

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 11 April 2022

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

Also present were County Councillor Rich Lehmann and one member of the public.

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

All Members were present.

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 17. Clerk's Annual Appraisal be discussed in closed session.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 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

Cllr Coates said Mr Nick Swatland has been approached to repair the fence behind the goal.

Cllr Coates reported there had been an issue with the defibrillator which showed a battery fault, SECamb has been informed. A new battery has been ordered and it will be delivered tomorrow. There is a new system to register defibrillators.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to register the defibrillator.

Cllr Jones asked for an update on The Retreat.

The Clerk reported that she had requested an update from George Myneham, Swale Borough Council Planning Enforcement Officer, (cc James Freeman, Head of Planning) but had yet to hear back.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Coates said report from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and the PCSO have been circulated. There has been an instance of criminal damage in The Street. The PCSO wants to hold a surgery in the village, but the Village Hall Committee are unable to waive the fee. The Parish Council thought the Village Hall was a suitable venue and agreed to fund the sessions as they would be beneficial to residents, but the PCSO's Sergeant thought it was not appropriate for the Council to pay the hire charge. This matter will be raised at the next KALC Swale Area Committee as Chief Inspector Joel Mitchell attends the meetings.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

KCCllr Lehmann reported that he had held a drop-in session for the Bus Consultation to allow people to respond. It was a very successful event and it seems that the bus service in the valley is needed by residents.

Cllr Coates thanked KCCllr Lehmann for organising the event.

A resident raised concern that there might be a connection between the drainage problems in the village and the HGVs. Every summer lorries are overloaded and are not sheeted resulting in wood chippings, grain and straw are left on the roads; this goes into the drains and is causing problems for the village. It lifted up the drain near Rose Cottage. Vehicles are being parked on the verge at Sunnyside.

Cllr Fraser said Swale Borough Council can be approached regarding the vehicles on the verge as this belongs to them even though the houses belong to Optivo.

Cllr Attwood said there is no legal obligation for agricultural vehicles to be sheeted up as the trailers are going from field to farm. Leaf fall is an issue regarding the volume of debris. Cllr Coates said parked cars in Chequers Hill caused a problem for the team cleaning the drains and they had to return.

ACTION: Clerk to report cars parked on the verge to Swale Borough Council.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coates said a resident had written regarding the state of The Street, this has previously been reported to KCC Highways and it is on their list of work to do.

Cllr Jones said it had been a priority on the draft Parish Highways Improvement Plan (which was never implemented), KCC Highways monitor the roads annually.

Cllr Coates said residents need to log complaints on the Highways Portal.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to resident.

ii. HGVs

Cllr Coates said he has received a response from Larissa Reed, CEO Swale Borough Council, there is nothing to be done regarding the vehicles using the road between the A20 and the A2. The route has been identified the route as a rat run.

Cllr Fraser said there is continual complaints from residents and also damage to the roads by the HGVs.

Cllr Attwood said the situation will change when the HGVs stop taking spoil to the Golf Course.

Cllr Jones said Swale Borough Council has no power to lay down what routes the HGVs can use, this matter should be reviewed in a few months time.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council and Wychling Parish to ascertain their position.

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that KCC Highways is waiting to conduct a CCTV survey on the drain near Sunnyside. The drain in Chequers Hill has been dealt with.

Cllr Jones informed Members that there has been agreement from KCC regarding the solution to divert the water into the lagoon.

Cllr Attwood said following a site visit a series of possible actions had been agreed but subsequently KCC Officer, is considering different options as she does not think what has been proposed is sufficient.

Cllr Jones said this needs to be challenged. Max Tant, KCC Flood and Water Management had commissioned the work with a remit of what to deliver.

Cllr Attwood said the solutions agreed had been the two lagoons one at the top of the Old Lenham Road and one at the byway further down the Old Lenham Road with the water running off along the side of the field, plus swales in the field opposite Kings Acre. Now this is being questioned.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his report and Cllr Attwood for his support and involvement.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Ref: 22/501431/FULL

Address: Graces Place Homestall Road Doddington Kent ME9 0HF

Proposal: Siting of 1no. additional mobile home at existing traveller's site (retrospective).

Councillors considered the application. Concern was raised that this is the second retrospective planning application for the site; the first application was for unique circumstances; this application undermines the first application; residents are bound by planning rules and regulations and this must equally apply to members of the travelling community. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to oppose the application.

Cllr Coates reported the Council has been notified of another planning application today and this will be on the next agenda.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Doddington Village Hall £20 for the Bus consultation event (cheque no 1287).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr G Cuthbert £44.95, reimbursement for the KALC Award trophy (cheque no 1288).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence £220, reimbursement of the defibrillator battery (cheque no 1289).

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported to Members that Speed Watch sessions continue. The figures for the past two years have been compared and the trend is that the number of speeding vehicles has reduced. This is a positive effect of the dedication of the Speed Watch Team.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report and thanked the team for their hard work.

12. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Duckworth reported the moss has been treated and has reduced significantly around the slide and roundabout. The grass is growing normally, there may need to be an extra cut. The gates are working properly.

Cllr Fraser informed Members that he has started work on the hedge at the top of the Playing Field. Wicksteed were supposed to call to arrange a site visit but there has been nothing from them.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

13. WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Coates said the trees at the War Memorial have been damaged and a request has been made for the replacement of the rear hedge.

Councillors agreed that they would be agreeable for quotes to be obtained for the work, the quotes to be detailed with a preference for yew rather than beech.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Newnham Parish Council.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 16.03.22- Swale Joint Transportation minutes
2. 22.03.22- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Sharsted Road, Doddington - 28 March
3. 23.03.22- Faversham Rotary Club: Faversham Bike Ride
4. 24.03.22- Swale Borough Council: invitation to Green Grid meeting, Wednesday 4 May 2022
5. 25.03.22- NALC: Newsletter
6. 29.03.22- NALC CEO: newsletter
7. 29.03.22- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Hopes Hill, Doddington - 13 April 2022
8. 29.03.22- NALC: Newsletter
9. 30.03.22- Swale Economic Development E-bulletin - March 2022
10. 01.04.22- KALC: flyers for Planning training and events for April and May
11. 04.04.22- Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent: annual sponsored walk in aid of Cancer Research UK and other good causes 12 June
12. 06.04.22- Maidstone Borough Council: Local Plan Review Regulation 22 Notification of Submission
13. 06.04.22- Kent County Council: Strategic Statement Consultation
14. 06.04.22- Helen Whately MP: Parish Update
15. 07.04.22- NALC: Newsletter
16. 07.04.22- KALC Swale Area Committee meeting papers 10th May
17. 08.04.22- KALC: Newsletter

15. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Coates informed Members that the Clerk is waiting to hear if the new High Sheriff will attend.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other matters were raised.

17. CLERK'S ANNUAL APPRAISAL

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.

Cllr Jones reported he had conducted the Clerk's Annual Appraisal and **PROPOSED** to increase her salary by one Spinal Column Point: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 9 May 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 9 May 2022