

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 4 September 2023

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Colin Jones (Vice Chairman),
Cllr Kevin Attwood, Cllr Kirsty Clark, Cllr Graham Cuthbert, and Cllr Kevin Fraser; and
Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies had been received from Cllr Linda Lumsden (unwell); apologies accepted.
Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting) and Ward Member Terry Thomas (holiday); apology noted.

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 10 JULY 2023

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

Faversham Tip closure

Cllr Coates informed Members that Faversham Town Council is organising another demonstration against the proposed closure of the Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre on Thursday 21st September. When the consultation on the closures is launched the Parish Council will comment.

Doddington Fete

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Lumsden for running the Parish Council stall at the village fete, the stall included games and information about Speed Watch.

Wychling Parish Meeting

Cllr Coates reported that he had been contacted by the Chairman of Wychling Parish Meeting and they will meet to discuss common issues. Wychling is in Maidstone Borough.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Coates informed Members that Sally Mills is standing down from the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and he thanked Ms Mills for her work as coordinator. Cllr Jones asked for an item seeking a replacement for Ms Mills to be placed in the Newsletter.

ACTION: Clerk to check with Ms Mills and submit an item, if appropriate.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

8. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Coates reported that Jennie Watson, KCC Highways Community Engagement Team Leader (East), has suggested a meeting to review the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP). The last time the Council submitted a HIP, they said Doddington did not have any new road improvement requirements and the matters raised were maintenance issues. Currently the most important issue is the resurfacing of The Street and this is maintenance.

Cllr Jones said that an engineer will survey The Street and there will be a meeting with KCC Highways and the Parish Council to discuss the proposed works and timescales in late September / October of this year.

ACTION: Clerk to thank Jennie Watson and inform her that the parish has no new road improvement needs at the moment.

Cllr Coates said a resident had emailed KCCllr Lehmann to ask why the Otterden Road, near Bunce Court, had been resurfaced and not The Street, Doddington.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate the correspondence.

Cllr Coates said he had requested this be raised at county level and the response is that the road had been micro-surfaced.

Cllr Jones reported that the pot holes in The Street had been marked up so the survey of the road by Councillors was no longer necessary.

ii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported on the next stage of the flood mitigation work on the Old Lenham Road and Spratts Hill. KCC Highways is appointing contractors and the work will progress shortly.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Address: Walnut Tree Cottage Old Lenham Road Doddington Kent ME9 0BX

Ref: 23/503411/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey rear extension and replacement of 3no. casement windows with 1no. pair of French doors.

Ref: 23/503410/FULL

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and replacement of 3no. casement windows with 1no. pair of French doors.

Councillors considered the application and agreed they had no objections, save that neighbours' comments be taken into account.

ii. Ref: 23/503408/FULL

Address: Greet Cottage Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington Sittingbourne ME9 0NT

Proposal: Demolition of existing residential dwelling, outbuildings and large Nissan Hut. Erection of a new detached residential dwelling complete with integral supplementary annexe.

Councillors considered the application and agreed they had no objections, save that neighbours' comments be taken into account

iii. Ref: 23/503341/FULL

Address: Graces Place Homestall Road Doddington Kent ME9 0HF

Proposal: Siting of 2no. static caravans, 2no. touring caravans and 2no. storage sheds for a gypsy family (retrospective).

Councillors considered the application and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the application. The Planning Inspector found previously that it was not a suitable site; it would be intensification of the site; the proposal would have a harmful effect on the character and appearance of the rural area in particular on the valued rural lane. The temporary planning permission has expired.

iv. Any planning matter received by 4 September 2023

Graces Place and The Retreat

Cllr Coates said the updates from Paul Casey, Swale Planning Enforcement Team Leader, have been circulated.

Cllr Jones said that it has been seven years since the Enforcement Notice, the Council is getting stock answers from Swale Planning Enforcement and this is not good enough.

ACTION: Cllr Jones to draft letter to Swale Planning Enforcement and copy Ospringe Parish Council.

Ref: 23/502418/LBC Location: Homestall Farm Homestall Road Doddington Sittingbourne

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for partial replacement windows and two external doors

Cllr Coates informed Members that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 22/505462/FULL 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 Coates said a decision is yet to be made.

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to re-imburse Cllr Fraser £22.98 for play area parts (cheque no 1344)

ii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Commercial Services £110.62 for Playing Field maintenance (cheque no 1340).

b. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to re-imburse Mrs W Licence: £246.00 regarding the port-a-loo hire (cheque no 1341).

c. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Newington Parish Council: £55.80 being share of SLCC fees (cheque no 1342).

d. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay KALC: £120.00 in respect of training courses (cheque no 1343).

11. WEBSITE

Cllr Coates said that from 4 October, HugoFox, the Council's current website provider, will start charging for this service which is currently free.

Councillors considered the quotations for the website.

Cllr Coates said that HugoFox is well-established and the Clerk is comfortable with its functions; and **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation for the HugoFox Bronze package; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The Clerk will add planning applications to the news feed.

12. SPEED WATCH

i. To receive an update

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed Watch sessions continue in the village, more volunteers are needed. It is clear from Speed Watch data nationwide that the perception of residents regarding speeding vehicles is not supported by the Speed Watch session. People often ask why speeding HGVs and tractors are not caught; this is because the vehicles are not actually speeding. In Harrietsham, average speed limit equipment is being trialled, this is temporary and costs £250,000 for a permanent installation.

ii. To consider joint purchase with Newnham Parish Council, of speed indication device
Cllr Coates reported that Newnham Parish Council is considering purchasing a Speed Indicator Device but can only find one suitable site whereas they need three sites hence the request to share the equipment.

Cllr Fraser said that this type of Speed Indicator Device might be useful to Newnham as there is not an active Speed Watch Team in that village. In Doddington, Speed Watch is shown to be effective as the data has recorded a decrease in speeding vehicles. It is an expensive piece of kit which can only be installed by KCC Highways or their contractor and there is a further cost every time it is moved.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** not to take part in the project; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Fraser reported that the minor tree works and the moss control continues. Six bags of rubbish were left outside the Playing Field after the fete and this has attracted more rubbish bags.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to remove the rubbish.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his sterling work at the Playing Field.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 12.07.23- KALC: request for motions for AGM 18th November 2023
2. 14.07.23- KCC: consultation on its new draft Emerging Local Transport Plan deadline 18 Sept
3. 20.07.23- NALC CEO bulletin
4. 21.07.23- Kent County Council: notice of order to divert part of Public Footpath ZR281 at Doddington and Milstead, and to extinguish part of Public Footpath ZR283 at Doddington.
5. 29.07.23- NALC newsletter
6. 29.07.23- NALC CEO bulletin
7. 08.08.23- KALC bulletin
8. 09.08.23- KALC newsletter
9. 10.08.23- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 10.08.23- Swale Borough Council: Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation
11. 14.08.23- resident concern regarding overgrown land on The Street

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the owner to request the area be tidied especially near the neighbouring fence.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to contact the owner.

12. 16.08.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington 16 August
13. 21.08.23- KALC bulletin
14. 23.08.23- NALC newsletter
15. 24.08.23- NALC CEO bulletin
16. 30.08.23- Helen Whately MP: Boosting the local environment project

Cllr Coates informed Members that he had forwarded the email to local ecologists.

17. 30.08.23- NALC newsletter
18. 31.08.23- NALC CEO bulletin

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Cuthbert said the signs regarding the water leak at Green Farm were still in place a week after the work has finished and this impacted on the local economy. The diversion sign for Down Court Road was in such a position that drivers coming from Sittingbourne could not see it.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to report on the KCC Highways portal.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 9 October 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 9 October 2023