

## Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of virtual meeting on Monday 21st September 2020 at 7.30pm

### Full Council Meeting

Any Declarations of Interest by members present to be made at the commencement of the meeting.

None

Present: Cllrs Jeff Tuff (JT) Chair, Julie Coleman (JC) Vice Chair, Steve Hitch (SH), Daniel Brice (DB), Kevin Kemp (KK), Cllr Andrew Bowls KCC (AB) One member of the public

Apologies for absence: Dr Alastair Gould, Tim Valentine

Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were approved as a true record. KK apologised that he hadn't got around to following up with Unity Bank.

Matters for public concern

Highways Issues:

i). Dawes Road

DPC have expressed concern over the new access point in Dawes Rd very close to the junction with Staplestreet Road. JT had contacted SBC who had no information about the house or prior access. Information given was that if the entrance was pre-existing there was nothing SBC could do about it. DPC could take issue with the height of the new fence if they wanted to take things further.

ii). Highways Improvement Plan

Boughton under Blean have submitted a plan to reduce traffic speed through the villages and proposed 20mph through Boughton and villages and proposed a 30mph restriction on Boughton Hill. Cllrs voted to support the proposals, Action JT to report back to Boughton PC.

iii). Traffic Regulation Order

DPC were concerned that a recent document circulated by the Green party claimed responsibility for the TRO in Boughton and Dunkirk, restricting lorry movements through the villages. This was joint effort by DPC notably JT, BPC and Cllr Bowles.

iv). Charging points.

The application needs to be made by the village hall committee if charging points are to be sited in the car park. Meeting on 22nd to discuss. DPC to support village hall committee in their application if they wished to proceed.

AB expressed concerns about additional traffic in the village

Footpaths, Verges & Hedges

SH mentioned that he had been approached by parishioners with concerns regarding overgrown hedges in the Oversland area. Some letters had already been sent to landowners who had complied. SH to send KCC highways locations to AB who will prompt KCC. ACTION AB

i). Playing Field Mowing

DB has mowed the field twice in 2020 and Mr Moon twice. It was previously agreed to pay Mr Moon retrospectively for doing a good job. It was proposed to offer the job to Mr Moon for the future consisting of a maximum of 5 cuts per year, four at £100 and one at £99, otherwise we would have to tender and we have had no other offers since the beginning of the year.

ii). Repairs to the net on basketball area

DPC thanks Cllr Hitch for making a good job of repairs to the hoop and net at his own cost

### Tree Preservation Orders

DPC are still waiting for outstanding updates from Paul Hegley re applications for TPOs (applications in for 3years)

DB informed council that some trees on Boughton Hill are dangerous but as they are covered by a TPO they cannot be removed. The owners of Jays Wood will contact Gary Gibb for advice.

Land next to what was Canterbury International Airfield. DB will share photos of land adjacent to the airfield where clearing is taking place. AB asked that they could be forwarded to him to present at a KCC meeting on Thursday. ACTION DB

### Streetlights Quote and auto settings

SH did a streetlight survey to see which had not been converted to LED.

The contractor (Prime One) will also survey then quote for the upgrade to the remaining lights. They will quote separately for converting the lights to auto settings. JT informed council that, if it was similar to another Kent parish, this could give a potential saving of 80% on electricity.

### Crime Update

A report from KALC showed that the current crime rate in Swale is very low.

### Appointment of new Clerk

All councillors had looked at the references sent regarding the new clerk. All were unanimous that an offer of appointment should be made. A handover meeting to be arranged by JC and then JT to mentor the new clerk as he has been acting in the role for some time.

### Defibrillator

It was suggested that a defibrillator could be situated at the village hall, all agreed this was a good idea. KK to investigate funding. AB to send suggestions for companies to supply. ACTION AB

### Update on Zoom and dedicated Parish mobile number

A 12month Zoom licence has been purchased which gives access to meetings of up to 100 people. JT had investigated a dedicated phone for the clerk and found that this was only possible by direct debit which is not possible with the current NatWest account.

This will be deferred until we have a new bank account with a debit card.

### Planning

Receive decisions: None

Consider applications; None in Dunkirk

### Comments from Boughton re crematorium

This proposed a crematorium facility working 5 days per week and up to 100 burials per year.

Boughton have objected strongly and there are issues with the submission being incomplete.

Southern Water have raised some issues.

DPC decided not to make comment at this stage.

### Application to rear of 142 – 146 The Street Boughton.

It was felt that this application would further add to problem with traffic congestion in The Street.

JT to put in comments to Swale ACTION JT

Further documents relating to a new coffee shop at the Gate Services have been submitted, showing changes to boundaries and the demise of the motel. KK expressed concerns that the exit from Brotherhood Wood onto the slip road allowed two-way traffic. Cllrs agreed this would be dangerous for all users of the services.

Deadline for comment is 30th September, Cllrs look at plans and to let JT know if they think of any other comments.

Old School. JT showed new plans for the site where the woodland covered by TPOs had been included in the garden of the four houses at the rear of the site. Planning ref:20/504267

Cllrs to look at plans and comment. Jason Clifford to check that this is legitimate. DB suggested that Paul Hegley should be informed and also the original planning officer. JT to write. ACTION

## Planning Enforcement

This is being held up by Covid measures, but it was felt that insufficient information was coming from Swale regarding enforcement.

The Appeal decision at Hurst Cottage – enforcement has been upheld so not to be used for residential use and mobile home must be removed with three months to comply. Cllrs expressed disappointment that the orchard that was previously on the site was not to be reinstated.

## Swale Local Plan Panel

AB explained changes in the number of houses now proposed in Faversham and rural areas. Plan shows increases up to 300%

(e) Area Committee 29th September. Awaiting agenda.

DPC need that committee to hear our voice to reject the proposal for 1750 houses in Dunkirk.

AB will be at that meeting to defend the villages

## Finance

Finance report

Cllrs received a copy of the finance report from JT acting clerk.

## Approve payments

Cllrs approved payments to be made - unanimous

## Website going live

Many thanks to Jason Kemp for helping set up the new website and to Kevin for spending many hours inputting data from the old to the new site

Proof reading is now needed so that the website can go live on or around 23rd September. It was noted that there is still plenty of room to include village news and events going forward.

Bios from DB and SH are still outstanding ACTION SH,DB

All councillor to proof read: ACTION ALL

## Correspondence

Correspondence had been circulated.

JT to call Namesco on Tuesday 23rd. ACTION JT

## Matters not on Agenda (for information only)

JT invited Jason Clifford to become a co-opted councillor. Jason agreed and was welcomed by council.

JT to sort out paperwork and an email address.

DB mentioned that he had met Paul Mellett a previous councillor who send his regards.

Date of next meeting: Planning 5th October  
Full council 19th October