

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 20 June 2016

Present: John Peto, Jeff Tutt, Steve Hitch, Vaughan Howland, Paul Mellett, Daniel Brice,
Andrew Bowles, George Bobbin, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest: None

1. **Apologies:** Phillippa Clarkson

2. **Notification of Additional Agenda Items:** None

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Statutory meeting held on 23.5.16 and the Planning Committee on 6.6.16 had been previously circulated and were signed as an accurate record. The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 23.5.16 were noted.

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

All items were on the agenda.

5. **Matters for public concern**

(a) Highways Issues

Dawes Road: Capping has now been fitted to the sheet piling. It is not known whether the drainage holes had been put in. Reflective bollards are also due to be installed at each end.

Boughton Hill: It was reported that concrete had been spilled onto the road which had now been there for about 3 weeks. Gary Gibbs to be informed.

Scoggers Hill: It was reported that white lines had been painted around areas to be filled, however this was some four weeks ago and no repairs have yet taken place.

(b) Footways and Verges:

It was reported that a number of footpaths were obstructed or overgrown

ZR540 Hickmans Green – this had been reported previously but is still obstructed by fences. The footpath sign has now been removed. The clerk to speak to Mike Ellis.

ZR536 – a sign had appeared saying the footpath is closed until further notice.

ZR532 Stoney Road/Berkeley Close to Woodchoppers - the clerk to chase up the quote for laying chippings.

The clerk to request an up to date list of footpaths under the KCC annual vegetation clearance contract.

Hedges: A number of hedges had become overgrown, particularly in the Dawes Road area. Some owners have already been contacted, however it was agreed to walk round the area to determine what needs cutting back. The owners to be provided with a copy of the KCC

newsletter, which details the requirements for properties bordering footways and roadways, and request the hedges are cut back once the bird nesting season has finished.

(c) Enforcement Cases

An update had been received from James Freeman regarding some of the cases although most were still outstanding and not resolved yet.

Red Lion: Response from PCN received. Enforcement are considering what action may be taken.

Scoggers Hill: Site visit has not yet taken place.

Brotherhood Wood: No update

Andrew Bowles agreed to follow these up with Enforcement.

(d) Crime Update

The crime update for April (taken from the www.police.uk website) was tabled and noted.

(e) Dunkirk Churchyard

A complaint had been received regarding wild orchids and other protected species in the Churchyard which had been cut and stating that any damage knowingly caused was a criminal act. This had sparked several other complaints of a similar nature. This was investigated immediately and the contractor asked not to continue cutting until it had been determined what was growing in the Churchyard. A response was sent to the complainant suggesting a site meeting to establish what areas need to be protected.

In view of this, Kent Wildlife Trust have been contacted and it was agreed to arrange for them to visit the churchyard to assess what is growing and what needs to be protected. It was noted that this should be done as soon as possible so that the contractor can recommence cutting to avoid the churchyard becoming overgrown.

6. **Planning**

(a) Receive Decisions:

None.

(b) Consider Applications:

None.

(c) Review of outstanding applications

Willow Cottage – 15/510006/FULL. The applicant had been informed that the application was due to be considered by the SBC Planning Committee on 30 June, however it was not on the agenda just published. (The application was later added to the 30 June agenda and was considered at that meeting).

16/500973/SUB - The Old School London Road - Landscaping details relating to application SW/14/0416. The parish council had previously commented that they felt the proposed dropped kerb was in a dangerous position leading onto the main road. There was a KCC Highways response stating they didn't feel it warranted their involvement. SBC to be asked to suggest that KCC Highways take a further look.

(d) Former RAF Mast

The response received from James Freeman regarding the overturning of the previous Refusal had been circulated. It was felt that this did not answer all the comments and the council were still concerned at the way this decision had been made. It was agreed a further response to be sent.

7. Finance

(a) Finance Report: The report and monthly cash account had previously been circulated and were taken as read. It was noted that the first installment of the Precept and Lighting Grant had been received from Swale Borough Council.

(b) Payments: The following payments were proposed, seconded and approved.

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Amount	VAT	Total
1201	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£87.60	-	£87.60
1202	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£370.24	-	£370.24
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (May)	£209.76	£41.95	£251.71
		TOTAL	£667.60	£41.95	£709.55

8. Parish Council Website

The clerk reported that KCC had said that the parish council website was due to be upgraded during the summer, and there would be a charge for this facility. This decision however has since been reversed and there will be no charge for the time being. In the meantime, a quote had been received from an independent company to provide a website. This will be considered if KCC charge for the provision of the service at a future date. It was agreed that the content of the website needs refreshing with new photos etc which will be looked at once the website has been upgraded.

Included in the quote was the opportunity to purchase a domain name. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to purchase www.dunkirkparishcouncil.org.uk at a cost of £13.99 for two years for use at a later date.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Jeff Tutt gave an update. Information is still awaited from Swale Borough Council to progress the plan further. The group are discussing the proposed sites later in the week. The conservation area assessments are due to be completed by SBC shortly. A meeting had taken place with Amicus Housing which had provided a different viewpoint on number of houses and parking spaces within a proposed development which may need to be considered. A definition on what "Affordable Housing" constitutes is still unknown.

10. Correspondence

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

24/5/16	KALC	Bulletin on national developments and meetings - 20 May 2016
23/5/16	KALC	KALC Swale Area Committee Minutes 23/5/16
14/6/16	Andrew Bowles	Andrew Bowles monthly newsletter
15/6/16	Ashford Borough Council	Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2030 Consultation
	KALC	Councillors Conference 7/7/16 - Daniel Brice to attend

11. Matters not on the Agenda

The streetlight at the junction of Dawes Road/Thread Lane was reported to be lit during the day. The clerk to arrange a repair with the contractor.

Local Plan update – JT/SH reported on the recent briefing session they had attended. There is now sufficient housing allocation in the Plan until 2031, however the 5 year supply is still being finalized. There are no additional proposals for development in Boughton and Dunkirk, other than sites already allocated, through the existing local plan or proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Date of Next meeting: Monday 18 July

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed
Chairman

Date