

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 19 June 2017

Present: John Peto, Jeff Tutt, Vaughan Howland, Daniel Brice, Paul Mellett, Phillippa Clarkson, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk)
4 parishioners (item 2)

Declarations of Interest: none

- 1. Apologies:** Steve Hitch, Andrew Bowles
George Bobbin (apologies received after the meeting)

2. Playing Field

The responses to the questionnaire had been received and Jeff Tutt gave a summary of the results.

The majority were in favour of allowing dogs on the field but there was also support for a fenced area so that there were separate areas for children and dogs.

The parishioners present also gave their views which included the fact that as there is currently no play area there seemed little point in fencing it off unless there was a dedicated area with play equipment for children. If there was play equipment the responses to the questionnaire may be different.

Vaughan Howland was not in favour of additional fencing and said this would cause problems with mowing and he would no longer be able to undertake this. In addition to the cost of any new fencing, this would mean an additional ongoing cost to the council to pay a contractor to undertake the mowing.

Some advice had been obtained from Swale Borough Council who had said that they were moving towards Public Space Protection Orders for public areas. It was pointed out that legislation regarding the control of dogs in public places was changing and we would need to adhere to any laws put in place.

After further debate, the Chairman proposed that the decision on fencing be left in abeyance until a decision is made on whether to provide play equipment and have a dedicated children's play area. Signage to be installed.

Paul Mellett seconded the proposal, Vaughan Howland and Daniel Brice were in agreement. Jeff Tutt and Phillippa Clarkson were against. It was therefore agreed that the field would be left as it is for the time being and dogs would be allowed. This would be reconsidered once the council had made a decision on providing play equipment and at such time when a children's play area is created.

The parishioners present left the meeting.

- 3. Notification of Additional Agenda Items:** None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Daniel Brice queried item 4 relating to planning application 17/500313/OUT discussed at the meeting on 5.6.17. He believed that the RSPB had been considering for some time the closure of the footpath due to overuse and damage it was causing to that area of the woodland. He asked why this had been discussed under this planning application when he and Vaughan were excluded from the meeting and therefore unable to take part in the discussion. The Chairman explained that the parish council were not aware of any previous

discussions RSPB were having with regard to the possible closure of the footpath. It was in response to their comments on this particular planning application where they had said they would consider closing the footpath if the development went ahead, that those in the meeting made the decision to submit an application to register the path as a public right of way.

The minutes of the meetings held on 22.5.17 and 5.6.17 had been previously circulated and were then signed as an accurate record.

5. Matters for public concern

(a) Playing Field

Following the agreement earlier in the meeting, the provision of play equipment was discussed and ideas on different kinds of equipment were considered.

The clerk confirmed that if the council did decide to go ahead with providing this, it would need to be insured and there would also be health & safety requirements for any equipment to be checked on a regular basis (possibly quarterly). Any health & safety requirements e.g surfaces underneath swings etc would need to be complied with.

It was agreed to find out how Boughton Parish Council manage their recreation ground. Phillippa Clarkson would also discuss with KCS (Kent County Supplies) on what equipment they could supply.

Gates – Daniel Brice confirmed that the gates were ready for installation. This would mean that the dog bin needs to be moved. It was agreed it should be moved behind the gate on the pedestrian side.

(b) Highways Issues

The following to be followed up with KCC Highways:

- Staplestreet Road – new signage had been installed, however the “No HGV” sign is not visible until it is too late and a vehicle would have already entered the road.
- Foresters Lodge junction – the road sign had been damaged and there was also damage to the keep right markers.
- Courtenay Road – bumpy road sign is no longer needed as the road has been resurfaced.

(c) Footpaths, Hedges and Verges

A hedge along London Road was reported to be overhanging the pavement. To be discussed with the resident first before writing.

(d) Dunkirk Village Hall

John Peto and Jeff Tutt had attended a Village Hall Committee meeting where the Committee had made a request to the parish council to consider taking over the management and running of the hall. Boughton Parish Council to be asked how they manage the running of Boughton village hall. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

(e) Crime Update

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

The Kent Rural Police update had been previously circulated and it was noted that the police had been active in responding to reports on crimes in rural areas.

6. Planning

(a) Receive Decisions: None

(b) Consider Applications:

17/502870/LBC - Former Raf Mast Site - Listed Building Consent for the installation of three transmission dishes (2 x 0.6m & 1 x 0.3m diameter) and associated minor installation work. Part of the nationwide Emergency Services Network programme.

The plans were reviewed. It was agreed to record no objection to the proposal but to query why there is no application for planning consent which would normally sit alongside the Listed Building Consent application.

17/502231/FULL- Land Adjacent To 28 Horselees Road - Erection of 1no. two storey 3 bedroom chalet style bungalow with detached garage and 1no. single storey twin gable chalet style bungalow with detached garage.

The plans were reviewed and it was agreed to record no objection to the proposal in principal, but to make the following comments: Access to both properties may be better from the track behind rather than from Horselees Road. Concern about the loss of two mature bramley trees. Unclear why a sewage treatment plant is being proposed rather than connection to mains sewage.

(c) Swale Borough Council Planning Committee 22/6/17

17/500313/OUT - Land North of Canterbury Road - Outline application for mixed use development comprising up to 49 residential dwellings. It was agreed that Jeff Tutt would speak on behalf of the parish council.

(d) Planning Enforcement

The clerk gave an update received on some of the outstanding enforcement cases. Most of these have been ongoing for sometime with little action being taken. The clerk will continue to follow up with Enforcement and ask for regular updates.

Brotherhood Wood – recent Googleearth photos show that the site appears to have been extended with an additional area cleared and trees have been felled. To be followed up with Planning Enforcement. The trees are subject to a TPO.

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
1259	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£96.60	-	£96.60
1258	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£406.95	-	£406.95
1260	Dunkirk Village Hall	Fee for use of projector (Arqiva presentation)	£10.00	-	£10.00
1261	Namesco	Email for dunkirkpc.org.uk	£19.90	£3.98	£23.88

1262	PFL	Straightening of streetlight columns (Courtenay Road)	£440.00	£88.00	£528.00
1263	PFL	Streetlight repair (23 Highview Cl)	£240.00	£48.00	£288.00
1264	PFL	Streetlight repair (2 Highview Cl)	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (May)	£218.48	£43.70	£262.18
		TOTAL	£1,521.93	£201.68	£1,723.61

It was agreed that following the talk at the Annual Parish Meeting in May that a donation of £100 be given to the Air Ambulance.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Amendments are currently being made to the draft plan. The publication of Swale Borough Council's Local Plan are awaited to enable any further amendments to be made.

9. Correspondence

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

14/6/17	KCC	Urgent Road Closure - London Road, Boughton under Blean - 17 June 2017
11/6/17	Andrew Bowles	April newsletter
12/6/17	Kent Police	Kent Police Open Day 2 July
12/6/17	KALC	Kent Police Rural Update

10. Matters not on the Agenda

Streetlights – a resident had reported that a repair was taking place to a streetlight in Berkeley Close. The clerk confirmed that there had not been a callout to a light in Berkeley Close. The ivy growing up that streetlight had been removed.

Street Signs – it was reported that some street signs are dirty and in need of cleaning. The clerk to follow up with KCC.

Date of Next meeting: Monday 17 July

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed

Chairman

Date