

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on  
Monday 10 November 2025

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Kirsty Clark, Cllr Graham Cuthbert,  
Cllr Kevin Fraser, and Cllr Linda Lumsden; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).  
Also present was Ward Councillor Terry Thompson

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Those present stood for one minute silence to remember former Councillor Peter Duckworth who had passed away last month.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kevin Attwood (holiday) and Cllr Colin Jones (holiday): apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann: apologies 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 13 OCTOBER 2025

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

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Coates reported that KCCllr Lehmann is looking into the issue raised by a resident attending last month's meeting regarding the *ROAD CLOSED* signs

Cllr Cuthbert informed members that he had liaised with the War Memorial volunteers regarding the equipment. The wood at the top of the steps needs replacing.

Cllr Coates said the Council would buy the wood; a mower was purchased by the Council; if necessary, the Council will ask a local contractor to cut the hedge.

SBCllr Thompson offered to source the wood.

*ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to liaise with the volunteers and provide wood dimensions for SBCllr Thompson.*

Cllr Coates reported that he laid the wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council. The Council is grateful to Mr Graeme Ford who has agreed to take on the Liaison role with the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day service

## 6. POLICE REPORT

No report as PC Tancock is on leave.

## 7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time*

SBCllr Thompson informed the meeting that the Appeal against the Enforcement Notice for Elverland Lane, Hill Top has been dismissed and the Enforcement Notice upheld. The site must be reinstated within six months.

The Local Government Reorganisation is still rolling out; Swale Borough Council is favouring the option to join with Ashford, Folkestone and Hythe. The District Councils' Network (DCN) report claims research shows that Councils with populations in excess of 300,000 will be less efficient than smaller Councils. Medway Council has the largest debt of £19 per capita and Swale Borough Council has a debt of £6 per capita. The changes will not save anything and will remove local government from people.

Cllr Coates thanked SBCllr Thompson for attending and for his report.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

## **8. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Coates reported that a road sweep of the Old Lenham Road has been requested. Kent Highways is still looking at the Ringlestone Road flooding by the pumping station, and the blocked soakaway. Cllr Jones continues to chase Kent Highways but they are very slow to respond; he is also informing the land owner of the situation.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

### i. Proposed Highsted Park

Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT Location: Land South And East Of Sittingbourne Kent

Ref: 21/503906/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham

Cllr Coates gave an update on funding for The Action Group and that residual S106 matters were being discussed this week. Otherwise we simply await the Inspector's report which will be delivered in 2026.

### ii. Ref: 25/504158/LBC

Address: Homestall Farm Homestall Road Doddington Kent ME9 0HF.

Listed Building Consent for internal alterations and alterations to well head/capping. (Works Started)

Noted

### iii. Heathlands Garden Settlement Draft Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

The Heathlands Garden Settlement was identified and allocated in the adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review (LPR) 2021-2038

*ACTION: Cllrs to send comments to the Clerk for submission*

### iv. Any other planning matter received by 10 November 2025

Ref: 25/503851/PNQCLA

Address: Orchard Barn Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0JW

Prior notification for the change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from agricultural to 1no. residential dwellinghouse and associated operational development. For its prior approval to: - Transport and Highways impacts of the development. - Noise impacts of the development. - Contamination risks on the site. - Flooding risks on the site. - Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use to C3 (dwellinghouses). - Design and external appearance impacts on the building. - Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses.

Awaiting decision

## **10. THE CHEQUERS INN: ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

Cllr Coates informed members that the application to relist The Chequers as an Asset of Community Value has been approved.

*ACTION: Cllr Lumsden to inform the landlord.*

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Lumsden for her sterling work.

## **11. FINANCE**

### i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

### ii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to re-issue a cheque to Four Jays Ltd for summer toilet hire as the original one (cheque no 1418) has been lost £252.00 (cheque no 1426).

### iii. To consider request for a grant from The Heart of Kent Hospice

Councillors considered the request and agreed that it met The Council's grant funding criteria. Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** to make a grant of £200; **SECONDED** by Cllr Fraser: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** (cheque no 1427).

## **12. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed watch sessions continue with encouraging results.  
Cllr Coates thanked the volunteers for their sterling work

## **13. PLAYING FIELD**

### Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that the moss treatment has started.  
Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his excellent work.

## **14. KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2026**

Waiting for nominations.

## **15. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 14.10.25- Kent Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Faversham Road, Newnham - 13th October 2025
2. 16.10.25- NALC CEO bulletin
3. 16.10.25- KALC bulletin
4. 16.10.25- Kent Police Rural Task Force newsletter
5. 20.10.25- NALC CEO bulletin
6. 24.10.25- KALC: Annual Policing Survey 2025
7. 27.10.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC policy round-up
8. 30.10.25- NALC CEO bulletin
9. 30.10.25- Kent Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington - 30th October 2025
10. 04.11.25- Kent Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington - 4th November 2025
11. 06.11.25- NALC CEO bulletin
12. 06.11.25- KALC newsletter

## **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other matters were raised.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 10 November 2025**

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 8 December 2025