

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 8 June 2026

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

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. APOLOGIES Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting) and Ward Councillor Terry Thompson (at another meeting).
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None were declared
3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION None
4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2026 It was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Coates duly signed the minutes.
5. MATTERS ARISING <u>Old Lenham Road Sweep</u> A stage 2 complaint was lodged with Swale Borough Council CEO on 1 June regarding the failure to carry out the road sweep when requested on 5 November 2025. They have ten working days to respond. <u>Safe Contents</u> Cllr Coates reported that he had compiled a schedule of the contents of the safe. Councillors discussed this and agreed that most of the documents could be destroyed. The Clerk will retain a list of the documents and note their status (eg; destroyed) on an ongoing basis. In the first instance councillors agreed that the local History Group should examine all the documents and in due course the bulk should be offered to a local archive, eg KCC or Faversham History Group. <i>ACTION: Cllr Coates to research this.</i>
6. POLICE REPORT PC Gary Morris and his colleague were unable to attend but sent a written report that there had been no crimes reported in the parish and no incidents of anti-social behaviour. A stolen vehicle had been dumped on Chequers Hill.
7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME No members of the public were in attendance.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Jones reported that the six-monthly inspection and clearance of the drains in the Old Lenham Road has still not been completed. KCC Highways changed contractors on 1 May, but the work should have been scheduled by now. This will be reported to KC Cllr Lehmann. Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his report.

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 Kent

Awaiting the Inspector's report.

ii. To consider designating new Local Green Spaces for the emerging Local Plan

No areas within the Parish Council's control.

iii. Kent Downs National Landscape draft five-year Management Plan consultation

Circulated.

iv. Any planning matter received by 11 May 2026

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. FINANCE

i. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

Councillors considered the Annual Governance Statement and noted that compliance with item 10 was not in the Council's control as it was waiting for the domain name to be registered and the Clerk email to be set up. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept it. The statement was duly signed by Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

ii. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2026- To receive the end of year return and to consider the adoption and signing of the return.

Councillors considered the Annual Return and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the accounting statement; this was duly signed by Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

iii. To Certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. The certificate was duly signed by Cllr Coates and the Clerk.

iv. Internal Auditor's report

No issues were issues raised

v. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

vi. Clerk salary

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the Clerk £888.70 in respect of April - May salary and Norton antivirus (cheque no 1450).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £137.83 in respect of 2025-26 employer NI and April – May PAYE/ NI (cheque no 1451).

vii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr L Robbins £105.00 for the internal audit (cheque no 1452).

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue with encouraging results. A day of action had been planned last Saturday but it was cancelled due to inclement weather. Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that the moss control continues with encouraging results. There have been two cuts of the playing field. The play area inspection report noted the safety surfacing is in need of repair.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotation and apply for a grant.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

ii. To consider arboricultural report

Councillors considered the report and agreed all high-risk matters should be resolved.

Cllr Lumsden said that she will remove the sycamore tree and nettles.

iii. To consider quotations for tree work

Councillors considered quotations for tree work and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £520 + VAT from Chop and Change.

iv. Review of rewilding project

Councillors assessed the rewilding project adjacent to the Playing Field and noted that the area was full of nettles and an alder; glow worms had been sighted elsewhere in the village.

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** the rewilding project be discontinued: **4- FOR, 2- AGAINST; MOTION CARRIED.**

v. Playing field ownership

Cllr Clark said she had reviewed the documents and taken legal advice. She agreed with Cllr Coates' opinion about the status of the field as expressed by him at the last meeting. It is clear that the Playing Field belongs to the Council in perpetuity unless it is ever considered for a change of use. Should this happen, ownership would revert to the Leigh-Pemberton family. No action needs to be taken because of the documents in the Council's possession. Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Clark for her research work.

ACTION Cllr Coates to update Mr Leigh-Pemberton.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 17.05.26- resident concern regarding sycamore tree at playing field
2. 18.15.26- SBC: request for agenda items for the Swale Joint Transportation Board meeting on Monday 29 June 2025.
3. 25.05.26- Kent Ramblers: Invitation to meeting for Footpath Volunteers
4. 26.05.26- KCC Highways: online Road Safety & Active Travel Group (RSATG) Seminar on 9 July.

5. 26.05.26- SBC: Parish and Town Council Election Cycles review
6. 27.05.26- SBC: policy round-up
7. 28.05.26- NALC CEO bulletin
8. 30.05.26- enquiry regarding when the weekly Post Office will return to the pub
9. 01.06.26- SBC: policy round-up
10. 03.06.26- South East Water: supply update
11. 04.06.26 KALC: Newsletter
12. 04.06.26- South East Water: supply update
13. 04.06.26- NALC CEO bulletin
14. 05.06.26- South East Water: supply update
15. 05.06.26- Swale Citizens Advice: letter of thanks for the donation.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates said he had planned to attend the KALC SAC AGM but is unable to do so.
No other Councillor was available, Clerk to send apologies.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 13 July 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 July 2026