

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of Doddington Parish Council on Monday 13 April 2015

Present: Cllrs Cuthbert (Chairman), Attwood (Vice Chairman), Duckworth & Haynes and Mrs Licence (Clerk).
Also present were three members of the public

1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Jones, on holiday, and Cllr Coates, away on business: apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been accepted from KCCllr Bowles who was at another meeting: apology noted.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cuthbert invited Members to declare any items of interest or lobbying on this agenda. 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 March 2015

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting of 9 March 2015 and the minutes were approved unanimously. Cllr Cuthbert signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

i. Wall at Chequers Inn

Cllr Cuthbert informed Councillors that Building Control are satisfied that the danger has been removed.

6. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

The Clerk explained that Paul Crispe is no longer a Community Warden and Maurice Stewart from Canterbury is covering the area. Mr Stewart will send a report to the Council in the next few days.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The report from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator had already been circulated.

Cllr Cuthbert thanked Mrs Jackson for her sterling work as Co-ordinator.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

i. A question was raised concerning the impending sale of the Old School which is currently under offer and concern was expressed that it might become a housing estate.

Cllr Cuthbert explained that the Parish Council has no control as to what happens to the site.

Cllr Attwood said that unfortunately there could be no absolute answer at this time as Swale Borough Council is still developing its Local Plan. At present the site is outside the village boundary and sits in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Cllr Cuthbert stressed that the site is under offer at present and the Parish Council will comment on any planning application to the site.

ii. Another resident brought to the Council's attention the possibility that someone is staying on the land at Hope's Hill.

Cllr Cuthbert said the Parish Council will monitor the situation.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. 14/505999/FULL Lady Margaret Farm Lady Margaret Manor Rd Doddington ME9 0NR Update on application

Cllr Cuthbert explained that the Agricultural Consultant's comments to the Borough Council has been sought but the Officer dealing with this application is away until 15 April and nothing has happened on the planning application.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 13 April 2015

No other planning applications had been received.

10. PROVISION OF A DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Cuthbert told members that he has contacted AKS Electrical to install the defibrillator but unfortunately the electrician has been ill and now has a backlog of work.

ACTIONS: i. Cllr Cuthbert will contact contractor to obtain a firm date for the installation.

ii. Cllr Duckworth will arrange a training session.

11. KALC Awards

i. To ratify decision of gift to nominee

Cllr Cuthbert explained that while it had been informally agreed to give an engraved gift to the recipient of the award it now needed to be ratified by the Parish Council.

Cllr Attwood PROPOSED to give a gift to the recipient of the award; SECONDED by Cllr Haynes. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACTIONS: i. Cllr Haynes to order gift

ii. All Councillors to submit ideas for wording to be engraved to Cllr Haynes.

ii. To consider arrangements for presentation ceremony

Cllr Cuthbert reminded Councillors the Annual General Meeting will start at 7pm and be followed by the Award ceremony and the Annual Parish Meeting will start at 8pm.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert will obtain refreshments for the event.

12. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses

There were none.

ii. To receive SBC Members' Localism grant

Cllr Cuthbert informed Councillors that grants of £250 have received for the Community Bus and £500 received towards the Defibrillator, both grants from Colin Prescott's devolved budget.

ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert to write and thank Cllr Prescott.

iii. To note VAT claim made

Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that a VAT claim of £260.77 has been submitted.

iv. Annual Return 2014-15

Cllr Cuthbert told Councillors that the audit form has been received from PKF Littlejohn, the external auditors, and internal auditor is due to meet with the Clerk on 21 April.

Invoices for Payment

i. KALC subscription

Cllr Cuthbert said that membership of KALC has been hugely beneficial as they provide excellent advice to Councils when needed. The subscription is £211.56.

Cllr Cuthbert PROPOSED to pay the subscription of £211.56 (cheque no 1051) to KALC; SECONDED by Cllr Duckworth: AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

Any other invoice for approval received by 9 March 2015

There were no other invoices to consider.

Request for Donation

i. Citizen Advice Bureau

Cllr Cuthbert reminded Councillors that previously the Parish Council donated £60 to the CAB. The Council has always been cautious about giving away money but the CAB's advice is available to everyone.

Cllr Cuthbert PROPOSED to give £60 (cheque no 1052) to the CAB; SECONDED by Cllr Duckworth. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. ADMINISTRATIONS AND SYSTEMS

i. Annual Review of Risk Assessment

No new risks had been identified and the Parish Council Risk Assessment was duly accepted

ii. Annual Review of Schedule of Assets

The Schedule of Assets had been amended to include the defibrillator and to remove printer. This was duly accepted.

14. PLAYING FIELD

i. Cllr Duckworth's monthly report

Cllr Duckworth reported that the new turf on the goal mouth has taken well although the area is soft in the middle due to the depth of soil laid. Cllr Duckworth suggested that the posts might be left round the area until it has settled more, so that the tractor would not go over it and damage the turf.

Cllr Duckworth said the green bench was ready to be re-instated and he needs help to do this.

15. HIGHWAYS

i. Highways Update

Cllr Duckworth and Cllr Haynes had accepted Mr Leigh-Pemberton's kind invitation to inspect the improvements which had been carried out at the wood yard. A drainage system has been installed in the middle of the field and soakaways have been put in. The entrance, with a new track, has been re-surfaced and is now higher than the rest of the field and road which will help reduce the amount of mud pushed out into the road.

Katie Lewis, KCC Drainage, has confirmed that the drainage has been cleansed and that resurfacing works are due to take place in the next few months and a KCC engineer will visit the site. KCC plans to clean the drains whilst the traffic management is in place and will arrange for the verge markers to be installed at the same time

ACTIONS: i. Clerk to write to Katie Lewis and explain what work has been carried out and to express concern as to whether enough has been done to ensure water drains away. A copy to be sent to KCCllr Bowles.

ii Clerk to copy Chairman what has been said and Chairman to contact Wychling Parish.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. PKF Littlejohn Audit Forms

2. Kent's Third Speedwatch Conference 25 April 2015

3. KALC SAC minutes

4. SWALE RURAL FORUM: The next Swale Rural Forum will be on Tuesday 26 May 2015, 7pm at Warden Bay Village Hall, Warden Bay Road, Warden, Isle of Sheppey, ME12 4NB.

5. SBC Draft Tree Policy.

ACTION: Councillors to consider response if any.

6. A request for a grant had been received on behalf of Doddington in Bloom, for help towards costs of replanting in village, and Doddington Church for grant towards repainting the tower.

ACTION: to be put on next agenda.

Already Circulated

Andrew Bowles' Newsletter
Council Matters- Came & Co

17. AOB

No other matters were raised.

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

Date of next meeting:- Monday 11 May 2015

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings

Chairman.....Date: 11 May 2015