

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 and two members of the public. Ward Councillor Alastair Gould (AG) and KCC Councillor Andrew Bowles (AB) joined the meeting following the conclusion of item 5 Finance.

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

Apologies for absence: None received.

Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising: The minutes of Full Council meeting 18 January 2021 and Planning Committee meeting 1 February 2021 were approved as a true record.

Matters for public concern:

Highways Issues:

- One member commented that the roads were in a poor condition due to the recent bad weather and had reported 3 potholes to the KCC fault-reporting website
- One member was contacted by a resident of Dawes Rd to say there is a manhole cover in the road outside his property and the tarmac surrounding it is mis-shapen. Due to the weather, water has been running down the hill into his garden so he has taken some remedial steps to shore this up but water is now running down into the property of his elderly neighbour. The Chair asked the clerk to contact Garry Gibb, KCC to investigate – **ACTION MB**
- Residents in the Woodside/Dunkirk Road North area were promised by KCC that a salt bin would be installed some time ago. The Chair had chased the matter again last year and KCC undertook another survey but the salt bin was still not installed. The Chair has therefore written to KCC again and this time asked Ward Councillor Gould to further investigate this , given it has been outstanding for some time
- Draw Road – this pathway was previously converted to a public right of way by order of KCC. The right of way is wide enough for unauthorised vehicles to park in its entrance so it was agreed in early 2020 that the Council would pay and supply two bollards to be installed at the Staplestreet end (mirroring what is already in place at the Berkeley Close entrance). Whilst in the process of doing this, a neighbour stated that the bollards interfered with his ability to manoeuvre a vehicle onto his property so the Council agreed to refer back to KCC for further guidance. KCC have now advised they are willing to consider this but would require to survey the site which they cannot do at the present time, as this is considered to be non-essential work during Covid-related restrictions. One member suggested that KCC will have access to tools such as “Google Streetview” and other maps and should therefore be able to undertake a desktop survey of the site – and offered to talk through the area to assist with this. Another member raised a concern that Covid was being used as an excuse to defer certain tasks that are reasonable to undertake and asked for Ward Councillors to assist in persuading KCC to take a more proactive approach here **ACTION MB** - Clerk to raise the issue with AG in the first instance before then reverting to KCC to request a site survey or failing that, undertake a desktop survey.
- A resident has contacted the clerk to request that a rubbish bin is installed at a layby along Dawes Road, opposite Hollyhill Road. A member clarified that the layby is in fact an entrance to Bofors Wood and agreed that it would be good to have a bin there and hopefully encourage people to use it. The chair advised that the area is not on the usual collection routes but all members agreed it was worth asking in any case – **ACTION MB** – to liaise with the chair and raise a request

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

- The Chair reminded the Council that that there were still various TPO matters outstanding with Swale Borough Council. The Chair asked the clerk to write to Paul Hegley (Tree Officer at Swale Borough Council), copying in the Ward Councillors to raise the matter again – **ACTION MB**

Streetlights

- The Clerk advised that no formal confirmation had been received from Prime One as to when the LED lights would be installed and the Chair asked for this to be followed up – **ACTION MB**

Playground Equipment

- The proposed review for the possible provision of outdoor gym equipment is on hold due to the Covid-related restrictions in place

Planning:

Consider applications:

21/500387/FULL | Erection of a single storey rear extension and erection of a rear pitched roof dormer. | Fairview Staplestreet Road Boughton Under Blean Faversham Kent ME13 9TJ

One member noted that the proposals do not impact existing parking arrangements or footpaths. Another raised a possible concern that the proposal would result in access to the rear garden would now only be possible by going through the property which may affect, for example bin storage and collections. A map of the site was then provided to members and it was then shown that a footpath runs along the back of the property. Furthermore, another member noted that another property near to the one under consideration also had no access to the rear and therefore felt it would be unreasonable to request such a condition on this application. Members then unanimously agreed to offer no objection to the application.

Finance

The clerk went through the Finance Report and requested authorisation for the payments listed. The Chair proposed to agree the contents of the report and the requested payments which was seconded by DB and agreed unanimously.

Pre planning consultation - Mast at Dunkirk Radio Station, Rear of Courtenay House

Members noted that the proposals would result in the mast being less than 2 metres higher, and a little wider, than what is currently in place and therefore no one objected to the plans as presented. The Chair asked the clerk to respond to the proposer to state this position – **ACTION MB**

Local Plan Developments

The Chair reminded members that the Council now has less than 6 weeks to make any comments regarding the Plan and asked that the proposals are reviewed in detail. – **ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS AND CLERK**

He also advised he has some serious concerns about the Plan as it stands, particularly around housing allocations, transport infrastructure and the impact on Brenley Corner road junction. It was also commented that Thanet Borough Council are themselves looking at plans to build a further 14,000 homes which would also significantly impact this.

AG asked for the Sustainability Appraisal, which has been issued in conjunction with the plan, to also be reviewed by members. He feels this highlights some of the issues raised by the plan, including some criticisms but also provides some insight as to the choices available to planners when devising these proposals.

AB advised that any potential support for transport infrastructure would most likely have to come from central government and therefore works would be unlikely to take place until 2028 at the earliest, meaning any possible implementation of the Plan would be unlikely to commence until sometime after that.

Neighbourhood Plan Developments

The Chair advised that a lot of work is going to finalise the documentation for the draft plan before it is then submitted to Swale Borough Council. The Borough Council has also been asked for various items of information including; habitat regulations, more detailed notes of who the statutory consultees are that the Parish Councils would need to speak to and a list of fundamental policies which the Parish Councils would need to be fully compliant with when preparing the Plan. No formal responses have been received to these requests.

Nonetheless, the committee is pushing hard to finalise and submit the Neighbourhood Plan, in advance of the Local Plan review.

Matters not on Agenda (for information only)

One member referred to an air raid shelter in woods behind Courtenay Road which is in disrepair. A new sign has been erected to warn of the dangers there but it is felt that such signs have the opposite effect to that intended when seen by curious children. Furthermore, no attempt has been made to block access to the area, which is felt to be dangerous given some of the brickwork on the structure is crumbling. The member felt that rather than having a warning sign, it would be far better to brick the entrance up to make the area secure. The Chair noted that the area is owned by the RSPB and asked the Clerk to write to them regarding the issue. It was also established the area forms part of the scheduled ancient monument which should be addressed with RSPB when writing.

ACTION MB

The Chair then mentioned that this year's audit is not too far away and asked members to review the outcomes from last year's report to see if there is anything they would like to bring forward. Furthermore, members will need to review and update the various existing policies such as Communications and GDPR to ensure they remain current or look to update as appropriate in readiness for the next Full Council meeting. **ACTION – ALL COUNCILLORS AND CLERK**

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

Matthew Bullen
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

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