

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 20 March 2017

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

Declarations of Interest: none

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 20.2.17 and the Planning Committee on 6.3.17 had been previously circulated and were signed as an accurate record.

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

(a) Communications Policy

Comments received were being included in the Communications Policy. Additional information will also be added regarding the Freedom of Information Act. The final version to be issued at the next meeting.

(b) Football Field & Playing Field

Football Field - The rubble and other debris had been cleared along with removal of the scrub alongside the current fence.

The clerk confirmed that the purchase of the additional piece of land from the Trustees of the Charles Dawes 1973 Settlement to widen the track to access the playing field is currently with the solicitors.

Playing Field - The hawthorn bushes from the playing field had been removed. It was agreed to leave the existing fence which would be too difficult to remove where the shrubs had grown into it. A discussion took place on whether dogs should be allowed on the ground and it was agreed that as it was a recreation ground where children would be playing then dogs should not be allowed. Appropriate signage will need to be installed.

George Bobbin agreed to find out what the legislation is regarding dogs on playing fields from Swale.

The portacabin on the playing field previously used by the off road car club needs to be removed. This will be requested once a contact at the club is established.

(c) Streetlights

The clerk was obtaining a quote from UK Power Networks for installation of a power supply for the proposed new light in London Road. In addition, a quote would also be obtained for connection of the two lights at the end of Courtenay Road which had never been connected to the electricity supply.

A quote for straightening the two leaning streetlights in Courtenay Road (outside Maytree Nursery) had been received at £220 each. It was agreed to go ahead.

(d) Notice board

A board has been ordered and will be installed inside the bus stop (near Staplestreet Road/Horselees Road).

(e) Litter Pick

The litter pick is scheduled for Saturday 25 March at 10am.

5. Matters for public concern

(a) Highways Issues

The following to be followed up with Gary Gibbs:

- Snake Lane in poor condition making it difficult to drive along.
- Slip road from Gate Services to Foresters Lodge – signage/road markings
- Dawes Road/opposite Pottery Cottage – overhanging hedge.

Pothole in Dunkirk Road South to be reported online via KCC website.

(b) Footpaths, Hedges and Verges

Footpath at the end of Jezzards Lane is still blocked by a fallen oak tree - update to be requested from PROW.

The footway/verge from Gate Services had been badly damaged by a lorry.

(c) Crime Update

The crime update for January (taken from the www.police.uk website) was tabled and noted. Philippa Clarkson had done a comparison against previous years and noted that there had been a sharp increase in incidents in January.

UV Pens – another supply of pens had been obtained for issuing to new residents.

Handrail – Staplestreet Road. The clerk confirmed that the driver's insurance company has been notified of the incident and a claim for the cost of the replacement handrail was being pursued.

6. Planning

(a) Receive Decisions:

16/501552/FULL - Winterbourne Wood Quarry, Jezzards Lane – Revocation of quarrying use and erection of 4 No. detached dwellings with garages, associated landscaping, enlarged lake and use of existing access. Approved.

(b) Consider Applications:

17/500823/FULL & 17/500824/ADV - Gate Service Station London Road - Retrospective application for retention of an ATM and associated illuminated signage. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed to record no objection to the proposal.

17/501100/FULL - 43 Horselees Road - Conversion of integral garage to habitable room with insertion of rooflights. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed to oppose the application on the grounds of parking, road safety and visual amenity. Jeff Tutt would contact Kent Fire Brigade to obtain some information on their concerns regarding difficult access for emergency vehicles in Boughton & Dunkirk.

(c) Planning Enforcement

A response had been received from Peter Hinckesman with the following updates:

Scoggers Hill;- an Enforcement Notice has been served which gives 6 months to comply with effect from 20/3/17.

Brotherhood Woodyard – a planning application seeking to regularise the current site layout is expected. Ethnicity of the occupiers of the caravans still to be verified.

Land adj to 85 Courtney Road – improvements in the condition of the site have been made. Some residents had commented that vehicles associated with 85 Courtenay Road were parking on the road rather than within the site. The clerk to write to Mr Tooth requesting that drivers are asked to park safely and sensibly and ensure sight lines are kept clear for other road users.

Mazoe – it had been previously reported that as the activity had been going on for in excess of 10 years, it would be immune from any planning enforcement action. The clerk to check the situation regarding business rates with Swale.

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 proposed, seconded and approved:

Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount	VAT	Total
1242	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£96.80	-	£96.80
1243	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£406.75	-	£406.75
DDR	EDF	Streetlight electricity Refund Nov-Jan	-£777.46	-£155.51	-£932.97
DDR	EDF	Streetlight electricity – recalculated invoices Nov-Jan	£649.18	£129.84	£779.02
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (February)	£215.31	£43.07	£258.38
		TOTAL	£590.58	£17.40	£607.98

(c) Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to appoint David Buckett to undertake the annual internal audit.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Jeff Tutt gave an update. A letter had been received regarding the Conservation Area Review public consultation. It was agreed not to submit any formal comments and leave individuals to make their own comments if they wish.

9. Speaker for Annual Parish Meeting

A couple of suggestions for speakers were made and it was agreed to ask Air Ambulance whether they would be interested in speaking at the meeting.

10. Correspondence

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

7/3/17	Helen Whately MP	News from your MP update
9/3/17	Andrew Bowles	Andrew Bowles February newsletter
13/3/17	KALC	Chief Executive's Bulletin 9 - 10 March 2017

Items tabled:

9/2/17 - Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance - Request for £250 donation (discussed under item 9).

11. Matters not on the Agenda

Timings for Planning Committee – due to the main hall being used on Monday evenings for a new fitness class, the planning committee would meet in the small hall. It was agreed to revert back to 7.30pm start for all meetings.

Website – the new website (hosted by KCC) is now in place. Suggestions for new items were requested – any new material to be sent to the Clerk for uploading.

Jezzards Lane - a hosepipe is regularly laid across Jezzards Lane to provide water for horses in the field. It was reported that this is a regular occurrence and on occasions when vehicles have driven over the pipe it splits causing it to leak. The latest incident caused water to flow down to Scoggers Hill junction. To be reported to Boughton as it is within their parish and suggest a permanent water supply is fitted in the field.

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 18 April 2017

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed
Chairman

Date