

# Dunkirk Parish Council – Full Council Meeting

Minutes of Full Council meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall 15 July 2024 at 7.30pm

## Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr K. Kemp (Chair), Cllr P. Barkaway (Vice-Chair), Cllr D. Brice, Cllr, Cllr Gray and, Cllr J. Tutt R Parr (Clerk).

There were 3 members of the public

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for were received from G. Hewett, Cllr Gould (SBC) and Cllr R Lehmann (KCC & SBC).

### 2. Declaration: Any Declarations of Interest by members present to be made at the commencement of the meeting

- A. Cllr Tutt declared a non-pecuniary interest as a footpath goes past his house towards the proposed Winterbourne Fields development.
- B. Cllr Clifford declared a non-pecuniary interest as his main residential property lies 700m from the proposed development boundary.
- C. Cllr Kemp declared a non-pecuniary interest with regards to the planning application at New House Cottage London Road given his residence is opposite the application site,

### 3. Approve and Sign the Minutes

- A. **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.** A motion to approve the minutes by all present was approved with unanimous approval from those that attended.
- B. **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting 1st July 2024 (including Appendix of Public Meeting).** A motion to approve the minutes by all present was approved with unanimous approval from those that attended.

The Chair provided his thanks to Cllr Gray in producing the minutes of the extraordinary meeting in absence of the Clerk.

### 12. Playing Fields – Approval sought to seek legal advice on access for fee estimate of £550 + VAT

The Chair summarised the request by saying that the issue of the playing fields access had never been resolved to and therefore the Council were potentially seeking to obtain a legal opinion in order to clarify the matter once and for all.

### 4. Public Participation

- A. Members of the public expressed their concern that the issue regarding playing field access did not appear to have been resolved and that the issue with the landowners concerned had continued over the past 12 years. The landowner informed the council that their solicitor had confirmed that access rights were for maintenance purposes only and that to spend public money obtaining a legal position was a waste. They also raised concerns over actions to some councillors past and present. They were advised if that was the case to contact the monitoring officer and or the Police.

### 12. Playing Fields – Approval sought to seek legal advice on access for fee estimate of £550 + VAT

The Council discussed, following the public comments and noting the potential discrepancy in the deeds and resolved to approve the fee estimate spend and approach the KALC solicitor for advice.

### 5. Planning:

#### A. Received Decisions:

- i. 24/502222/AGRIC Prior notification for Agricultural building for the storage of hay. For its prior approval to: - Siting, design and external appearance. Denstroude Farm Denstroude Lane Dunkirk Canterbury Kent CT2 9JZ - Prior Approval Required.
- ii. 24/501627/FULL Installation of new roof and updating materials to existing outbuilding. Wilverley Dunkirk Road North Dunkirk Kent ME13 9NZ - Application Permitted

**B. Consider Applications:**

- i. 24/502123/EIOUT | Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed use phased development comprising up to 1,815 dwellings (Use Class C2 and C3); an Employment park (Use Class E(g) and B8); local centre accommodating a mix of units to provide a Health and Wellbeing Centre (Use Class E(e)), all purpose store (Use Class E(a)), shops/ancillary retail units (Use Class E(a)), community/general use units (Use Class F2) and food and beverage units (Use Class E(b)); public open space and recreation including community park, recreation trail and improved pedestrian/cycle links across the A2; sports and education facilities comprising 2 From Entry (2FE) primary school (Use Class F1(a)), early years centre (Use Class E), leisure facility (Use Class E(d)) and sports pavilion (Use Class E(d)); provision of a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain; transport and access infrastructure including an integrated bus link to the surrounding area, upgrades to the Dunkirk A2 junction through a new trunk road slips and an electric vehicle charging hub (c.0.2 ha) within the village centre for approximately 36 vehicles as a mix of medium, rapid, ultra rapid and Tesla chargers, alongside associated facilities including toilets and potential for cafe facility; and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure. | Land North And South Of The A2 Boughton Bypass Dunkirk Kent ME13 9LG

Following the discussion, also noting the recent Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan response and that National Highways was also requesting an extension until October 2024 for their comments. The Council resolved to continue finalising its comments. And seek to approve the comments at an extraordinary meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Cllr Clifford then left the meeting.

- ii. 24/502330/LDCEX | Lawful Development Certificate for Existing use as a permanent dwelling since 14th June 2013 in breach of a planning condition 2 of SW/11/0508. | New House Cottage London Road Dunkirk Kent ME13 9LL

The Council discussed and resolved to request for another extension to the 6<sup>th</sup> August in order to allow additional time to gather potential evidence pertinent to the case and for the Council to discuss further at an Extraordinary Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**6. Correspondence**

**A. Utility Aid on SSE issues**

The Clerk advised the Council of correspondence received from the CEO of Utility Aid on SSE and the current billing issues the Council are facing following a major IT upgrade. The high number of issues has resulted in an unprecedented increase in queries that are currently awaiting resolution from SSE. The backlog is substantial and causing severe delays in response times from SSE. SSE are working hard to resolve these issues as quickly as possible.

**B. Lloyds Bank on FSCS coverage**

Lloyds wrote to DPC and a large number of other councils to say we would not be covered under the FSCS.. The Clerk complained to Lloyds regarding the letter given that she did not believe it was correct. The Clerk also raised it with SLCC, who then raised with NALC. The Lloyds complaints team later contacted the Clerk to apologise, saying letter sent was factually incorrect and as income below £500k, we are covered. Lloyds awarded £25 compensation

**C. SBC Consultation on Draft Statement on Principles for Gambling 2022-2025 - Gambling Act 2005 –** closing date 9th August 2024. The Council discussed and resolved not to respond.

- C. **KCC transportation Survey for public.**  
[https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/nht-survey-2024-25?utm\\_source=ehq\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ehq-National-Highways-and-Transport-Survey-for-202425&utm\\_campaign=website&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=ehq](https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/nht-survey-2024-25?utm_source=ehq_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ehq-National-Highways-and-Transport-Survey-for-202425&utm_campaign=website&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ehq)  
**Closes 28 February 2025.**

The Clerk advised this would be added to the website and Facebook.

- E. **Swale launched Home Upgrade Grant Funding available for households earning under£36,000 or receiving a means-tested benefit.**

The Clerk advised this would be added to the website and Facebook.

- F. **Kent Resilience Team's short online survey Community Resilience Planning Survey.**

The Council discussed and resolved that due to the Winterbourne application, they were not able to focus on this topic at the current time.

- G. **Kent Police** - The Clerk advised that she had received correspondence from PC Morris who confirmed in the past month that no crime or anti-social behaviour. New surgery date to be arranged

**7. Matters for public concern:**

**A. Highways Issues**

- i. A councillor raised ongoing concerns over overhanging dead branches on Boughton Hill at the June meeting and enquired if this had been investigated by KCC. **Action:** The Clerk is to chase KCC Highways for an update.

**B. Footpaths, Verges & Hedges**

- i. No comments

- C. **TPOs** – The Clerk advised no full response had yet been received.

**8. Finance**

- A. Approve Finance Report - The Clerk read through the contents of the Finance Report for the end of June which was approved by the Council and signed by the a non-bank signatory.

- B. Approve Payments: The Council voted unanimously to approve the following payments for July.

| Payment No. | A/C Name                       | Invoice No. | Chq No     | Description                       | Net            | VAT         | Gross          | Expenditure Powers                 |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
|             | R Parr                         |             | L - Online | Salary 06/24- 07/24               | 777.40         | 0.00        | 777.40         | Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2) |
|             | HMRC                           |             | L - Online | TAX - HMRC                        | 35.80          | 0.00        | 35.80          | Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2) |
| 21          | <b>Rebecca Parr</b>            |             |            | <b>Net Pay</b>                    | <b>741.60</b>  | <b>0.00</b> | <b>741.60</b>  | Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2) |
|             | Rebecca Parr                   | Advice only | S/O        | Office Expenses                   | 20.00          | 0.00        | 20.00          | Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2) |
|             | Rebecca Parr                   |             | S/O        | Expenses - eSim                   | 16.65          | 0.00        | 16.65          | Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2) |
|             | HMRC NI                        |             | L - Online | Employer Contribution NI          | 2.68           | 0.00        | 2.68           | Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2) |
| 22          | <b>Total HMRC Contribution</b> |             | L - Online |                                   | <b>38.48</b>   | <b>0.00</b> | <b>38.48</b>   | Local Government Act 1972 s.112(2) |
| 23          | G Doy                          |             | L-Online   | Grass Cutting June                | 70.00          | 0.00        | 70.00          | Highways Act 1980 s 96             |
| 24          | Mr Moon                        |             | L- Online  | Playing Fields Grass cutting June | 100.00         | 0.00        | 100.00         | Open Spaces Act 1906 s.9           |
| 25          | PCC                            |             | L-Online   | Dunkirk Churchyard Maintenance    | 100.00         | 0.00        | 100.00         | Local Government Act 1972 s.214(6) |
|             | Prime One                      |             |            | May streetlight Maintenance -     | Not Rec'd      | Not Rec'd   | Not Rec'd      | Parish Councils Act 1957 s 3       |
| 26          | SSE                            |             | L online   | Streelight                        | 76.22          | 5.54        | 81.76          | Parish Councils Act 1957 s 3       |
|             | ICO                            | Advice only | D/D        | Annual Renewal                    | 35.00          | 0.00        | 35.00          |                                    |
|             | <b>Total</b>                   |             |            |                                   | <b>1197.95</b> | <b>5.54</b> | <b>1203.49</b> |                                    |

The Clerk advised that invoices were still not received from Prime One.

**9. Annual Review and approval of Council Policies**

- A. **New Financial Regulations**

The new model financial regulations provided by NALC had been reviewed and updated by the Clerk ahead of the meeting. Given that these were a significant change, the Council discussed and resolved that a small working party should be created to review in detail with the Clerk. Cllr Barkaway and Cllr Gray volunteered to form the working party.

**10. Benstead Charity Grant Application – Update**

A councillor confirmed that an application had been submitted and that we were waiting to hear on the outcome.

**11. Donation to CPRE - Discuss amount to be made under S137 Powers**

Given the work undertaken by CPRE in terms of a couple of local large planning applications, it was discussed whether a donation should be provided. The council resolved to donate £200 in view of their support under S137 powers.

**13. VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations 8th May 2025 – Discuss partaking in the event. Beacon?**

The Council discussed and on the basis that the DD Anniversary event was well received, the Council resolved to support the occasion with a lighting of the beacon. The Council agreed to light the beacon at the village hall with an event to be organised at the village hall possibly including a BBQ. The Councillors and Village Hall are to consider ideas.

**14. Milestones - update**

A Councillor reported that discussions are ongoing with the milestone society. It was agreed to bring back to the agenda in September.

**15. Councillor’s Reports**

A Councillor advised that an issue at the polling station had been reported to him and in turn had been reported to the Returning Officer at Swale Borough Council.

A Councillor had reported regarding a training issue for the Standards Committee at Swale Borough Council.

**16. Planning Enforcement Streetlight Maintenance issues and contract update –**

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no further contact or invoice received from Prime One. Have emailed, left voicemail. Contact in past has been sporadic. The Clerk confirmed that the Council was not in contract as an extension was waiting on final streetlight numbers first. The Clerk also needs information from him on 35 Horselees to provide the information required UKPN to then issue refund to energy provider. Other PCs are having similar service responses issues. The Clerk confirmed that there were limited market for options to change without cost. **Action:** The Chair is to also contact Prime One.

**17. Administration/ Clerk’s Report**

There were no updates

**18. Items to be placed on the next Full Meeting**

- New Model Financial Regulations
- Legal Advice concerning Playing Fields Access
- Winterbourne Field application
- Bensted Grant application

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.40pm

|                        |                       |                                     |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Date of next meetings: | Extraordinary :       | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2024  |
|                        | Full Council Meeting: | Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 |

Rebecca Parr,  
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed .....  
Chair

Signed .....  
Vice Chair

Date .....

Date .....