

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 17 July 2017

Present: John Peto, Jeff Tutt, Vaughan Howland, Daniel Brice, Paul Mellett, Steve Hitch,
Louise Blackshaw (Clerk), Andrew Bowles (item 8 onwards)
3 parishioners (item 2)

Declarations of Interest: none

1. **Apologies:** Phillippa Clarkson, George Bobbin

2. **Public Session**

The three parishioners present were invited to speak on the issues they wanted to raise.

Lorry Parking – Gate Services

One parishioner reported on a “near miss” with a lorry at Gate Services. The incident happened on Sunday 16 July at 4pm. He was taking the turning at Gate Services to Dunkirk when a lorry suddenly cut in front of him causing him to break and a lorry behind nearly running into him. The reason for the first lorry cutting across the carriageway was because he had spotted a space he could park in along the slip road. The incident had been reported to the police. John Peto and Jeff Tutt said that they had recently had a meeting with Helen Whately MP and had taken her to Gate Services to demonstrate the extent of the problem. She had said that off road lorry parking within Kent was being looked into though this would take some time to come to fruition. It was agreed that the clerk would inform Helen Whately and Matthew Scott (Kent Police Crime Commissioner) that this was yet another incident caused by lorry drivers being desperate to park wherever they can. Although badly shaken, the driver was not hurt, however it is feared that it is only a matter of time until there is a serious accident along this stretch of road.

Public Rights of Way

The Chairman explained the differences between Public Rights of Way which are shown on the KCC Definitive Footpath map (also shown on their website) and Permissive Paths, which are not public rights of way but the landowner has given permission that a path may be used by the public. One such example is the path into Bossenden Wood which is owned by the RSPB and is promoted as a route for local walks. Routes can only be added to the definitive map by application to KCC Public Rights of Way, where evidence has to be submitted that they have been used as public footpaths for many years. It is KCC decision once they have completed their investigations as to whether they are designated as a PROW and added to the definitive map. One resident believed that there had always been a right of way over a certain piece of land but it was not on the footpath map. Jeff Tutt agreed to send him a copy of the definitive map.

London Road/Canterbury Road names

One parishioner said that London Road being incorrectly marked as Canterbury Road on road maps was causing problems with deliveries to properties on London Road. He asked whether a street name sign could be installed on London Road. The Council will look into this.

Development in Dunkirk

A parishioner stated that he was not happy with a report in the community magazine regarding development in Dunkirk. He asked for it to be recorded that he objected to the article and felt that Dunkirk Parish Council appeared to be against any development in Dunkirk. He believed that the village needed some development otherwise it would die. In

particular he asked about a recent application for a house on London Road which the parish council had opposed. John Peto explained that the council did not find the application acceptable in planning terms (the proposed building was too high). The council always respond to planning applications taking into account views from local residents and the planning criteria in both Swale's local plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The parishioners present left the meeting and the Chairman formally opened the meeting.

3. Notification of Additional Agenda Items: None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 19.6.17 and 3.7.17 had been previously circulated and were signed as an accurate record.

5. Matters for public concern

(a) Playing Field

Gates – the gates had now been installed. The dog bin had been moved and was reported to being used regularly. Additional collections or bigger/additional bin was felt to be needed and will be discussed with Swale.

Play equipment – Phillippa Clarkson was waiting on confirmation for a date of a meeting with Kent County Supplies. It was agreed that the clerk would check with the insurance company regarding requirements for safety measures before any equipment is ordered.

(b) Highways Issues

The following to be followed up with KCC Highways:

- Staplestreet Road – another incident had happened on 14 July where a lorry with a trailer had followed his sat nav which had resulted in the lorry becoming stuck and further damage to the road/verge/kerbstones. Two PCSOs from Sheppey had attended. KCC Highways, Helen Whately and Matthew Scott (Police Crime Commissioner) had all been notified of the incident. It was agreed that sending two PCSOs from Sheppey was not acceptable and although there were no life threatening circumstances, the road was blocked for some considerable time until the police could attend and the lorry removed. The clerk to raise this matter with the Police.
- Dawes Road – will be closed from 31 July for 3 days for South East Water to carry out works to provide a new water connection. Jeff Tutt is following up with KCC regarding the piling works which had still not been completed.
- Manhole cover outside Red Lion has still not been repaired – to be followed up with KCC Highways.

(c) Footpaths, Hedges and Verges

Hedge along Staplestreet Road to Bounds Lane was overgrown – the landowner to be contacted.

The hedge along London Road which was overhanging the pavement had been cut. The hedge at the junction of Horselees/Dunkirk Road North had been cut.

(d) TPO

The TPO for the woodland area at the rear of the old Dunkirk School had been served. The trees which had been cut at Brotherhood Wood which are subject to a TPO have been reported to SBC.

(e) Dunkirk Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee had made a verbal request to the parish council to consider taking over the management and running of the hall. This was discussed in detail and agreed that it would be a big commitment both legally and in terms of workload and not something that the council could commit to at the present time. It was felt that if the Village Hall Committee could increase the number of committee members it would help spread their workload and enable succession for the future. It was also suggested that if they advertised (parish mag, notice board etc) for additional help there may be local people who are willing to be involved on a part time basis. The clerk to write to the Village Hall Committee confirming this and Vaughan Howland agreed (as Trustee of the Committee) to discuss the parish council views with them in more detail.

(f) Crime Update

The crime update for April (taken from the www.police.uk website) was tabled and noted. It was agreed that due to the lack of information that this report contained and that the figures were always two months out of date, not to continue producing this report for the time being. The clerk to find out who the current PCSOs covering the area are.

Hurst Wood – it was reported that there are regular quad bikers in Hurst Wood, which are causing noise disturbance to nearby residents. It was also reported that people are camping in there. On a recent occasion there were 10-12 people which a local resident found intimidating when walking through the wood. The clerk to ask the police to investigate.

FOI request – Brotherhood Wood regarding crimes committed had been returned by the police stating that they were unable to provide the information as it is regarding as 'personal information' and could not be shared with third parties. The FOI request has been reworded in a different way and resubmitted.

6. **Planning**

(a) Receive Decisions: None

(b) Consider Applications:

17/503473/FULL - Knightsbridge London Road - Proposed front and rear extension along with internal alterations. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed to record no objection to the proposal.

(c) Planning Enforcement

Scoggers Hill – no details have yet been confirmed as to whether there has been an appeal lodged against the enforcement notice.

There were no other updates on enforcement cases.

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 Insurance claim for replacement handrail at Staplestreet Road steps (£562) and VAT Repayment (£591.51) had been received.

(b) Payments:

The following payments were proposed, seconded and approved:

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Amount	VAT	Total
1265	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£406.75	-	£406.75
1266	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£96.60	-	£96.60
1267	Air Ambulance	Donation	£100.00	-	£100.00
1269	Timber Tasks	New gates and associated work at Dunkirk Playing field	£682.00	-	£682.00
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (June)	£217.44	£43.49	£260.93
		TOTAL	£1,502.79	£43.49	£1,546.28

Andrew Bowles joined the meeting following attendance at Oare Parish Council meeting.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Amendments have been made to the draft plan. This was being sent to Swale Borough Council for their review before public consultation.

9. Correspondence

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

23/6/17	KALC	Call for evidence - HGVs using unsuitable roads. The parish council had provided photos and details of incidents in Dunkirk for the meeting with Kent MPs.
26/6/17	Helen Whately MP	Helen Whately MP newsletter
11/7/17	Faversham Town Council	Faversham and District Engagement Forum Agenda 11/7/17
5/7/17	ACRK	Kent's New Rural Housing Protocol – a guide to developing homes in rural communities
6/7/17	KALC	HGVs using unsuitable roads – feedback from meeting with Kent MPs 4/7/17. The clerk has requested that photos/information given by other parishes to be shared.
10/7/17	SBC Voluntary & Community Services	Big Thank You event for volunteers 22/7/17
11/7/17	KCC	Urgent Road Closure - Crouch Lane, Selling – 11.7.17
12/7/17	KCC	Urgent Road Closure - Clockhouse Lane, Boughton under Blean – 16.7.17
13/7/17	KCC	Temporary Closure – Dawes Road, Dunkirk (Swale) – from 31.7.17 - 3 days

Items tabled:

10/7/17	Ashford Borough Council	Proposed main changes to Ashford Local Plan 2030 and addendum to the sustainability appraisal environmental report: notification of public consultation (closes 31/8/17)
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10. Matters not on the Agenda

Streetlights – Light outside 7 Berkeley Close was not working. The clerk to report to the contractor.

Maytree Nursery – it was reported that there has been regular burning coming from Maytree Nursery, causing smoke in the gardens and properties of nearby residents. The clerk to write to Maytree Nursery.

Planning Enforcement service – Andrew Bowles was asked whether any additional resourcing was being put in place once Peter Hinckesman retires at the end of August. Andrew said that a restructuring was being proposed in the planning department and suggested that the parish council write to James Freeman if they felt the service was inadequately resourced. James could then consider the parish council’s view when making his proposals.

Date of Next meeting: Monday 21 August

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed
Chairman

Date