

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 18 July 2016

Present: John Peto, Jeff Tutt, Steve Hitch, Vaughan Howland, Paul Mellett, Phillippa Clarkson
Daniel Brice, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk)
Approx 28 parishioners

Land north of Canterbury Road

An Outline planning application had been received for a mixed use development comprising up to 77 residential dwellings. The majority of parishioners were present to discuss this item. The meeting was open to the public to express their views and opinions which the parish council would consider when submitting their own representation to Swale Borough Council. The main issues of concern which were raised related to additional traffic and associated noise and pollution; existing road infrastructure not adequate; the school in Boughton is at capacity with no plans to expand; SBC emerging local plan had identified its land for development to allocate for housing need until 2031 and this site had not been included. The parishioners were advised to submit their own comments to Swale based on planning criteria rather than emotional reaction.

The majority of parishioners then left and the meeting formally opened.

Declarations of Interest:

Vaughan Howland and Daniel Brice declared an interest in planning application 16/505118/OUT (item 6b). Daniel Brice stated that a discrepancy regarding his boundary and the proposed development had arisen. Until this is resolved he would declare an interest as his name was stated on the planning application.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 20.6.16 and the Planning Committee on 4.7.16 had been previously circulated and were signed as an accurate record.

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

All items were on the agenda.

5. **Matters for public concern**

(a) Football Field

Barbara Dickenson from Courtenay Rangers was present for this item.

Earlier in the year the football club had said they were not able to commit to a long term lease and therefore the parish council had made the decision to relinquish the lease on the football field at the end of its term in December 2016. Barbara said that she had been approached by Strike Force, a large club in Faversham, who were interested in using the field which may enable them to take a further lease if it were available. After discussion it was agreed that Barbara would bring a proposal forward to the next meeting once she had details of funding etc. The clerk would contact the Trustees to establish whether it was possible that a further lease could be negotiated on a short term basis.

Barbara left the meeting.

(b) Dunkirk Churchyard

Following the complaint that orchids and other protected species in the Churchyard had been cut, Kent Wildlife Trust had surveyed the site to provide an assessment on what is growing there. They have yet to mark where the plants are which need protecting. There was concern that the churchyard will quickly become overgrown if it isn't cut and the contractor was anxious to do this before it becomes too difficult. A parishioner present stated that he objected to interference from outside persons who had no previous knowledge of the churchyard and how it is looked after is now making threats and dictating what should be done. He added that it was probably due how the churchyard is maintained that the plants are growing in the first place and letting the churchyard become overgrown may not be the best protection they need. After some discussion it was agreed that a deadline of 1 August be given to Kent Wildlife Trust to inform the parish council of the areas to protect. The contractor will be instructed to recommence cutting on 1 August with the areas marked (if they have been identified by KWT).

(c) Highways Issues

Scoggers Hill – the repairs recently made were of a very poor standard and already breaking up. To be reported to KCC Highways.

Gate Services – there had been a period where lorries had been moved on and parking had become less of an issue, however the problem has now returned with lorries parking on the pavement preventing access to the service station and forcing pedestrians onto the main A2. To be reported to the police and ask again whether the Highways Agency can install bollards along the pavement.

(d) Footways and Verges:

The list of footpaths under the KCC annual vegetation clearance contract had been received from the PROW Officer and had been circulated.

ZR540 Hickmans Green – Mike Ellis is continuing to look into this as the footpath is still obstructed by fences. He will meet with the landowner to try to seek a resolution.

ZR532 Stoney Road/Berkeley Close to Woodchoppers – a quote had been received for laying rag stone. As it was a significant spend, and to comply with financial regulations, it was agreed to obtain further quotes.

Draw Road – a quote had been received to trim back and lay a suitable surface. As it was a significant spend, and to comply with financial regulations, it was agreed to obtain further quotes.

(e) Enforcement Cases

Scoggers Hill: a site visit has taken place and Graham Thomas had requested any additional information the parish council had on who occupies the land together with timelines.

There was no further update on the other outstanding cases.

(f) Crime Update

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

6. Planning

(a) Receive Decisions: None.

(b) Consider Applications:

16/505239/FULL - Dorothy Caravan Dunkirk Road South - New single storey dwelling. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed that in view of the limited changes to the previous application the application would be supported based on the previous comments.

Vaughan Howland and Daniel Brice had declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting while it was discussed.

16/505118/OUT - Land North of Canterbury Road - Outline Application with access being sought for mixed - Use development comprising up to 77 residential dwellings with associated commercial (B1) and retail (A1) units, hard and soft landscaping, and associated infrastructure.

A discussion took place on the application and the comments received by the parishioners present earlier in the meeting. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to oppose the application.

It was agreed that, due to the size of the development and the large volume of paperwork to review before a representation can be made, to:

- Obtain quotes for professional planning advice to ensure an informed and robust representation can be made.
- Request an extension to the deadline for comments to 3 months.
- Also make a comment to Swale stating that now they have identified their sites for housing allocation in the emerging local plan, and any further development within Boughton and Dunkirk has been passed to the Neighbourhood Plan group for inclusion in their Plan, it is felt that any proposals for major development in the B&DNP designated area should be put in abeyance until the Plan is finalised.

Vaughan and Daniel rejoined the meeting.

(c) 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. Swale Borough Council Local Plan Bearing Fruits 2031

The Local Plan Main Modifications June 2016 consultation has now opened and is available to anyone who wishes to make comments. The consultation expires 5/8/16.

8. 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 proposed, seconded and approved.

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Amount	VAT	Total
1203	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£87.60	-	£87.60
1204	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£370.24	-	£370.24
1205	PFL	Streetlight repair (Dunkirk Road North)	£84.25	£16.85	£101.10
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (June)	£208.12	£41.62	£249.74
		TOTAL	£750.21	£58.47	£808.68

9. Clerk Salary

A notification had been received confirming that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had agreed new salary scales for Clerks effective from April 2016. It

was agreed to increase the Clerk's hourly rate in line with this increase, backdated to April 2016. The position on the payscale to be reviewed.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Jeff Tutt gave an update. Meetings are now taking place with Swale, and therefore some progress is starting to be made.

11. Correspondence

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

27/6/16	KALC	Bulletin on national developments and meetings - 24 June 2016
5/7/16	KALC	Bulletin on national developments and meetings - 1 July 2016
8/7/16	Helen Whatley MP	Newsletter from Helen Whatley
11/7/16	KCC	Waste Disposal Strategy Consultation (deadline 2/10/16) Paul Mellet agreed to review the documents
12/7/16	KALC	Swale Area Committee Agenda – 8 August. Jeff Tutt and Phillippa Clarkson to attend
13/7/16	Kent Tree and Pond Partnership	Free Tree and Pond walks July-August
15/7/16	KCC	Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 – Adoption Statement

The following items were tabled:

June 2016	Kent Trust for Youth Sport	Funding/grants for clubs & community organisations Sporting Excellence Awards for individuals
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12. Matters not on the Agenda

Former RAF Mast – a local resident had reported that deposits of an orange liquid were being found on cars and a gazebo in Courtenay Road. Workmen had been seen spraying on the mast and it was thought this was where it was coming from. In addition, the grounds are very unkempt and unsightly – the grass has not been cut right back to the fence and the overgrown grasses/weeds are encroaching the gardens of adjacent properties as well as blowing seeds into their gardens. The clerk to inform Woodlands Investment Management (owners of the mast).

Apsley Trust – Phillippa Clarkson reported that a meeting of the Trust had taken place. There were sufficient funds in the Trust, and although early in the year, everyone was asked to identify any nominees to receive a payment at Christmas.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Date of Next meeting: Monday 15 August

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed
Chairman

Date