

# DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on  
Monday 14 October 2019

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Vice Chairman), Cllr Graham Cuthbert, Cllr Peter Duckworth, Cllr Kevin Fraser and Cllr Alison Shaw; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were four members of the public.

## 1. APOLOGIES

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Coates took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kevin Attwood (holiday); apology accepted.

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Andrew Bowles (holiday) and Ward Member David Simmons (at another Meeting); 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 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Coates said the Councillor emails need to be compliant with GDPR and this is being addressed.

## 6. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Dave Osborne, the Community Warden, was unable to attend the meeting and sent a report of current scams and details of crimes in Painters Forstal.

Cllr Coates thanked Mr Osborne for his report.

## 7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Mrs Susan Jackson was unable to attend and reported that:

*There is little to report for the month of September in the villages. There have been notifications from the Police of fraudsters targeting people about TV licences and also scam callers in Faversham, bullying older people for their bank details. There is no indication that villagers in Doddington have been affected.*

*There has been a theft in Doddington of the transit tipper tailboard from in or near Doddington, around 22 September, but received no further details.*

Cllr Coates thanked Mrs Jackson for her report.

## **8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.*

*A resident said he was concerned about the planning application for the erection of a grain store at Down Court Farm.*

*A resident said he had concerns about the size of the grain store and that he was meeting with the applicant on Monday 21 October.*

*Another resident said she was concerned about the position of the grain store.*

Cllr Coates asked the residents if they wished to outline their concerns and they indicated that they would rather wait until they had met and spoken with the applicant.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

## **9. WAR MEMORIAL**

Cllr Coates informed Members that the works to the War Memorial have been completed. Doddington Parish Council has received a grant of £1,000 and Newnham Parish Council has a grant award of £722. It has been agreed that Doddington Parish Council will pay the full amount of the works and Newnham will pay their grant to Doddington. The work has been funded completely by grants.

Cllr Cuthbert said the stone is not the easiest to work with and the wording is clear and looks good.

Cllr Coates said Mrs Gaze, the Poppy Appeal Coordinator has kindly offered to organise the wreaths.

## **10. PLANNING MATTERS**

### i. Land on The Street

Cllr Jones said the Land Registry searches showed the area by Sunnyside and the garage is owned by Swale Borough Council and Honeywell Property Investments Ltd.

Cllr Cuthbert said Swale Borough Council owns the drives going to Sunnyside. The initial concern was about the fencing which is an eye sore.

Cllr Fraser said he had received concerns from residents regarding this; it is building site fencing around a small patch of land and weeds and sycamore saplings are growing there. The village is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The fencing is unsuitable being six foot high and held together with string, one panel has already fallen down.

*ACTION: Clerk to write to the land owner.*

### ii. 19/504932/FULL

Address: Down Court Farm Down Court Road Doddington ME9 0AT

Proposal: Erection of a grain store with lean-to's and construction of screening bund and associated landscaping.

Councillors considered the application and agreed to request an extension of time so the matter can be considered at the November meeting after residents have met with the applicant.

### iii. Any other planning matter received by 14 October 2019

Ref: 19/503246/TPOA Address: Eynesbury The Street Doddington ME9 0BH

Proposal: TPO application to crown reduce spread of one Copper Beech from 8m to up to 4m, and crown lift to 6m on roadside canopy only. To also clear BT cables to properties.

Cllr Coates informed Members that the application had been part refused and part approved, the crown can be lifted but the crown cannot be reduced as it would have a detrimental impact on the long term health of the tree and the character of the amenity of the area.

Ref: 19/504116/TCA Address 1 Yew Tree Cottages The Street Doddington ME9 0BH  
Proposal: Conservation area notification of 1 x Yew T1 (approx 15m tall) - Crown lift to 2.5m,  
Prune to 1.5m clearance from corner of house, remove dead stem/branches, Crown reduce  
by approx 2m.

Cllr Coates informed Councillors that the application has been approved.

Ref: 18/504562/FULL Address: Ellens Court Lady Margaret Manor Road Doddington

Cllr Coates said no further information has been received.

## **11. FINANCE**

### i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

### ii. Clerk's salary and expenses

It was agreed to pay Mrs W Licence salary and expenses (July, August, September) £702.27 (cheque no 1194) and HMRC- PAYE £90.40 (cheque no 1201)

### iii. Invoices for Payment

a. It was agreed to pay Mr D Bucket- £155.85 Internal Audit fee 1195)

Cheque no 1196 cancelled

b. It was agreed to pay Mr C Sherwood - £1,722 War Memorial work (cheque no 1197)

c. It was agreed to pay Doddington Village Hall- £117 hall hire (cheque no 1198)

e. It was agreed to pay Royal British Legion- £35 poppy wreath donation (cheque no1199)

f. Any invoice for approval received by 14 October 2019

It was agreed to pay Four Jays- £34.80 balance of portaloos hire (cheque no1200)

### iv. Internal Audit report

Cllr Coates said there have been problems with uploading the village newsletter onto the Council's website as the document is too large to upload, this has been addressed. Mrs Coates was thanked for her help to resolve the issue. It is not a legal requirement for the newsletter to be on the website.

Councillors agreed that there could be a link to the newsletter on the Village website page.

*ACTION: Clerk to give details of the Council's new website to the Village Website.*

### v. Review of Risk Assessments

The Risk Assessment was amended and agreed to be adopted as amended.

The War Memorial Risk Assessment was agreed.

### vi. Review of Asset Register

There were no additions to the Asset Register.

## **12. DEFIBRILATOR**

Cllr Coates said there was nothing to report.

## **13. SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Fraser informed Councillors that there have been regular Speed Watch sessions in the village and reports from each session are sent to the Police.

## **14. PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Duckworth said the grass cutting has been satisfactory this year and there have been ten cuts with the gang mower and additional cuts by another contractor to the peripheral areas. The moss on the safety surfaces is showing faintly and will be monitored. The bench

near West End may be looking old. There is no date yet for the play area inspection and the tree inspection will take place on 6 November at 9am. The Play equipment looks in order. Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

### **15. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Fraser reported the drains opposite Sunnyside and the garage are still blocked. Cllr Cuthbert said that he has cleared some drains and will contact Earl Bourner, KCC Highways Asset Manager, regarding the issue.

Cllr Coates said Paul Brand, KCC Highways Schemes Project Manager, has misunderstood that the Parish Council is seeking to engage with KCC Highways regarding priority of maintenance work in the village. Mr Brand has said that problems should be reported on the KCC Highways portal or to the Highway Steward. There is a Parish Seminar meeting on 28 November and it might be pertinent to attend.

Cllr Coates said that he has previously reported the drains on Chequers Hill and there are traffic cones around two drains which are blocked. The drain outside Tom Tiddlers is blocked and when it rains the water goes back up and raises the cover which is a trip hazard.  
*ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to report to Earl Bourner.*

Cllr Coates said a resident from Wychling has written expressing concern regarding HGVs going through the village and the speed of traffic. The Council is aware that the signage is inadequate but the problem is outside the Council's jurisdiction, the resident needs to contact County Councillor Shellina Prendergast. Not all HGVs are on a short cut and some are going to local businesses. There is an active Speed Watch group in Doddington and when there was support the team also held sessions in Wyching.

*ACTION 1: Clerk to respond to resident and copy in the Chairman of the Wychling Parish Meeting.*

*ACTION 2: Clerk to contact Lenham Storage to ask them to remind drivers not to use Doddington as a through route.*

### **16. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 12.09.19: KALC SAC Newsletter
2. 12.09.19: Kent Police Rural Task Force Newsletter
3. 12.09.19: Kent County Council Public Satisfaction Survey on highways and transport services
4. 24.09.19: Kent Police Rural Task Force reports
5. 01.10.19: KALC Swale Area Committee- letter from the vice chairman
6. 01.10.19: KALC Newsletter
7. 04.10.19: Resident letter regarding HGVs through village
8. 07.10.19: KCC Highways offer of salt bags  
Liaising with the Village Hall for possibility of having a bag in the car park
9. 08.10.19: KALC flyer regarding subscriptions

Councillors agreed the Parish should have a salt bag which will be available for residents to use on roads as required.

The Clerk said she is liaising with the Village Hall Chairman regarding the siting of the bag.

### **17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Jones said the report of the Clerks' Conference mentions a Social Media Policy. Cllr Shaw said that the Parish Council does not have a need for Social Media as it would be duplicating the Village Facebook page.

The Clerk said the new website has a facility for residents to sign up for email alerts and villagers should be encouraged to do this.

Cllr Jones asked for an update on The Retreat.

The Clerk said that she had not heard back regarding enforcement action.

Cllr Coates said the KALC Awards Scheme will be launched next month.

Cllr Cuthbert said the Parish Council originally decided to make the award bi-annually but has also done this on an annual basis.

Cllr Jones said that a different way of getting nominations has been discussed previously and that nominations could be sought from villagers.

*ITEM FOR NEXT AGENDA*

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**Date of next Meeting:- Monday 11 November 2019**

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 11 November 2019