

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 9 June 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 was PC Jez Chittim

1. APOLOGIES

All Members were present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

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

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 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

30mph sign

Cllr Fraser reported that the 30mph sign from Wychling has been replaced.

Play area repairs

The contractor is waiting for the spring cover.

Step on PROW by Yew Tree Cottage

Cllr Coates informed Members that this has now been replaced and there has been positive feedback from residents.

War Memorial maintenance

Cllr Coates said Mr Swain will be unable to help for a few weeks and has arranged for another volunteer to help. A note of thanks was sent to Mr Swain along with the council's best wishes.

Queen's Regimental Riders Association

Cllr Fraser reported that he had attended the formal opening of the Horticultural Rehabilitation Centre on behalf of the Parish Council.

6. POLICE REPORT

PC Chittim said there has been nothing of significance for the Police over the past three months in Doddington. The Police surgeries are not as frequent at present. If there are high numbers of speeding vehicles logged by the Speed Watch Team, Officers are able to attend if necessary.

Cllr Fraser reported that since Speed Watch was set up in the village in 2016, there has been a 30% drop in the number of people speeding through the village. Speed Watch is having a positive effect in the village.

Cllr Coates thanked PC Chittim for attending the meeting and for his report.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were in attendance.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Jones reported that the road sweep has not taken place yet. Swale Borough Council has said that they are still waiting on dates for traffic management. This has passed onto a manager to chase.

Cllr Lumsden said the foot path up Chequers Hill needs attention as debris has come down from the bank and made the path narrow.

Cllr Fraser said he has had reports from residents regarding the state of the pavements generally in the village; the surfaces are breaking up in The Street.

ACTION: Cllr Fraser and the Clerk to report.

Cllr Jones reported that the road by the pumping station has flooded again, this has been reported. The lagoon at the top of the Old Lenham Road is full of water but is not obviously silted up.

Cllr Attwood said it will need to be dug out but not yet.

Cllr Cuthbert said the whole footway to Newham is variable.

ACTION: Clerk to 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

Deferred to end of meeting.

ii. Any planning matter received by 9 June 2025

23/503908/FULL Southdown And Periwinkle Cottage Chequers Hill Doddington ME9 0BN
Proposal: Conversion of existing dwelling to 4no. residential apartments including part demolition and erection of a single storey side extension and a two storey rear extension, erection of two storey extensions to either side of existing cottage, and erection of 4no. new residential dwellings, with associated parking, biodiversity and landscape enhancements.

Application permitted

25/500835/FULL The Granary The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension to boot room and installation of roof light

Awaiting decision.

24/503017/FULL Solomons Temple Frangbury Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0NX

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension, erection of a new replacement double garage with garden/log store, shower and home office above Loft conversion with roof lights including replacement windows and changes to fenestration. Erection of a boundary wall with pedestrian gate a vehicle entrance gate including widening of existing driveway and creation of a courtyard garden.

Revised details - Amended plans and change of description

Awaiting decision.

10. FINANCE

i. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

Councillors considered the Annual Governance Statement and **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 2025- 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

Not yet received.

v. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

vi. Invoices for Payment

Website

Hugofox has agreed not to insist on direct debit payments and a cheque was sent out of meeting for £143.98 (cheque no 1411).

Insurance

Four companies had been approached to quote on the insurance; one declined to quote as could not improve on the premium; another broker had the same insurance company on their panel so declined to quote; a third company also declined to quote as the Council was unable to give up-to-date value of assets.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation for a three-year-long-term agreement from Clear Insurance Management Ltd £714.04 (cheque no 1412).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay KALC £15.56 being the balance of the subscription (cheque no 1413).

11. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the High Sherriff, Jonathan Neame, had attended a Speed Watch in Wychling; Alan Watson, Speed Watch co-ordinator was also present. Speed Watch continues with positive results.

12. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report

Cllr Fraser said the grass has been cut and the minor repairs to the play area are yet to be carried out.

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

ii. To consider quotation for Summer port-a-loo

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £210 for a port-a-loo from Four Jays.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 20.05.25- SBC: Policy round-up
2. 22.05.25- CAB Swale: letter of thanks for grant
3. 23.05.25- NALC CEO bulletin
4. 23.05.25- KCC Highways: Road Safety & Active Travel Group newsletter
5. 29.05.25- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Frangbury, Doddington - 2nd June 2025

6. 02.06.25- KCC Highways: KCC Urgent Road Closure – Endings Wood Road, Doddington - 2nd June 2025
7. 03.06.25- Volunteer's update on War Memorial maintenance
8. 04.06.25- KALC News
9. 05.06.25_ KCC Highways: Kent County Council - Urgent Road Closure - Down Court Road, Doddington & Milstead - 9th June 2025
10. 05.06.25- NALC CEO bulletin

Cllr Coates reported that he had been invited to an event to thank contributors to the church tower repair fund. He will be unable to attend in his capacity as Chairman, but Cllrs Clark, and Cuthbert will attend to represent the Council.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Coates reported that he had attended a meeting about Local Government Reorganisation at Swale House. A business case has to be submitted by November 2025; there are currently no details on the structure of the new authorities or the process. The Local Government Reorganisation will become a major issue for the Parish Council in the coming months and will probably need to be made a standing agenda item. At present, Swale Borough Council was simply raising awareness with much more detail to follow.

Cllr Fraser said the hedgerow is overgrowing the footway along a short section at the bottom of Ringlestone Road to The Retreat, can this be cut back.

Cllr Attwood said hedgerows cannot be cut back until September.

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 Public Inquiry continues and the programme changes regularly. Options for events to contribute to the "fighting fund" were considered.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 14 July 2025

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 14 July 2025