

## Dunkirk Parish Council

### Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 19 January 2015

Present: John Peto, Jeff Tutt, Vaughan Howland, Sandra May, Paul Mellett, Phillippa Clarkson, Andrew Bowles, George Bobbin, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest: None.

1. **Apologies:** Don Coles
2. **Notification of Additional Agenda Items:** None
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15.12.14 and the Planning Committee on 5.1.15 had been previously circulated and were signed as an accurate record.

#### 4. **Matters arising from the previous minutes**

- (a) Village Sign: Nothing further has been heard from KCC about use of the existing post since their correspondence stating they were ordering a new post. JT to follow up. PC tabled a suggested design for the sign. This was agreed and also agreed that a different design will be used for the other side. PC to obtain a further artwork for this.
- (b) Salt Bins: The two new/replacement bins in Staplestreet Road/Dawes Road junction and Berkeley Close have now been installed.

#### 5. **Matters for public concern**

##### (a) Highways Issues

Horselees Road: Still waiting to hear when the drainage works which were started before Christmas will be completed. Road closure signs have been put up however it has been confirmed that this is for telecom work and not the drainage works.

Dawes Road: No further update since the road was closed just before Christmas. The clerk to obtain an update.

##### (b) Enforcement Cases

Dorothy Caravan – the owners have stated that they no longer intend to sell the site and it is expected that an application for a Lawful Development Certificate for residential use of the caravan/site will be submitted to SBC.

##### (c) Crime Update: The Crime update from Joanne Jewiss was tabled. Joanne to be invited to attend a parish council meeting for an introduction.

##### (d) Litter Pick: The suggestion of a community litter pick was suggested at the last meeting and has also been discussed by Boughton Parish Council. Health & Safety/Insurance issues have been raised, however this may be covered under SBC insurance (to be checked). George Bobbin is discussing with Alan Turner and will report back.

##### (e) Parking opposite Woodmans Hall: The Kent Police Traffic Management Unit had confirmed that following a review of the stretch of road, the area is not identified as “safety critical”, therefore they will not be taking any further action. Boughton Parish Council have been in touch with SBC to request a site meeting to discuss the possibility of yellow lines. It was agreed that the clerk will also write to SBC requesting the same. Andrew Bowles confirmed that he would like to be involved in any site meeting arranged. Boughton are also discussing with SBC the possibility of altering the speed limit to 30mph

along that stretch of road. It was agreed to support the project and share any cost providing BPC also contribute financially.

- (f) Village Hall: The Village Hall Committee had been asked to consider the erection of an outside store by one of their regular bookings in the hall. SM tabled the proposed drawings and asked the parish council for their views. It was unanimously agreed that the parish council were opposed to the suggestion on the following grounds: (a) loss of parking spaces; (b) outside storage was not practical for manoeuvring tables/chairs for use inside the hall, especially in wet/cold weather/dark evenings; (c) the proposed location was in a dark area and could become damp; (d) security could be an issue especially as sheds/outside buildings are currently being targeted; (e) a lot of time had been taken with the design of the village hall which was considered an excellent benefit for the community and it was not sensible in the long term to change the design of the building to suit one user.

In addition it was commented that the village hall committee do an excellent job in managing the hall and are to be congratulated.

## 6. Planning

- (a) Receive Decisions:

14/504051/FULL - Cherry Tree Cottage Dunkirk Road South - Alteration and extension to existing dwelling. Refused.

- (b) Consider Applications: None.

## 7. Finance

- (a) Finance Report: The report and monthly cash account had previously been circulated and were taken as read.

- (b) Payments: The following payments were approved.

Cheque 1117	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£174.80
Cheque 1118	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages & office allowance	£283.04
Cheque 1119	T Last	Churchyard maintenance	£650.00
Cheque 1120	GW Finn	Football field rent	£400.00
Cheque 1121	Zurich Municipal	Insurance renewal	£459.92
Cheque 1122	Swale Borough Council	Nameplates for Snake Lane	£273.00
DDR	EDF	Electricity Bill	£251.49
Total			£2492.25

- (c) Precept & Budget 2015/16: The Precept had been submitted to SBC at a 1.99% increase on the 2014/15 figure. This will result in an overall reduction in parish precept to parishioners of 0.52% providing SBC do not change their proposed tax base of £473.92 for Band D property. £3080 streetlighting grant will also be received. A revised budget showing the Precept figure submitted was tabled.

- (d) Donation to war memorial research: Following the extensive work undertaken by Julian & Sue Owen to set up this website, it was proposed and agreed that a donation would be given towards the annual fee for the website domain name. The clerk to ask Boughton and Hernhill whether they would also like to contribute as the website covers all three parishes.

## 8. Neighbourhood Plan

A workshop had taken place where the consultant from Planning Aid England gave advice on assessing potential sites for development. Now at a stage of a call for sites from landowners for inclusion in the plan to be assessed. A further workshop on Policy Writing is planned for 18 February and the next committee meeting is 20 January.

**9. Statement of Intent**

A second draft had been issued for consultation. It was very disappointing that the comments made at the first draft had not been included in the second draft. Jeff Tutt to submit comments.

**10. Correspondence**

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

17/12/2014	KALC	2016 New Years Honours List Nominations
18/12/2014	KALC	CLG Select Committee report on NPPF
02/01/2015	Andrew Bowles	Andrew Bowles monthly newsletter
05/01/2015	KALC	Kent Trees in the Village Competition 2015
06/01/2015	ACRK	Defra Funding Petition - Possible cessation of Government funding for ACRK
09/01/2015	SBC	Consultation on the draft Social Media Policy
09/01/2015	KALC	Consultation on future delivery of Library, Registration and Archive services in Kent
13/01/2015	Faversham Society Planning Committee	FSPC offer to support parish councils by making additional representations on planning applications
13/01/2015 15/01/2015	KALC	Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement - Bulletin feedback from meetings and Improvement and Development Board & KALC response
14/01/2015	KALC	Traffic Commissioners and Operator Licensing consultation
14/01/2015	CPRE	Flooding Conference 6/2/15
16/01/2015	Boxley Parish Council	Lorry Parking – letter to Hugh Robertson MP regarding problems with lorry parking – agreed that Dunkirk Parish Council will also write to Hugh Robertson along similar lines
06/01/2015	KALC	Audit & Finance Update

**11. Matters not on Agenda (for information only):**

George Bobbin reported that he would be officially opening the WW1 Memorial Touch Screen at The Forum on 31 January – a WW1 exhibition by the Sittingbourne War Memorials Project which would be well worth visiting.

Churchyard – Don Coles had reported that there were overhanging branches from one tree which needed cutting back. A quote to be obtained for the work.

Bearing Fruits Consultation – Jeff Tutt will be submitting comments.

It was reported that the woodland behind Agrii had been used for recreational driving by trial bikes and quad bikes. VH said he would investigate.

**Date of Next meeting:** Monday 16 February

Louise Blackshaw  
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed

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Chairman

Date

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