

# Dunkirk Parish Council – Full Council Meeting

## Minutes of Full Council meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall 7.30pm 20 September 2021

### Present:

Parish Councillors: Jeff Tuff (JT) Chair, Julie Coleman (JC) Vice Chair, Daniel Brice (DB), Kevin Kemp (KK), Nicola Smith (NS) and Greg Hewett (GH), Matthew Bullen (MB) clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Ward Councillors: Tim Valentine (TV) and Alastair Gould (AG) who joined from item 3 onwards  
Two Members of the public

**Declaration:** Any Declarations of Interest by members present to be made at the commencement of the meeting: JT advised that with the respect the planning application to be discussed, he is a near neighbour of the property concerned though does not have a pecuniary interest in the application.

1. **Apologies for absence** – apologies received from County Councillor Lehmann
2. **Minutes of the previous meetings of Full Council 16 August 2021 and Planning Committee 6 September 2021 and matters arising** - the Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair with no matters arising
3. **Matters for public concern:**
  - a) **Highways Issues**
    - i. Update on position with regards to replacement speed signs on Boughton Hill

One member reminded Council of the position that KCC had inappropriately passed details of the matter to a third party without the Council's permission. Another member commented that the quotation for approximately £8,000 to replace the sign was significantly more than the actual cost of the sign itself.  
A motion for JT and KK to push back to KCC with regards to its overall approach and proposed costs was proposed by KK, seconded by DB and agreed unanimously. **ACTION JT AND KK**
    - ii. Volume of roadworks in the Dunkirk area

One member is unhappy with the amount of roadworks being undertaken in the area, the apparent lack of a joined up plan between the various authorities and matters being compounded with issues like signage not being removed after works completed.  
The clerk was asked to contact National Highways and KCC to explain the issues and request that all works undertaken in the area are coordinated. **ACTION MB**
    - iii. Roadworks planned for Boughton Hill

One member advised that they had received a leaflet advising that Boughton Hill is due to be closed for 5 days at the end of October which will cause significant disruption in the area. The clerk was asked to update the website/ Facebook etc with the details as soon as possible **ACTION MB**
  - b) **Footpaths, Verges & Hedges**

One member advised that the footpath near the bungalows by the mast on Courtenay Road was overgrowing foliage which is obstructing the pathway.  
**ACTION MB** Clerk to contact regular verge contractor to ask him to quote for the works and then ask a member to also quote for the works as a comparison before authorising  
JT advised that, coincidentally, Item 11 had been raised as a parishioner had contacted the Council to ask if that same area of Courtenay Road, including the layby, could be closed and converted into an electric vehicle charging point? Members unanimously agreed this would be a good idea and JT to investigate further **ACTION JT**
  - c) **TPOs**

Manson Wood - Felling Licence Consultation. One member commented that the Forest Commission had not appropriately consulted with the Council as they had been asked to do so by Swale Borough Council and asked the clerk to write to the Forestry Commission to ask that they now do this **ACTION MB**
  - d) **Streetlights**

Two members stated that they had recently seen articles which suggest that LED lighting is detrimental to wildlife verges and the Council should therefore look into the matter of dimming the lighting in line with best practice of other parish councils as soon as possible. A motion was passed unanimously for the clerk to a) ask the Street lighting Contractor to regulate its lighting in line with other Councils as soon as possible and b) add notices to the website, Facebook page and Parish magazine to notify residents that each streetlight can be amended individually and to contact the clerk if they wish any amendments to be considered **ACTION MB**
  - e) **Playground Equipment and Safety Surfacing**

i. Survey of residents regarding potential new facilities

As agreed previously, NS advised that she was in the process of drafting a survey in readiness for this to be hand delivered to residents in the Courtenay Road area. **ACTION NS**

ii. Playing field rubbish

One member advised that a lot of litter had been left following a party in the field but that this had been kindly cleared away by an unknown person. JC advised that the dog bin remains overflowing and will report the issue to KCC **ACTION JC**

Members also agreed unanimously for the clerk to write to KCC to ask for an additional, large multi-waste bin for the area too **ACTION MB**

4. **Planning:**

a) **Received decisions:**

**21/504638/SUB** | Submission of Details to Discharge Condition 5 (Electric Vehicle Charging Point) Subject to 19/505582/FULL | Westgate House Site 21 Horselees Road Boughton Under Blean Faversham Kent ME13 9TG **APPROVED**

b) **Consider applications:**

**21/504889/FULL** | Conversion of existing double garage to form 2 no. holiday pods including raising of existing pitched roof with new slate finish, external garden areas to each pod with cycle storage and fencing, off road parking for both pods, foul drainage to existing septic tank. | The Firs Dunkirk Road South Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9PD

Members commented that the application is situated on a narrow, no through road and that this application would result in more vehicles using this. A motion to object to the proposal on road safety grounds was proposed by DB, seconded by JC and agreed by all members except NS who abstained.

5. **Finance:**

a) **Finance report**

The clerk read through the contents of the Finance Report and advised of one error – the payment to the clerk of £916.56 should include a payment of £14.35 to HMRC, with the clerk to receive the net amount for £902.21.

b) **Approve payments**

The clerk confirmed that the invitation to renew the dunkirkpc.uk domain name was optional but a motion to agree the renewal was proposed by KK, seconded by JT and agreed unanimously.

A motion to agree the Finance Report and authorise payments including amendments disclosed was proposed by JT, seconded by KK and agreed unanimously.

6. **Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday, 14 November 2021**

JT advised that Boughton PCC is currently without a vicar and are unlikely to have a priest in place for this year's ceremony. JT queried if members would consider the Council arranging a non-secular service which was received positively. Another member suggested the service should still include traditional Remembrance words and ideally be read by a person from the military, then queried if the Royal British Legion could assist with this? JT agreed to find out more information and circulate to councillors before agreeing the next stage **ACTION JT**

7. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2 June 2022 – consider options for beacon lighting ceremony**

A member of the public queried where any possible lighting beacon would be placed and was advised it would likely be at the Village Hall but could potentially be somewhere else, with the Playing field being mentioned previously.

No formal position as to what method of beacon lighting is to be used or other arrangements decided as yet, with councillors to give this further consideration. JT is to speak to the Village Hall committee to also gain their thoughts **ACTION JT**

8. **Consider provision of a defibrillator at Dunkirk Village Hall**

JT advised he had sought funding to purchase a ventilator, together with a heated cabinet as part of the offer made by KALC. The cost of this is approximately £1,200 and Ward Councillors Valentine and Gould kindly agreed to a £200 contribution each. County Councillor Lehman had previously confirmed he was willing to offer a £600 contribution. The Village Hall had an offer of £100 however the Council considered it was onerous to only have one user donate and it was suggested it make up the difference and suggest the Village Hall ask if the donation could pay for the electric point. A motion for the Council to fund the remaining balance and purchase the equipment on behalf of the Village Hall was proposed by KK, seconded by DB and agreed unanimously. **ACTION JT** to liaise with relevant parties.

Comment was also made about training in how to use the equipment and NS agreed to contact the Resus Council to see if they would be willing to come and offer training **ACTION NS**

**9. Outstanding enforcement matters with Swale Borough Council**

Denstead Stud – the Council was informed that Swale Borough Council have given the planning applicants' further opportunity to submit an appropriate business plan.

A2 access at Gate Hill – members expressed concerns following accident near the entrance to a vehicle entrance point which Swale Borough Council are looking into.

At 9.30pm the meeting was stopped and the Chair asked if members would like it to be paused or if they were agreeable to it continuing. Members unanimously agreed to continue the meeting.

**10. Revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the Swale Borough Council Local Plan Review**

JT advised that in view of the changes to the NPPF, Swale Borough Council will be issuing a new regulation 18 consultation and asked Councillors to look out for this, as well as familiarise themselves with the NPPF changes before the Council gives this further consideration in due course. **ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS**

**11. Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

This was considered under item 3 b) above

**12. Matters not on Agenda (for information only)**

DB advised of a failed kerb near the entrance to the Red Lion pub which is protruding, with vehicle wheels catching on it and causing damage. **ACTION JT** agreed to report the issue to KCC on behalf of the clerk

DB advised the previous issue of overhanging trees near powerlines along the A2 is now being looked into by UK Power Networks, Having been dismissive of the issue, DB pursued the matter and they have now acknowledged the problem and are looking to sort. NS advised she has been in correspondence with KCC regarding the bridleway near Highview Lodge which is to be resurfaced up to the telecoms tower, with a wooden bollard to be installed at the entrance to prevent vehicles using this.

JT asked the new councillors if they were able to attend the KALC "Dynamic Councillor" course and will now look to arrange this on their behalf **ACTION JT**

**13. Meeting closed and private meeting held to review arrangements for previous clerk**

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.40pm.

Matthew Bullen

Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed

  
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Chairman

Date

..... 18/10/21 .....

Date of next meetings:

Planning Committee:

4 October 2021

Full Council:

18 October 2021