

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 13 February 2023

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

Also present was County Councillor Rich Lehmann

1. APOLOGIES

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

Apologies had been received from Cllr Steve Coates (holiday) and Cllr Peter Duckworth (unwell); apologies accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

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

None were identified.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 January 2023

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Jones duly signed the minutes as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING (except those issues appearing under specific headings)

Footpath ZR281

Cllr Jones reported that the landowner has appealed to the High Court against the Inspector's decision to modify the definitive map and statement for the area by realigning a section of Footpath ZR281 where it joins The Street.

War Memorial Hedging

Cllr Jones reported that a Swale Borough Council Members Grant has been applied for to pay for the hedging and this has been approved. Cllr Jones thanked SBCllr Simmons for his support.

Village Hall invoices

Cllr Jones said that a query had been raised regarding the cost of hall hire and it has been clarified that there were two extra sessions, one for the Bus Services consultation on 9 April and the other for the Police Surgery on 20 June.

The Street

Cllr Jones informed Members that the state of the road surface had been raised with Alan Blackburn, Swale District Manager KCC Highways, and he has responded that the road is unlikely to be treated next financial year. Mr Blackburn has said that issues must be reported via the KCC portal. Cllr Jones said that this was not satisfactory given the condition of the road; KCCllr Lehmann should be invited to progress the matter, and residents encouraged to report issues.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would do its own survey of road conditions and prioritise and report the issues to Mr Blackburn and via the portal.

Cllr Fraser said pot holes get repaired quicker if there are multiple reports.

ACTION 1: Cllr Cuthbert and Cllr Fraser to survey The Street.

ACTION 2: Clerk to report issues.

May Elections

Cllr Jones said it had been agreed to encourage residents to stand for election, an article was sent for the Newsletter but this was not published. It is on the Council's website and Facebook page and will be submitted to the Newsletter again for publication.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Sally Mills, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator reported:

Unfortunately, Doddington and Newnham both suffered incidences of vandalism and theft in January.

- Between 00:01 on Monday 2nd of January and 23:59 on Sunday 8th of January. Somebody damaged the new toddler playing equipment at Doddington Playing Field.
- On Tuesday 10th of January between 00:01 and 10:00. Somebody smashed a window of a vehicle parked in The Street Newnham.
- Outbuildings on a small-holding on Hopes Hill were burgled between 19.00 on 17th January and 05.00 on the 18th January. During the burglary, two garden trolleys and two sheep pen gates were taken. The items were carried over the gate without breaking the padlocks.

Cllr Jones thanked Ms Mills for her report.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

KCCllr Lehmann reported that the 662 school bus service to Faversham has been saved from cuts. The service is for young people who are entitled to free transport to the nearest appropriate school and the cost of transporting them by taxi was greater than the Kent County Council subsidy so the service has been kept on. Young people who are not entitled to free transport are also able to use the service as can members of the public. This is good news. Unfortunately, other bus services have finished. There is the Kent Karrier service which is available on Tuesdays and Thursday; travellers have to sign up for membership to the scheme and journeys must be pre-booked. The cost is £3.50. Concessionary fare passes are not valid for travel on Kent Karrier services.

The Kent Karrier is available to people who have a medical condition that makes travelling on public transport difficult; or who live in a rural area more than 500 metres from a bus route or railway station or who are over eighty-five years old.

Cllr Jones thanked KCCllr Lehmann for attending and for his report.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Covered under Matters Arising

ii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones said that there was nothing much to report. Planned flood mitigation works along the Old Lenham Road have been completed and Helen Whately MP will visit in March. The blocked drains at Filmer Woods and the junction with Faversham Road have been reported.

Cllr Fraser said the drain on the north side of the junction of Ringlestone Road and The Street is blocked. This drain was not on KCC's map of drains. Cllr Jones will report.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Ref: 23/500378/TPOA

Address: Eynesbury The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: TPO application to crown thin one Copper Beech by 20% (removing minor and secondary growth only) and to crown lift to 6m; Crown lift one Yew to 6m to clear road and pavement.

Councillors considered the application.

Cllr Jones **PROPOSED** there was no objection to the proposal; **SECONDED** by Cllr Attwood: **4-FOR, 1 AGAINST: MOTION CARRIED.**

ii. Any other planning matter received by 13 March 2023

Ref: 22/504761/FULL

Address: Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Kent ME9 0NT

Proposal: Section 73 - Application for minor material amendments

Cllr Jones informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505331/FULL Address: Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Kent ME9 0NT

Proposal: Erection of a single storey supported living building to provide additional 8 no. single occupancy rooms with shared living accommodation. Revised scheme to 18/504562/FULL, including changes to windows, doors and external materials.

Cllr Jones said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505034/LBC Address: Doddington Place Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BB

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the erection of a three storey garden pavilion.

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

Ref: 22/505033/FULL Address: Doddington Place Church Hill Doddington Sittingbourne ME9 0BB

Proposal: Erection of a three storey garden pavilion.

Cllr Jones said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505462/FULL Address: Tawnyhill Kennels Homestall Road Doddington ME9 0HF

Proposal: Erection of a 2 bedroom dwelling to provide essential worker accommodation, including an office, reception, and treatment room for use in connection with the existing kennels, and associated parking, access, and soft landscaping.

Cllr Jones said a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 22/505612/FULL Address: Hilltop Cottage Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BN

Proposal: Erection of a new single storey timber frame garage and store for the sole use of Hilltop Cottage.

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

10. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Cllr Fraser said there was nothing to report.

11. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Trevor Muller Playground Inspection Ltd £190.00 for the play area inspection (cheque no 1318)

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Commercial Services Trading Ltd £34.14 for the cutting of the playing field (cheque no 1319)

c. Any other invoice for approval received by 13 March 2023

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Wicksteed Leisure Ltd £21.02 for parts for toddler tower repairs (cheque no 1320)

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr N Swatland £420.00 for grounds maintenance (cheque no 1321)

iii. Allotment Association rent

Cllr Jones said the Allotment Association has requested they pay rent five yearly and this has been received.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr Richard Oldfield £1.00 being the peppercorn rent required to be paid annually. (cheque no 1323, cheque 1322 cancelled)

12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed Watch sessions continue in the village with encouraging results. Cllr Fraser informed Members that he had met with Parish Councillors and residents in Graveney who are interested in a Speed Watch scheme.

Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

13. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser said that he has started the moss treatment and that the temporary repair to the toddler towers is still holding.

ii. Play area inspection report

Cllr Jones said the overall risk level is low but there are some points which need addressing like the pedestrian gates onto the road.

Cllr Fraser said the gate near the garage closes too slowly and cannot be adjusted further. If the company comes out to service the gate, it should do both.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to a budget of up to £500 for the work which is a safety issue.

ACTION: Cllr Fraser to contact the company.

Cllr Fraser said that he was unable to deal personally with the overgrowth at the basketball court, and this needs to be carried out by the end of February before the bird nesting season starts.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to a budget of up to £200 for the work.

ACTION: Cllr Fraser to obtain quotations for the work.

Cllr Fraser said some of the benches show signs of decay and damage, the double seat and table is the worse and will be monitored. There is also an issue with the wooden picnic table which is a memorial table.

Cllr Jones said there is a clear plan of action regarding priority matters, particularly the gates, and budgets have been agreed. This will be reviewed again next year.

Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 10.01.23- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Newnham Lane, Newnham - 10th January
2. 13.01.23- KALC events flyer
3. 17.01.23- KALC Newsletter
4. 17.01.23- NALC CEO bulletin

5. 19.01.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Seed Road, Newnham - 19th January
6. 19.01.23- advised of appeal regarding the decision of the Inspector to relocate footpath ZR281
7. 23.01.23- Friends of Citizens Advice newsletter
8. 23.01.23- South East Water: investment to improve resilience in east Kent and notice of resident consultation
9. 24.01.23- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 25.01.23- NALC Newsletter
11. 31.01.23- NALC CEO bulletin
12. 07.02.23- KALC Newsletter
13. 07.02.23- KALC elections bulletin- 2
14. 09.02.23- Kent Police & Crime Commissioner Newsletter - Victim Voice Special Edition
15. 10.02.23- KCC's Community Services Consultation

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jones reported that he, Cllr Coates and representatives from Ospringe Parish Council had attended a meeting with Paul Casey, the new Planning Enforcement Team Leader at Swale Borough Council, for an update on Gypsy and Traveller matters.

The Retreat, Elverland Lane, Ospringe

An Enforcement Notice was issued in December 2015 and the appeal dismissed. A new planning application, ref: 22/503367/FULL seeks permission to retain two static mobiles and two touring caravans, along with the creation of a track and landscaping. A decision is due shortly, and if refused legal action will be re-started for non-compliance with the 2015 Enforcement Notice.

Land north of Homestall Road, Doddington

An Enforcement Notice was issued on 16 August 2022, with an effective date of 20 September and 6-month period for compliance. The requirements of the notice are to remove the caravans, waste materials and vehicles except one lawful residential caravan. This runs out on 21 March 2023 and Swale Borough Council is monitoring the situation.

Graces Place Homestall Road

Permission was given for five years up to 2023, after which time the site must be vacated. Swale Borough Council is monitoring the situation.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 March 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 March 2023