

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on
Monday 10 May 2021

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

Also present was Ward Member David Simmons

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting.
All Members were present.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** Cllr Coates to the office of Chairman; **SECONDED** by Cllr Attwood: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Coates signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman in the presence of the Clerk.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** Cllr Jones to the office of Vice Chairman; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Jones signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman in the presence of the Clerk.

4. TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES

i. To confirm - Representatives

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr Coates be the KALC Swale Area Committee representative.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr Fraser be the Swale Eastern Area Committee representative.

ii. To confirm and update – Councillors' areas of Interest

Councillors' areas of interest were **AGREED** as follows:

Finance- Cllr Coates (Chairman), Cllr Fraser and Cllr Jones.

Planning- Cllr Attwood and Cllr Shaw

Playing Field- Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Fraser supported by Cllr Cuthbert

Highways- Cllr Cuthbert

Defibrillator- Cllr Coates

Speed Watch- Cllr Fraser (Lead Member), Cllr Coates and Cllr Jones

Faversham Engagement Forum- Cllr Fraser and Cllr Jones

HR Manager- Cllr Jones

5. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Doddington Parish Council, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, adopts the General Power of Competence until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

<p>6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None were declared.</p>
<p>7. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION It was agreed that the Clerk's Annual Appraisal be considered in closed session.</p>
<p>8. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2021 It was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting, Cllr Coates duly signed the minutes as a true record.</p>
<p>9. MATTERS ARISING (except those issues appearing under specific headings) <u>Football net</u> Cllr Fraser said that although it had been agreed to purchase two nets, the goal post at the Dully Hill end does not have supports. It was agreed that nets needing goal rear supports be purchased.</p> <p><u>Fence at Sunnyside</u> Cllr Coates reported that Optivo requested further information which Cllr Fraser has kindly provided and this has been sent to Optivo. Cllr Fraser said residents have asked if the trees over the footpath near Sunnyside could be cut back, the Clerk has reported it to Optivo.</p>
<p>10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT A full report had been given to the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>
<p>11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME <i>The meeting was adjourned for the public time</i></p> <p>SBCllr Simmons asked if the Village Hall had wifi. Cllr Cuthbert reported that it had been considered by the committee but the hall was closed due to lockdown. Cllr Jones said he understood a compelling business case had not been established.</p> <p><i>The meeting was reconvened.</i></p>
<p>12. PLANNING MATTERS Cllr Coates informed Members that no new applications had been lodged</p>
<p>13. FINANCE</p> <p><u>i. Parish Council Allowances:</u> It was AGREED that mileage be 45p per mile.</p> <p><u>ii. Councillors Expenses</u> There were none.</p> <p><u>iii. Precept – To confirm receipt</u> Cllr Coates reported that the Precept has been paid, £4367.</p> <p><u>iv. KCC website grant- to confirm receipt</u> Cllr Coates reported that the Clerk had identified that the Council could obtain a KCC grant for the new website and £137.80 has been received.</p> <p><u>v. Invoices for Payment</u></p>

a. Came & Co- insurance

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the insurance premium of £642.30 (cheque no 1263).

14. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue with speeding vehicles being reported to the Police. During Speed Watch sessions, operators will keep a close watch for Shaw Haulage vehicles.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Fraser for his report.

15. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Duckworth reported the ivy has been cleared from the trees. There had been no issues following the recent high winds. There was a cut of the Playing Field in March and another in April. The contractor is maintaining the peripheral areas.

The swing chains have been measured for wear and there is little difference since 2019.

A supervised group of young people from the school were using the football goal. The Playing Field is being well used.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Duckworth for his report.

Cllr Fraser reported that he and Cllr Duckworth regularly inspect the equipment, the moss has died back.

Cllr Coates said that we were waiting to be contacted by the resident who had asked if the play equipment could be modernised.

16. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Cuthbert reported that KCC Highways has carried out maintenance in the village, Brewster Road was due to be patched but the road has been renewed as had the splay. The road from Down Court Road to Chequers Hill had been partially resurfaced to a satisfactory standard. There is more work to be carried out.

ACTION: Clerk to thank KCC Highways for their work.

Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Cuthbert for his report.

ii. HGVs

Cllr Coates reported that there has been no response from the Traffic Commissioner to our complaint about Shaw Haulage. These HGVs continue to use the village as a rat-run. He explained that our response could be two-fold. The company's activity may constitute a "nuisance and an annoyance" and could render them liable to a civil injunction. In addition, a 7 ½ tonne weight limit could be applied for, with appropriate exemptions for local businesses. These actions, if successful, would protect the village from being used as a "rat run" generally and would affect Shaw's operation directly.

Cllr Coates **PROPOSED** to apply for a 7 ½ tonne weight limit; **SECONDED** by Cllr Cuthbert: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Fraser **PROPOSED** that the Council take legal advice up to £500 to investigate the possible use of a civil injunction: **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION 1: Cllr Coates and Clerk to work on the legal aspect.

ACTION 2: Cllr Cuthbert to liaise with Sarah-Jayne Ellcock for traffic survey and preparation of the Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

ACTION 3: Clerk to inform Newnham and Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Councils of intentions.

iii. Drainage and Flooding

Cllr Jones reported that KCC Highways has detected a blockage in the connecting pipes between two drains in The Street near the garage and it is being investigated.

Cllr Jones reported that KCC has consultants assessing the impact of the Kings Acre lagoon to see how much extra flood protection an expansion would give to the village, and the cost. The results should be available in June.
Cllr Coates thanked Cllr Jones for his report.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 13.04.21- resident email concerning parking in Chequers Hill and request for double yellow lines.
2. 16.04.21- KALC CEO bulletin
3. 19.04.21- KCCLlr Bowles's newsletter
4. 20.04.21- KCC Highways: notice of temporary road closure Brewsters Road
5. 24.04.21- KCC Highways: notice of urgent road closure Chequers Hill
6. 27.04.21- Helen Whately MP press release on Swale Local Plan
7. 28.04.21- Department for Culture, Media & Sport's consultation/call for evidence on improving broadband connectivity to very hard to reach areas
8. 28.04.21- KALC: High Court verdict on legal challenge to ending of remote meetings
9. 29.04.21- Faversham Town Council: details of the Faversham and District local lottery
10. 30.04.21- Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government Electronic Communications Infrastructure Consultation
11. 30.04.21- KALC: update on High Court Judgement: Remote Meetings
12. 04.05.21- NALC CEO bulletin
13. 04.05.21- KALC: Planning Conference 12 May
14. 06.05.21- Swale CAB: letter of thanks for donation
15. 07.05.21- NALC: remote meetings update
16. 07.05.21- SBC: Great British Spring Clean 28 May- 13 June
17. 07.05.21- KALC: newsletter

Councillors considered the request for double yellow lines on Chequers Hill and agreed that the van parked on the pavement in the photo was totally unacceptable. When the planning application for the development was considered by the Parish Council, Councillors raised concerns about parking issues but this was ignored. The situation with regards to parking in the lower part of Chequers Hill has been made worse recently due to home working during lockdown. On that particular day there was also an "overspill" of cars as one property was having building work done. The damage to the pavement was not caused by vehicles, but by water pressure from a blocked drain and was repaired by KCC Highways. Yellow lines would only lead to a displacement of vehicles wishing to park. The situation will be monitored and the pub landlord asked if he could warn patrons not to park on the pavement, especially during events.

ACTION: Cllr Coates to draft response.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Attwood said Planning Enforcement needs to be contacted regarding The Retreat.

ACTION: Clerk

19. CLERK'S APPRAISAL

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 leave the meeting during consideration of the Clerk's Annual Appraisal.

Cllr Jones thanked Councillors for their contributions to the Clerk's annual appraisal. She had performed very well especially in supporting the Council through remote working. He **PROPOSED** the Clerk's salary be increased by one spinal column point: **SECONDED** by Cllr Coates: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 14 June 2021

Cllr Coates thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 14 June 2021