

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 13 October 2025

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

Also present were Cllr Emma Turner, Newnham Parish Council, and one member of the public,

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (holiday): apologies noted. Councillors also noted that our Ward Councillor, Terry Thompson, had not attended a meeting of this Parish Council since November 2024.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Attwood declared a pecuniary interest in item 9.i. Proposed Highsted Park development as landowner within the application.

It was agreed to move the item to the end of the meeting.

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

It was agreed item 14 KALC Awards be discussed in closed session.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 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

Post Office

The Post Office returned to The Chequers on Wednesday 17 September 11.30am- 1.30pm.

6. POLICE REPORT

PC James Tancock was unable to attend the meeting and had sent a report of theft from a motor vehicle in The Street; on 14 September a work vehicle had been broken into and tools taken.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

Concern was raised about local road closures with no indication as to which road is shut, poorly routed diversions and signs have been left behind. This is affecting businesses and visitors who do not know the area. There are also issues with HGVs using inappropriate routes, especially the Old Lenham Road.

Cllr Coates said that this is a regular issue and the Council continues to report matters to KCC Highways. The Council is aware of the impact on local businesses. County Councillor Lehman has been helpful. Some HGVs have legitimate reasons to use the lanes but the Council is aware of vehicles rat running.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCCllr Lehmann about the road closed signs.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Coates reported that there had been significant damage to the boundary of a property in the Old Lenham Road. KCC Highways has provided photos of new NO HGV signs to be installed and the location. The signs on the A2 and the A20 are ignored by HGV drivers and the new signs will be for the Old Lenham Road. The problem is that some HGV drivers use car satnavs and Google Maps which are inappropriate.

Cllr Fraser informed Members that concern has been raised that the pavement refuge on the footpath from Palace Farm Cottages to the 30mph limit is overgrown and is causing an issue for pedestrians.

Cllr Attwood said the vegetation will be cut back.

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

Deferred to end of meeting.

ii. 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.

Application noted.

10. THE CHEQUERS INN: ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Lumsden for completing the Asset of Community Value application. Cllr Lumsden said further information was submitted and Swale Borough Council has eight weeks to consider the application.

11. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. Clerk salary and expenses

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs W Licence, salary and expenses, £1291.53 (cheque no 1420).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC, PAYE, £162.80 (cheque no 1421).

iii. Invoices for Payment

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Doddington Village Hall for hall hire, £50.00 (cheque no 1422).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Newington Parish Council share of Clerks' Conference and SLCC fees, £86.00 (cheque no 1423).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to donate to the RBL Poppy Appeal for the poppy wreath, £40.00 (cheque no 1424).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Kent County Playing Field Association subscription, £20.00 (cheque no 1425).

iv. War Memorial Maintenance

Cllr Coates said details of a maintenance budget has been received. The Council is extremely grateful to the volunteers who maintain the area.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to discuss the proposal with the volunteers.

12. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that Speed watch sessions continue in the village and remains effective. Cllr Coates thanked the volunteers for their sterling work

13. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser reported that the final cuts have been made; the moss on the safety surfacing is being monitored and will be treated shortly.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 10.09.25- Kent Downs National Landscape: Asian Hornet Alert selective traps for monitoring
2. 11.09.25- NALC CEO bulletin
3. 11.09.25- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Lady Margaret Manor Road, Doddington - 10th September 2025
4. 12.09.25- Kent Resilience Team: information session about the Swale Strengthening Community Preparedness Together project
5. 15.09.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Round-Up
6. 16.09.25- Swale Borough Council: Local Government Reorganisation
7. 18.09.25- KALC bulletin
8. 18.09.25- NALC CEO bulletin
9. 22.09.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Round-Up
10. 24.09.25- Kent County Council: Help Bridge the Digital Divide webinar
11. 25.09.25- NALC CEO bulletin
12. 29.09.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Round-Up
13. 03.10.25- Police: Change in Beat Officer Covering village
14. 04.10.25- NALC CEO bulletin
15. 06.10.25- KALC bulletin
16. 06.10.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Round-Up
17. 07.10.25- Kent County Council: Highways Parish seminar on 22 October
18. 09.10.25- NALC CEO bulletin

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates reported that a complaint had been made regarding a Public Right of Way being extinguished, the land owner has attended to this.

Cllr Lumsden reported that she had attended the Kent Resilience Forum's Strengthening Preparedness Together in Swale session and that she now needs to complete a self-assessment form to see how resilient the village would be in extreme circumstances and how we would work with neighbouring communities.

14. KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2026

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the KALC Community Awards Scheme

It was agreed to defer to next meeting and request nominations in the newsletter.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr Attwood left the meeting and did not take part in the discussion of this item.

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 reported that the Inquiry was now in recess, apart from some administrative matters, but would re-commence on 27 October. Closing submissions from the applicant and those opposing the applications will then be made. The Action Group fundraising target was almost met, with one event due to take place on 25 October.

Cllr Coates was thanked for the time he has given to the Action Group and attending the Public Inquiry.

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: 10 November 2025