

## Dunkirk Parish Council – Full Council Meeting

### Minutes of virtual meeting held via “Zoom” at 7.30pm on 18 January 2021

**Present:** Councillors Jeff Tuff (JT) Chair, Julie Coleman (JC) Vice Chair, Steve Hitch (SH), Daniel Brice (DB), Kevin Kemp (KK) and Jason Clifford (JCL), Matthew Bullen (MB) clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council, Ward Councillor Alastair Gould (AG), KCC Councillor Andrew Bowles (AB) and Charlotte Whitney-Brown

**Declarations:** Any Declarations of Interest by members present to be made at the commencement of the meeting – none declared.

**Apologies for absence:** Ward Councillor Tim Valentine apologised for being unable to attend due to other commitments

**Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising:** The minutes of Full Council meeting 21 December 2021 amended as noted previously and Planning Committee meeting 4 January 2021 were approved as a true record.

#### **Matters for public concern:**

##### Highways Issues:

- One member noted a number of potholes appearing on Jezzards Lane towards Rhode Common. The member is to report the issue and update the pothole map.
- Denstroude Lane on the sharp corner near Blean Woods, another member noted a lot of activity on the road, causing it to become very dirty. The Chair asked the clerk to correspond with Blean Parish Council or Canterbury City Council to establish if they are aware of the situation, the reasons for it and if the matter is in hand – **ACTION MB**
- A member noted that sandbags had been placed at the bottom of Boughton hill due to the amount of rainwater gathering, following recent storms. The issue has been exasperated by the discovery of a spring nearby. A report has been prepared by Kent County Council and it is hoped that this may result in the kerbs being raised.
- On the wider issue of water drainage, another member raised concerns that gulleys are not being cleared properly by Kent County Council and this is contributing to water drainage problems. **ACTION MB** – to liaise with Kent County Council to ensure these works are being undertaken

##### Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

- The Chair advised AG that there were various TPO matters outstanding with Swale Borough Council. The Chair agreed to provide AG with details of the outstanding matters in order for him to then pursue with Swale directly on the Parish Council's behalf.

##### Streetlights

- The Clerk advised that a resident had recently reported at streetlight issue in Stoney Road which was promptly repaired by the contractor
- The Chair advised that the rollout of LED lighting was due to begin imminently, once the contractor had received the necessary equipment

##### Playground Equipment

- At the previous full Council meeting it was decided to liaise with Boughton Parish Council, with a view to exploring the possibility of preparing a joint proposal for installing outdoor gym/ play equipment in both villages. This was discussed at Boughton's next meeting and they have advised that they have already obtained quotations and submitted a bid for funding to Swale Borough Council. It is therefore considered impractical for Dunkirk to join that application process at this stage.

One member questioned if there was still a need for this and the costs of maintaining the equipment, to which it was advised that a decision to undertake a consultation had already been decided at a previous meeting. This consultation was postponed from late last year and is due to take place in the spring, once Covid-restrictions permit. In the meantime, the Clerk agreed to ascertain potential insurance costs as part of the consultation process – **ACTION MB**

#### **Planning:**

##### Received decisions:

- I. **20/505406/FULL** | Creation of a wildlife pond for Great Crested Newts. | Highwood Lodge Boughton Hill Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9LE – **GRANTED**
- II. **20/504391/FULL** | Change of use of cafe to sell hot food takeaways (retrospective). | Plot 6 Dunkirk Industrial Park London Road Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9LG – **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN**

##### Consider applications:

- I. **20/505884/FULL** | Partial demolition of existing extension. Erection of part single storey, part two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and part ground floor, part first floor side extension with balcony | 1 Rhode Common Cottages Rhode Common Dunkirk Kent ME13 9PT

The application was first discussed at Planning Committee meeting 4 January, with a motion passed to object on the basis it does not meet the necessary eco-friendly standards.

A further submission has been made by the applicant to demonstrate the proposals are a smaller scale, when compared to an existing planning application which has already been granted.

JT proposed a motion to re-state the Council's position that the objection is based on the application's lack of eco-credentials and creating an oversized Victorian cottage which was seconded by JC and agreed by all.

II. **20/506024/TPOA** | TPO application for recurring woodland ride maintenance as detailed in full in description of works/management plan on application form. | Blean Wood Hernhill Kent

The Chair noted that an additional period for consultation had been agreed with Hernhill Parish Council, who had been omitted from the initial consultation in error. He asked AG to note this error as similar things have apparently happened on other applications previously.

A member put forward pre-prepared comments objecting to the proposal, principally in view of the following:

- The application requests an indefinite timescale whereas it is suggested this should be reviewed every 2-3 years – not least to review results/progress of the previous works
- The rides should be no wider than 10 metres at ground level, with separate and additional TPO Applications made for any trees requiring felling which fall outside the designated rides. This should be monitored closely.
- There should be no need for cutting outside of the period between November and March each year

A motion for the Chair and the member to formulate a response to Swale BC detailing the above and to include photographic evidence as required was proposed by JC, seconded by KK and agreed by all.

#### **Finance**

The clerk went through the Finance Report and requested authorisation for the payments listed. One member questioned the invoice for 2Commue Ltd given that this referred to a period commencing from April 2020, yet the website was not launched until later in 2020. The Chair explained that the service had begun in April but delayed in view of the changes in personnel experienced by the Council in the middle of last year. A motion to agree the Finance Report and authorise payments was proposed by KK, seconded by JC and agreed by all.

#### **Apsley Trust**

The Chair asked for a councillor to volunteer to represent the Council on the board of the Apsley Trust when the current treasurer resigns from her role. KK volunteered for the role and was thanked by the Chair and other members for agreeing to take this on.

#### **Website Updating**

The Clerk queried if the Agendas and Meeting Minutes documents should be attached on the website to the date the meeting took place or the date the Minutes were signed as being a true record? KK confirmed that the Minutes should only be shown against the date they were agreed.

#### **Matters not on Agenda (for information only)**

AB advised that Kent County Council had, following an initial period of grace, clamped 192 vehicles in 4 days after utilising new enforcement powers designed to keep Kent's roads clear in the event of delays at Dover or Operation Brock being implemented.

Date of next meeting:	Planning Committee:	1 February 2021
	Full Council:	15 February 2021

Matthew Bullen  
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

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