

# Dunkirk Parish Council Planning Committee

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## Minutes of virtual meeting held via “Zoom” at 7.30pm on 1 February 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) and Matthew Bullen (MB) clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council.

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

**Apologies for absence:** Ward Councillors Alastair Gould and Tim Valentine. The Chair made it be known that going forward, all necessary information to enable members of the public to access a “virtual” meeting will be published as part of the Agenda in advance of each meeting.

**Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising:** The minutes of Planning Committee meeting 4 January 2021 were approved as a true record at the Full Council Meeting 18 January 2021.

### Planning:

Received decisions: None.

Consider applications:

**20/505858/FULL** | Demolition of garage, greenhouse, side and rear porches and removal of rear dormer. Erection of garage, single storey rear extension, insertion of front rooflights and replacement rear dormer. | 49 Stoney Road Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9TN

Members commented that the proposals would improve the property when compared to the existing. One queried the potential for the rear window to overlook the neighbouring property but it was suggested that such concerns were unfounded given the property is set back.

SH proposed a motion to agree the application, which was seconded by JC and agreed unanimously.

**21/500326/SUB** | Submission of details pursuant to condition 6 (details of the external finishing materials) in relation to planning permission 19/505582/FULL | 21 Horselees Road Boughton Under Blean ME13 9TG

It was noted by members that the proposal included using cheaper materials, particularly the slate tiles than previously approved.

The chair indicated to offer no comment and this approach was agreed unanimously.

### Finance Item

The Chair sought approval for payment of the Clerk’s wages in advance of the next Full Council meeting, for duties undertaken in the prior month so as to ensure the clerk is remunerated as concurrently as possible to the hours worked.

The request was agreed unanimously.

### Confirmation of precept for 2021/2022

Prior to the meeting, members had agreed to submit a precept of £13,714 (with lighting grant £3,080 in addition). This represented an 8% reduction on the prior year. The proposed tax base set by Swale Borough Council for 2021/22 was 510.27. This results in a charge of £26.88 for a Band D property, compared to £28.76 in 2020/2021, a reduction of 6.54%.

The Chair commented that it was good to be in a position to reduce the precept, given the large increase carried in the prior year and the relatively healthy financial position of the Council.

#### Ratification of proposed budget for 2021/2022

In consultation with members prior to the meeting, a draft budget for the financial period 2021/2022 had been prepared totalling £19,820. In the event that the budget is spent, the Council will draw on existing reserves for the amount by which it exceeds the Precept (and lighting grant).

The budget was proposed by JT, seconded by KK and agreed unanimously.

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

##### TPO Application 506024 for recurring woodland ride maintenance in Blean Wood

In accordance with that agreed at full Council meeting 18 January 2021, the Council submitted a response in relation to this application 28 January 2021. The applicant responded in kind to each of the conditions stipulated by the Council and that response was given further consideration by members at this meeting.

The Council duly noted the further comments but felt that the original concerns remained valid and that the responses provided did not merit altering the conditions previously stated. **ACTION MB** – to respond to confirm the previous conditions should remain in place.

##### Covid-19 Safety Concerns at Gate Services

A member has observed on several occasions customers not wearing face masks or sanitising their hands when using the services. Furthermore, staff have not been challenging customers regarding this and have apparently told by management not to do so. Members were concerned about the apparent lack of precautions and discussed possible actions. It was agreed to write to Councillor Andrew Bowles to express the Council's concerns - **ACTION MB**

##### Closure of Lorry lay-bys

A member queried why all the lay-bys in the area had been closed. Another responded to say this was to do with Operation Brock and the desire to ensure lorries divert to designated holding areas when required, rather than using lay-bys. Members were reminded that Kent County Council also has increased powers to enforce Operation Brock procedures. However, given that Operation Brock is not currently in force, members queried why these arrangements are still in place, whether they are still needed and what are the plans going forward? **ACTION MB** – to write to Councillor Bowles for clarification.

#### Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan

JT provided the following update following recent correspondence with Swale Borough Council:

- Swale Borough Council have been in discussions with Faversham Town Council regarding a proposal to extend its village envelope covering an area towards Brenley Corner.
- These proposals include land within the parishes of Selling, Boughton and Graveney who have not been consulted on these plans

- Because of the impact to Boughton Parish, this would have an impact on the Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood plan, though it would appear Swale Borough Council were not aware of this Plan
- There is a public consultation next week and a meeting on Wednesday but there is a distinct feeling of these significant plans being rushed through, with concerns as to the potential lack of scrutiny this may entail
- A further plan to increase the envelope of Boughton village itself was also discussed with members, with the consensus being that this has the potential to be developed for housing

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

Matthew Bullen  
Clerk for Dunkirk Parish Council

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