

Dunkirk Parish Council - Extraordinary Meeting

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 7 August 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr K. Kemp (Chair of Parish Council), Cllr J. Tutt, Cllr J. Clifford and Cllr D. Brice
Rebecca Parr (Clerk).

No members of the public.

Declaration: Any Declarations of Interest by members present to be made at the commencement of the meeting: Non-pecuniary interest received from Cllr Tutt due to close proximity of the site to his home address.

1. **Apologies for absence** – received from Cllr G. Hewett

Apologies not received: Cllr N. Smith (Vice Chair)

2. **Planning:**

a) **Consider applications:**

- (i) **23/503377/TPOA Proposal: Tree Preservation Order Application: Re coppicing, harvesting and clearing of Chestnut trees to preserve the stools. Sweet Chestnut trees make up approx. 90% of the trees. The remaining 10% is made up of Oak, Beech, Birch, Holly, Hornbeam and other native trees. These will be left standing. Trunks and brushwood will be left around the edge of the area for wildlife and biodiversity. Location: Hurst Wood Iron Hill Dunkirk Road South Dunkirk Kent.**

The council discussed concerns raised over the intensity of the coppicing programme over 3 years and impact on biodiversity and that there was no management plan to accompany the application setting out the detail. Concerns were also raised with regards to the traffic volume and size of lorries given the narrow rural roads. The council voted unanimously to object to the application with the following comment:

“Dunkirk Parish Council have concerns whether the applicant has the owner’s permission to proceed as previous dealings with this site concerning rights of way access resulted in no owner being found. In addition, there was insufficient detail included with the application to understand the method and management plan associated with the proposal. There are concerns that the coppicing of a wood this size over a 3 year period in the winter months is too intensive and does not allow or take into account the biodiversity impact and regeneration. The Parish Council are also unclear with regards to access to the site for the work and have concerns with regards to logging traffic size and frequency. The marked site adjoins Hickmans Green (formally Horselees Road) and is two metres above this very narrow road/lane. Other than this, access would be over public footpaths on blind bends. Taking the crop out through other parcels of land would be onto Dunkirk Road South, a designated rural lane in the local plan, which raises safety concerns as there are no footpaths. Consequently Dunkirk Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the application”.

The Meeting was closed at 7.55pm

Date of next meetings: Full Council: 21 August 2023

Rebecca Parr,
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed	Signed
Chair		Vice-Chair	
Date	Date