

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes for the meeting of Doddington Parish Council on 14 December 2015

Present: Cllr Cuthbert (Chair), Cllr Attwood (Vice Chair), Cllr Coates, Cllr Duckworth, Cllr Fraser, Cllr Haynes and Cllr Jones; and Mrs Licence (Clerk).

Also present were Community Warden Dave Osborne and one member of the public.

### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bowles who was at another meeting, apology noted.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Haynes declared that he would be providing a laptop to the Parish Council, as previously agreed, through his company at cost.

### 3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

None were identified.

### 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2015

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 November 2015 were considered. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record. Cllr Cuthbert duly signed the minutes as a true record.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Cllr Cuthbert explained that BT Infinity are keen to bring Superfast Fibre to the area, which will increase Broadband speed and they are exploring how best to achieve that. They may deliver it as part of their commercial programme, or by working in partnership with local authorities. At the moment you can not order Superfast Fibre.
- ii. Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that the yew tree outside of Yew Tree House has been reported to Swale Borough Council. Cllr Cuthbert said there were a few dead twigs and it was not really a problem.
- iii. Cllr Cuthbert has written an article about Post Office for Village Newsletter which was published
- iv. Cllr Cuthbert has given Doddington in Bloom a slab to go under the defibrillator.
- v. Cllr Haynes informed Councillors that he has ordered the laptop and it will be delivered in a week. It was agreed to use Open Office software which Cllr Haynes will download.
- vi. Cllr Jones asked that the decision to hold the KALC Awards bi-annually be included in the Newsletter, agreed.

### 6. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Cuthbert confirmed that Newnham Parish Council has a SID, not a gun, which the Parish Council could borrow. A donation of £10 has been mentioned in the past. A request for volunteers had been put in the Newsletter and so far one resident has volunteered and three Councillors.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact to arrange a training session.*

### 7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mrs Jackson had sent apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and reported that after a welcome gap, there was a series of burglaries of equipment and vehicles from out buildings in the Brogdale and Throwley areas. Nearer home quantities of copper piping and tanks were stolen from the Tapster Bar in Newnham in the first half of November. The local police held mobile surgeries throughout the area during the month.

Cllr Cuthbert thanked Mrs Jackson for her report and for her work as neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Cllr Cuthbert said there was also a burglary from a car in Chequers Hill and there was also a report of rubbish being dumped in Church Lane from a car which had been stolen in

Bapchild.

Cllr Fraser reported that he had been notified of a car being broken into at Westend Cottages.

Cllr Cuthbert said it was important for all incidents to be reported to the Police.

## **8. COMMUNITY WARDEN**

Cllr Cuthbert welcomed Community Warden Dave Osborne to the meeting.

Mr Osborne reported that last week he had been contacted by an elderly resident in Newnham who had had a call from someone purporting to be from KCC Highways with left over tarmac and offering to do some work. Thankfully, the lady declined.

Mr Osborne said that residents need to be careful and must not leave the boxes from new TV's and other high value goods out by their dustbins as this advertises that fact that they have new things possibly attracting burglars; the packaging should be put in the blue bin.

Community Wardens have been working with Trading Standards to help combat scams in the county. Would-be scammers have a list of people who respond to emails and they call victims saying that they are from banks, building societies and even Paypal. One of the problems is that the scammers stay on the line and do not hang up but BT are trying to resolve this issue. Banks do not need to ask customers for account details, they have this anyway.

Another scam is phone calls about computer issues and they have even called people who do not own computers. Residents must be vigilant.

Mr Osborne had brought along some "No Cold Calling" signs, security markers and leaflets about shed security for distribution.

Cllr Cuthbert thanked Mr Osborne for attending.

## **9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

#1- The car which had been broken into at Westend Cottages was in the lay-by and the present which had been left in it was stolen. The Police have been notified.

Mr Osborne said that residents must always report such incidences to the Police on 101 and this will enable the Police to put resources in the right areas.

## **10. DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr Coates reported that the defibrillator is in good order.

## **11. PLANNING MATTERS**

### i. Meeting with SBC Planning

Cllr Attwood and Cllr Haynes had met with James Freeman and Graham Thomas. There has been no response from Mr Freeman about the village boundary.

*ACTION: Clerk to write again.*

Cllr Haynes explained that Mr Freeman had discussed the way to object to a planning application; if the regulations have been followed the Planning Committee are unable to turn it down.

### ii. Ref no: 15/509958/FULL

Address: Little Sharsted Farm Sharsted Road Doddington Kent ME9 0JT

Proposal: Erection of cherry packing facility

Councillors considered the application.

Concern was expressed that the English cherry season is only six weeks long, although cold storage will extend the packing period for a further four weeks, and to build a cherry picking facility for such a short time would not be viable. An application for a fruit packing facility at Selling has been withdrawn. The facility at Little Sharsted Farm might be used to pack fruit from other growers and this would add to the traffic, there is already a distribution centre there. Most of the cherry crop went to Marks and Spencer as the farm produces a top quality crop and drivers only use smaller rigid lorries. Other hauliers might use thirty eight or forty-four ton vehicles as they are more efficient. Concern was also expressed because parents drop their children off at Linstead School and park the other side of the road and then. Concern was also expressed that another soft fruit pack house is closing in Selling leaving a gap in production; this was an eighteen hour, three hundred and fifty five days per year

operation.

Councillors **AGREED** not object to the application in principle but would ask for a condition that the facility would only be used for fruit from AR Neaves & Sons Ltd farms due to concern about the amount of extra traffic it would generate.

iii. Any planning matter received by 14 December 2015

There were no other planning matters

**13. WAR MEMORIAL**

Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that he had tried to arrange a meeting to assess the damage to the War Memorial but unfortunately this will not now be possible until the New Year.

Deferred until the February meeting.

**14. FINANCE**

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none

ii. Precept Bid 15/16 to discuss initial budget workings

A meeting will be arranged to consider the precept bid with Cllr Cuthbert, Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED** to pay Commercial Services £248.57 for the second half yearly instalment for maintenance of the Playing Field (cheque no 1075).

**15. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN**

Cllr Cuthbert told Councillors that there is a training session on 17<sup>th</sup> December and the Clerk will attend.

**17. PLAYING FIELD**

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly update

Cllr Duckworth informed Members that he has the moss killer but has not been able to use it due to the wet weather. It was **AGREED** to purchase more moss killer. The last arboricultural survey recommended cutting the ivy on the trees.

*ACTION: Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Fraser to cut the ivy.*

The quotation received from Landscape Services for maintenance of the Playing Field was considered.

*ACTION: Clerk to clarify how many times the football pitch was remarked and to confirm the number of cuts with the large and smaller mowers.*

**18. HIGHWAYS**

i. Highways Update and notification of further work required

Cllr Cuthbert informed Councillors that the drain which was collapsing near the garage had been reported to KCC and the work has been completed.

Cllr Duckworth said Torry Hill had been closed again and covers were being put on the telephone cables and water valves. Cllr Duckworth raised concern about the drain being so far out in the road and was told nothing would be done until Spring.

Cllr Duckworth reported that the drains in the village had been cleansed.

Cllr Haynes reported the light at the Newnham end of the village is permanently on.

Cllr Haynes informed Councillors that a resident had fallen against the post at the bottom of Dully Hill where the flower boarder is and the posts need to have white reflectors as it is very dangerous in the dark.

Cllr Cuthbert said there are pot holes in Down Court Road. There are leaves on Chequers Hills and Cllr Cuthbert has spent several hours clearing them.

**19. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 09.11 15 -The Conservation Volunteers- Planting Commemorative Future Heritage Trees in Swale- *circulated*

2. 25.11.15- Cllr Bowles' Newsletter- *circulated*

3. 26.11.15- Kent Fire & Rescue Service Consultation Safety and Wellbeing Plan 2016-2018 - *circulated*
4. 27.11.15 -SBC Planning Enforcement Strategy- *circulated*
5. 27.11.15 –SBC Swale Joint Transportation agenda- *circulated*
6. 27.11.15 -Clean for the Queen- *circulated*
7. 10. 12. 2015- Proposed Permanent M20 Lorry Area: Invitation to Stakeholder Briefing: *circulated*
8. 11.12.2015- KALC register of interest for Chairmanship Conference 2016 on 26 February 2016 with Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in attendance.
9. 11.12.2015- Christmas Greetings from Cllr Bowles- *circulated*

**20. AOB**

Cllr Haynes said that the Youth Club would like to use the Village Hall.

Cllr Cuthbert said this was not a Parish Council decision, what they are doing is really good but unfortunately the Village Hall Committee is unable to let everyone use it for free.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 11 January 2016**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06 pm

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

.....Chairman  
Date: 11 January 2015