

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on Monday 13 May 2019 at 7pm

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

Also present were Ward Member David Simmons and Community Warden Dave Osborne.

1. WELCOME Cllr Attwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATED 14 MAY 2018 It was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2018 as a true record. Cllr Attwood duly signed the minutes as a true record.
3. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN Cllr Attwood gave his report read his report, a copy of which is attached.
4. FINANCE – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019 A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, copy of which is attached.
5. SPEEDWATCH Cllr Attwood thanked Cllr Fraser, Cllr Coates and Cllr Jones for their sterling work and for their report, a copy of which is attached.
5. VILLAGE HALL REPORT The Village Hall Committee had submitted a written report which been circulated prior to the meeting, copy of which is attached.
6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT No report had been received.
7. DODDINGTON IN BLOOM REPORT The Group reported that there was nothing really to add to the report of last year – the Group is continuing to look after the traffic calming areas but with ageing and limited personnel.
8. DODDINGTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT The Association had submitted a written report which been circulated prior to the meeting, copy of which is attached.
9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION No matters were raised from the floor.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Dated: 11 May 2020

Chairman's Report

This is the end of my third year as Chairman of Doddington Parish Council.

I would like to thank Councillor Haynes for being Vice Chairman, chairing meetings in my absence and when I have had to leave the room for reasons of conflict of interest.

We are fortunate to have maintained a full complement of councillors through the year and they form a very strong Parish Council.

Our Clerk, Wendy Licence, she has worked very hard in keeping us informed, preparing agendas and taking notes and producing accurate minutes. She has successfully taken the Parish Council through audit and continues to take any opportunity to develop her knowledge and experience as a clerk.

Thank you to County Councillor Andrew Bowles and Borough Councillor Colin Prescott, our Ward Councillors, for their support during the last year.

Public Question Time. There have been a small number of members of the public attending meetings.

Planning. A small number of applications have been reported to the Parish Council for their comment. The telecoms mast at Down Court Farm continues to concern Councillors. Councillor Haynes has taken the lead on this matter due to my conflict of interest. The incidence of private Gypsy and Traveller sites within the wider locality remains an issue of concern and Swale Borough Council continues to deal with these unapproved uses through the planning system which is a very slow process.

Finance. Is covered in the Clerks Finance report.

Highways. The highway improvements to Lenham crossroads have in practice not been completely successful and following a round of consultations further measures are gradually being implemented to improve matters. It is clear that this is and remains a dangerous junction with an accident record that gives concern to Doddington and Lenham Parish councils.

Flooding. During the year Doddington suffered severe flooding. KCC are taking the lead on this matter and whilst maintenance of existing drainage infrastructure is a concern the volumes of rain experienced overwhelmed the capacity of the drainage system in Doddington and many surrounding areas. Working with landowners KCC are trying to identify solutions that will reduce runoff and flow rates onto and along the roads leading to the village.

Playing Field. Cllr. Duckworth has continued to report monthly on the playing field and is assisted by Cllr. Fraser. The play equipment has been painted during the year.

War Memorial. Having established all of the amendments that need to be carried out on the War Memorial the work has been commissioned for the coming financial year in conjunction with Newnham PC. I would like to thank the gardening team and in particular, Ken Seyler, for the work in keeping the grass mown and the hedges trimmed.

Neighbourhood Watch. I would like to thank Susan Jackson our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the work she has put in this year keeping us all informed.

Community Warden. Our Community Warden Dave Osborne has attended most Parish Council meetings during the year and has assisted with any problems that have been brought

to his attention and has provided a report to the council giving information on crimes and other problems occurring locally

Speed Watch. Another busy year for our Speed Watch team which is led by Councillors Fraser, Coates and Jones. Results at Wychling have continued to identify significant numbers of speeding vehicles on each occasion the Speed Watch has been deployed. It is a matter of continuing activity by the team to make a difference

The Parish Council has continued to support the main stays of Doddington village life during the year including the Church, Village Hall and Playing Field including the Fun Day.

I would like to thank all of the Councillors and the Clerk Wendy Licence for the time and work they have given over the past year.

Cllr Kevin Attwood

Finance Report Year end 31 March 2019

2017-2018

The Independent Internal Auditor completed the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2018. Under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the Parish Council certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review and the Certificate of Exemption was submitted to the PKF Littlejohn immediately after the May meeting.

2018-2019

The Precept for 2018-2019 was £8500.

The forecast budget requirement for the year was £8302 (ex VAT).

Total receipts were £8735 which includes a VAT reclaim of £210.

Total payments were £8050 (ex VAT)

The bank balance at 31 March 2018 was £17,695.

The Independent Internal Auditor completed the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2018 on 10 April. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be completed at the Parish Council Meeting on 13 May. Under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the Parish Council will certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review and the Certificate of Exemption will be submitted to the PKF Littlejohn immediately after the June meeting.

The Elector's Rights Notice will be displayed on the Village Notice Board and the Parish Council website giving formal notice that the End of Year Accounts are available for inspection by the public. Viewing is by arrangement with the Chairman.

Donations made in 2018-2019

The Parish Council made donations of £70 to the Swale Citizens Advice Bureau, £100 to the Kent Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance and £20 to the Royal British Legion for a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day. Councillors also agreed to fund the provision of a Portaloo in the Playing Field during the month of August at a cost of £175, no increase in cost from the previous year.

2019-20

The Precept requirement for 2018 -19 is £8,732, which although is a slight increase from the previous year the additional council tax for band D properties in the parish will be £38.04 the same as the previous year.

War Memorial

Work on the additions and amendments for the War Memorial is expected to start next month

Wendy Licence
Clerk & RFO to Doddington Parish Council
13 May 2019

DODDINGTON SPEED WATCH RESULTS: 1 APRIL 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019

Speed Watch is a police-approved community-based road safety initiative to help reduce excessive speeding on local roads. It aims to educate, rather than penalise, drivers in order to improve road safety and the quality of life of local residents.

The Doddington Speed Watch team has been operating for over two years, starting in Doddington itself (currently 6 locations approved by the police) and subsequently covering one site at Wychling at the request of the Wychling Parish Meeting. The team of eight volunteers arrange one session a week on average, with three or four volunteers usually in attendance.

The detailed results for 2018/19 are set out below. Overall these indicate that the great majority of vehicles detected speeding are not detected again (in line with county-wide data). This suggests that Speed Watch is delivering a positive behavioral change for the majority of drivers.

The figures for vehicles speeding through Wychling were sufficiently concerning for the police to organize their own checks using mobile speed cameras.

DODDINGTON

33 sessions completed: 4137 vehicles passing
Average number of vehicles passing per session = 125

Total vehicles recorded speeding: 214 = 5.17% of total.
Vehicles receiving first warning letter: 37 = 17.3% of speeders (0.9% of total).
Vehicles receiving second warning letter: 5 = 2.3% of speeders (0.12% of total).
There were no vehicles that received a third hand-delivered letter.
One vehicle received an excess speed letter (45mph or more).
172 of the speeding vehicles were recorded once only in the twelve month period = 80.37% of total speeding vehicles.

WYCHLING

13 sessions completed: 2079 vehicles passing.
Average number of vehicles passing per session = 160

Total vehicles recorded speeding: 314 = 15.1% of total.
Vehicles receiving first warning letter: 62 = 19.7% of speeders (2.98% of total).
Vehicles receiving second warning letter: 9 = 2.87% of speeders (0.43% of total).
Two vehicles were issued hand-delivered third warning letters.
Eight vehicles received an excess speed letter (45mph or more).
241 of the speeding vehicles were recorded once only in the twelve month period = 76.75% of total speeding vehicles.

OVERALL TOTAL

46 sessions completed: 6216 vehicles passing
Average number of vehicles passing per session = 135

Total vehicles counted: 6216
Total vehicles recorded speeding: 528 = 8.49% of total.
Vehicles receiving first warning letter: 99 = 18.75% of speeders (1.59% of total).

Vehicles receiving second warning letter: 14 = 2.6% of speeders (0.23% of total).
Two vehicles were issued hand-delivered third warning letters.
Nine vehicles received an excess speed letter (45mph or more).
413 of the speeding vehicles were recorded once only in the twelve month period = 78.2% of total speeding vehicles.

NB: drivers of vehicles receive a first warning letter after being recorded as speeding twice (other than at excess speed which generates an immediate letter); they receive a second letter on being recorded speeding a third time and a letter hand-delivered by the police if recorded again.

Cllr Colin Jones, Cllr Kevin Fraser and Cllr Steve Coates.

Doddington Village Hall – Report for Parish Council – May 2019

The Village Hall year.

Once again, it has been a busy year in the hall's life. Drama productions played a significant role during the year, with the Spring Plays and the Christmas Pantomime being significant revenue earners. These events are well supported and enjoyed by those who attend.

The Annual Firework display was a resounding success. The venue provided by Graham and Liz Cuthbert lends itself to the event with a large display area and parking fields making movement, access and egress a simple matter. We thank them for their generosity.

The event has grown in popularity and reputation.

A small core of committee members has been meeting with Swale Advisory Group a committee comprising of Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance service and local authority officers to help and advice on the running of the Firework display.

As usual we must thank all the volunteers who help at all our events. This year we held a thank-you party for everyone who has helped at the various fund-raising activities. This is a very valuable social event in its own right

We continue to maintain and improve the hall as funds allow and a number of internal alterations have been carried out during the year. The new kitchen cupboards, décor and flooring have proved to be a popular improvement. The toilets and corridor have been decorated and the larger of the two store rooms has benefitted from new shelving and table racks making access and use easier

I must thank the committee and the officers for their dedication to the hall, particularly Pam Cowan and Marianne Allen. I will take this opportunity to also thank Ramsay Cowan and Bob Allen who are ever presents at hall functions.

Thanks must also be given to Doddington in Bloom as they continue with the maintenance of the gardens around the hall.

Income from lettings and shows have increased which demonstrates what a valuable asset it is to the community. We have been reaping the rewards of Ballroom dance classes generously given by Chris and Alli Thompson. Monies generated by the classes are donated to the hall funds.

We are eagerly awaiting the fitting of a new acoustic wall over the stage area. We are hoping that it will improve the sound quality during functions. We are also discussing ways of improving the PA system for use during meetings.

Our next project is to widen the stage area and to replace the broken curtain system when funds allow.

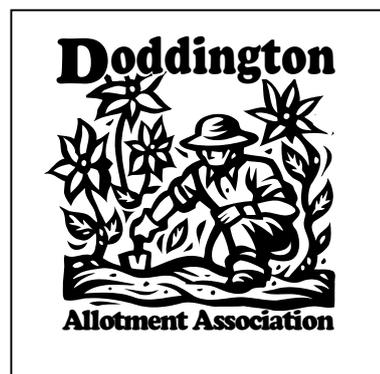
Les Roberts

Chairman, Village Hall committee

Doddington Allotment Association

Annual Report - 2018 to 2019

Doddington Allotment Association has had another busy and successful year and we are all now looking forward to our sixteenth growing season at the site.



Doddington Allotment Association is grateful for the support of both our landowner Richard Oldfield and to Doddington Parish Council for their continued support of the allotment site. Our small committee of officers and ordinary members (see below) continues to oversee the running of the site and has had a busy year. This year we have continued to build up group funds by fund raising at allotment association social events. At our recent AGM we decided to keep plot rental for 2020 at the same level as that in 2018 and 2019.

Our new introduction of a ban on bonfires from 1st May to the 30th September was adhered to. Its success was measured as there were no complaints received from village or other plot holders during the summer months!

This year we have introduced a total ban on using old car tyres on the site. We had a limit on the number of tyres plot holders could have and a refundable cash deposit for their use. But our committee has always been left to tidy up tyres on vacated plots.

We currently have one half plot vacant and have tenants from Wychling, Doddington, Newnham, Frinsted and Sheldwich (see membership list below).

In summer 2018 the allotment site was open for the Village Garden Open Days and although fewer people visit the allotments than gardens, we chatted with a good number of visitors.

Our Christmas tree is now being dressed each year with donations of new decorations each year. Parish councillors are welcome to attend any of our social events, AGM or to visit the allotment site which is always open.

Kathy Friend (Secretary)