

# Dunkirk Parish Council Planning Committee

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## Minutes of virtual meeting held via “Zoom” at 7.30pm on 1 March 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 Councillor Alistair Gould.

**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.

**Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising:** The minutes of Planning Committee meeting 1 February 2021 were approved as a true record at the Full Council Meeting 15 February 2021.

### Planning

Received decisions:

**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 – **CONSENT GRANTED**

Consider applications: **NONE**

### 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 proposed by SH, seconded by JT and agreed unanimously.

### Pre-planning consideration at Winterbourne Fields

The development proposers’ held a “community engagement workshop” 3 December 2020 and a copy of this presentation has been provided to members, with an invitation to engage further with the Council.

The proposers have engaged with the Council and members agreed it appropriate to do the same in kind, with a view to establishing further information about the proposals, whilst being mindful not to predetermine any potential application.

**ACTION POINT:** MB and JT to respond to the proposers to establish further information about the proposals

### Water running down Jezzards Lane

A member has advised that he was contacted by Swale Borough Council planning team regarding water running from the woodland, down Jezzards Lane. Since then, another member has advised that Kent County Council have cleared two gulleys, however the problem still persists due to the road further along being severely deteriorated. Furthermore, historically water would drain away into a neighbour’s garden but this route was blocked off sometime ago.

Members felt the correct solution would be to take remove the damaged road, install a pipe and lay a new road over but accept that such a project is unlikely to happen anytime soon. Nonetheless, it is a felt some form of suitable resolution needs to be found, with more pressure to be put onto KCC to develop a more long-lasting approach.

**ACTION POINT:** Members to liaise with local residents to coordinate a response, as well as report the issue again on KCC fault-reporting website. AG also agreed to write in support of the Council.

## **Proposal to appoint David Buckett as internal auditor**

JT proposed that the previous internal auditor David Buckett is appointed this year and this was agreed unanimously.

## **Arrangements for previous clerk**

This item was discussed in a private session of the meeting.

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

### Vacancy on Dunkirk Parish Council

A member queried if there is currently a vacancy on the Council, as someone they know has expressed an interest in joining. The Chair confirmed there is currently a vacancy, and asked that the person concerned write to the Clerk to express an interest, as well as a join our next meeting as a member of the public to see if this is something they would be interested in doing.

### Woodland sites being divided and sold off

The Council has been contacted by a conservation group to state that various woodlands in the area are being divided and sold off, sometimes to people who aren't aware of how to manage them in a sustainable manner. One member felt that the general issue raised by the conservation group was an important one and provided some examples of how woodland can be damaged, sometimes inadvertently.

**ACTION POINT:** MB to write to Swale Borough Council TPO enforcement officer to highlight the issue of the specific case raised, as well as follow up the other outstanding TPO matters.

### Litter management signs

One member queried if some litter warning signs could be put up in the area due to the ongoing issues. **ACTION POINT:** JT offered to contact Swale Borough Council to see what they could offer to support this.

### Railings on London Road

The Chair noted the new railings had finally been installed at the bottom of the hill on London Road.

Date of next meeting:	Full Council:	15 March 2021
	Planning committee:	6 April 2021

Matthew Bullen  
Clerk for Dunkirk Parish Council