cllr Bowles informed the Council that the Swale Local Engagement Forum is now on Wednesday 7 March.

3. KALC: Towards Greater Transparency: An Audit Workshop Thurs 26 Feb @ Lenham Community Centre £25

IT WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the Clerk can attend the workshop which is for smaller councils concerning the changes that are about to take place as regards auditing procedures and that overtime, if appropriate, and expenses can be claimed.

4. Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that he has received a form concerning the grant for the Community Bus and this needs to be completed at the end of the meeting.

Correspondence Already Circulated

Mid Kent Downs Newsletter

KALC Newsletter

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Haynes updated Members about the problems with the internet in the village. BT have admitted that there is a problem. The village is fibre ready and if enough residents apply for fibre optic service BT will provide it. It means that internet speed will be four to five times faster than it currently is.

ACTION: Cllr Haynes to draft an article for the newsletter.

Cllr Haynes also raised concern that youngsters on motor bikes had been going round the village and through the woods at the weekend. There were no baffles on the bikes. A call to 101 was unsuccessful.

Cllr Cuthbert suggested it might be an isolated incident but it must be monitored.

ACTION: Cllr Attwood to circulate details of Rural Police to Councillors.

Cllr Coates asked whether the recent changes in bank signatories were satisfactory.

The Clerk confirmed that she had checked with the bank and everything is in order.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Date of next meeting:- Monday 9 March 2015

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings

Chairman.....Date: 9 March 2015