

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 6 May 2014

Present: John Peto, Jeff Tutt, Vaughan Howland, Sandra May, Phillippa Clarkson, Don Coles
Louise Blackshaw (Clerk)
Two members of the public for item 2 only.

Declarations of Interest: None

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Mellett, Andrew Bowles and George Bobbin

2. Boughton Hill - Drainage

Two members of the public were present and wished to discuss their concerns regarding the drainage on Boughton Hill. This item was therefore brought forward to the start of the meeting. They explained that water running down the hill is draining into their garden and in heavy rain they are constantly trying to keep the water away from their house. This has been an ongoing problem for some time and has previously been reported to Kent Highway by the parish council and members of the public.

It was agreed that the clerk would request a site meeting with Gary Gibbs from KCC Highways to try to find a solution. GG to be asked to bring any drawings/plans of the drainage system in the area.

3. Notification of Additional Agenda Items

The Chairman asked whether there were any additional items to be included on the agenda which could not be considered under Information Only items. There were no items to be added.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7.4.14 and the Council meeting held on 22.4.14 had been previously circulated and were signed as an accurate record.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes

(a) Village Sign

Phillippa Clarkson will get back in touch with the school to discuss the idea of the children being involved in the design of the sign.

(b) Dunkirk Football Field

Courtenay Rangers had stated that they were unable to commit to a long term agreement for lease of the field but hoped to be running a successful club for years to come. The Council agreed that they would like to continue to support the club as much as possible; it was agreed to suggest to the Trustees a 3 year extension to the current lease rather than commit to the 10 year lease they had proposed.

(c) Tree Preservation Orders

Paul Hegley requested further information on what threat there is to the woodland to support the application for a TPO at Poundfall Wood. It was agreed to respond stating that the Council's concern is that the land may be purchased for development and trees cleared before any planning application is made and therefore before any TPOs are put in place.

It is part of ancient woodland and a situation occurred some years ago where trees were cleared in Brotherhood Wood before a TPO could be placed on them. We wish to avoid a similar situation happening with this piece of woodland, especially as interest has been shown in the site by those who have previously shown no regard for woodland and have removed trees without consent. It is the same classification as nearby Bossenden and Brotherhood Woods and therefore we feel it should be treated in the same way (i.e be under a TPO).

In addition Jeff Tutt tabled extracts from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister both supporting the fact that ancient woodland should be protected.

(d) Builder's Yard, Horselees Road

Jeff Tutt is attending a meeting with KCC Highways. They are proceeding with a section 19 Flood Risk Assessment.

(e) Enforcement Cases

A revised list of cases has been sent to Planning Enforcement with a request for a meeting between them and the parish council to discuss in more detail.

(f) South East in Bloom

Sandra May reported on the workshop she attended. This could be used as a community project and possibly combine with Boughton. It was agreed to consider putting in an entry for next year.

6. Planning

(a) Receive Decisions

The following decisions had been received:

20/03/2014	SW/14/0135	26 Berkeley Close - rear single storey extension	Approved
13/03/2014	SW/14/0053	Church & State, Denstroude Lane - single storey side and two storey rear extension	Approved

(b) Consider Applications

SW/24/0304 – Lawful Development Certificate for Orangery to replace conservatory – The Cottage, Rhode Common. No objections.

(c) SW/14/0225 – Forewood, London Road – retrospective application for change of use to woodyard & container building for storage/equipment and mobile office

The applicant had written to the clerk asking why the Council had objected to this application because the site was not in the village envelope whereas the council has supported a nearby application which was also not in the village envelope. The reason for this was that the other

application was for a dwelling within a site which was already running as a business whereas his was for change of use to a business.

7. DCLG Consultation – Transparency Code for Parish Councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000

Correspondence had previously been circulated. It was agreed that KALC's draft response had covered most issues though didn't include anything regarding the Repeal of the 2 signature rule.

8. Repeal of s.150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (2 signature rule)

Agreed to continue with existing arrangements (2 signatures on a cheque) and look at the possibility of changing to electronic banking system in the future. The use of a debit card for on-line purchases to also be considered which would avoid the clerk or councilors having to be reimbursed for this type of expenditure.

9. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence had been received, and had been previously circulated by email:

- KALC - Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) - Government's Community Energy Strategy summary
- Andrew Bowles – March & April newsletters
- KALC - DCLG Consultation: S106 Consultation
- KALC - DCLG Greater flexibilities for change of use – report following consultation
- KCC - Safe and Sensible Street Lighting - Part Night Lighting
- Rural Services Network - Invite to join Rural Sounding Board
- KALC - Commons Select Committee Consultation on the Operation of the National Planning Policy Framework
- KALC – Newsletter
- Swale Borough Council - WW1 Centenary Project Localism Grant & Ideas Test (Creative People and Places: Swale and Medway).
- Swale in Bloom – Poppy campaign

The following publications were tabled:

- ACRK - Oast to Coast
- CPRE – Fieldwork
- CPRE – Countryside Voice

10. Matters not on Agenda (for information)

Mast Site – Three dishes had been seen to be delivered to the site and erected on the mast in the last 10 days. The clerk had received correspondence from the landowner which had been circulated and will ask them to confirm that these dishes complete the consent obtained under SW/14/0003. The clerk to also report again that the grounds of the site need tidying - there are brambles growing into neighbouring gardens and trees overhanging the road.

Parish Magazine – Phillippa Clarkson agreed she would consider taking on the role of writing the parish council article in the parish magazine.

Crime – Phillippa Clarkson reported on crime statistics and the latest incidents which had occurred in the last week. It was agreed to try to set up neighbourhood watch groups in the village.

Data Capture – It was agreed to set up a database of contact details/email addresses to enable information to be circulated to parishioners.

Brotherhood Wood – it was thought that there may be a breach of planning conditions as some of the homes are possibly being rented privately. To be investigated further and reported to planning enforcement if this is the case.

Neighbourhood Plan – the questionnaire is currently being printed and will be sent out as soon as possible. Deadline for return of the questionnaire is 7 June.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of Next meeting: Monday 19 May (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Statutory Meeting)

Louise Blackshaw
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed

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Chairman

Date