

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 21 August 2017

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

Declarations of Interest: none

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 17.7.17 and the Planning Committee held on 7.8.17 had been previously circulated and were signed as an accurate record.

4. **Matters for public concern**

(a) Playing Field

Play equipment – the Clerk had spoken to the insurers who had confirmed that any equipment needed to adhere to EN1176/77 standards and be inspected by an independent professional company annually. The clerk tabled guidelines from RoSPA regarding certain aspects of the EN1176/77 Standard which were relevant, e.g safety surfacing, equipment construction and installation, layout, fencing, signage and costings for inspections. After reviewing the information, it was agreed that initially equipment such as goal posts and possibly stepping stones should be considered.

(b) Highways Issues

Scoggers Hill – an incident had occurred recently where a refuse lorry had veered off the road and fallen on its side into the adjacent field. The driver and passengers had been airlifted to hospital. The overgrown hedges along this already narrow lane was causing drivers to move over to the edge of the road to avoid the hedges, which had been part of the cause of this unfortunate incident. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the landowners to request the hedges to be cut.

A nearby resident had pointed out that the issue of the road being unsuitable for HGVs had been raised when the planning application for Winterbourne Quarry was being considered. At the time, KCC Highways had responded saying that they did not need to be consulted on small developments (less than 5 houses). The resident said that this incident emphasised the need for KCC Highways to be involved in the consultation process. There was concern that once the development starts the road will not be able to take the construction vehicles and further accidents were likely to occur unless the road is strengthened; it was also suggested that a width restriction could be considered. Currently the damaged road had been filled with topsoil and plastic cones along the edge – it was not known what further repairs were going to take place.

Water leak on London Road outside Remus - to be reported to South East Water.

Gate Services - Following involvement by Helen Whately MP, Highways England were now arranging for delineators to be installed to stop lorries parking along the pavement. In the meantime any dangerous parking to continue to be reported to the police.

Fir Tree Cottages, Courtenay Road - concealed entrance sign outside the property to be requested.

Staplestreet Road – Freight Watch continues to direct HGVs along Staplestreet Road on their mapping system. This continues to be reported to KCC Highways without much success. One of the new signs was also in the wrong place and had not yet been moved. Andrew Bowles said that he had received a recent update which he would forward on and would also follow up.

(c) Road Naming

London Road/Canterbury Road naming - it was agreed to follow up with Swale Borough Council the procedure for correctly naming London Road on road maps and install a street name sign. Daniel Brice reported that he had also spoken to Ordnance Survey.

(d) Footpaths, Hedges and Verges

Hedges – the following to be followed up with the landowners: Scoggers Hill, Staplestreet Road/Dawes Road.

Footpaths - Berkeley Close to Stoney Road overgrown – to be followed up with KCC.

(e) Dunkirk Village Hall

The clerk had written to the Village Hall Committee but no response had been received. Vaughan Howland had also spoken to them and felt that they would look for additional resources to help with the management of the hall.

(f) Crime Update

PCSOs - Kent Police had confirmed that there were still three PCSOs based from Faversham covering the area. They can be contacted via the 101 non urgent crime reporting line. They had also confirmed that unfortunately two were on rest days and one off sick when the Staplestreet Road incident occurred which was why PCSOs from Sheppey attended.

Hurst Wood – Kent Police had confirmed that they had been in touch with the caretaker who was taking steps to deter quad bikers. Notices had been posted and the police will continue to monitor as their resources allow.

Neighbourhood Watch – Jeff Tutt had been informed that there was currently an IT problem with the system which alerts those in the neighbourhood watch groups of incidents and information. Therefore no information is currently coming through. It was not known when it would be rectified.

5. **Planning**

(a) Receive Decisions: None

(b) Consider Applications:

17/503941/FULL - Denstroude Farm Denstroude Lane - Removal of condition 5 of SW/89/42 (Conversion of agricultural buildings into 2 holiday cottages) - Removal of the condition to allow unrestricted residential occupancy.

A similar application had previously been submitted and subsequently withdrawn in April 2017. The plans were reviewed and a discussion took place taking into account that since the previous application the Local Plan (Bearing Fruits 2031) had been adopted.

It was proposed to oppose the application and a vote was taken – four were in favour, one against and one abstention. It was therefore agreed to submit an objection to the application.

(c) Appeals

16/507038/OUT - Courtenay House London Road - Appeal against refusal of planning permission for the erection of a single dwelling with associated access and parking. A site meeting had taken place between the Planning Inspector, the applicant's agent and a member of SBC Planning Department. The parish council had not been invited to the meeting and this had been queried with SBC. Their response was that site meetings for written representation appeals were factual for the inspector to view the site and not for additional information to be given and therefore not necessary for other parties to attend.

(d) Planning Enforcement

No updates had been received from Planning Enforcement on outstanding enforcement cases.

Andrew Bowles reported that there had been a restructure in the Planning Department following the retirement of Peter Hinckesman which would take effect from 1st September. This had resulted in 1FTE additional resource in the planning enforcement team. Graham Thomas would be the point of contact for planning enforcement.

6. 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
1270	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£406.75	-	£406.75
1271	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£96.80	-	£96.80
1272	L Blackshaw	Clerk expenses (postage)	£9.88	-	£9.88
1273	PFL	Streetlight repairs (x3) – Horselees Road & Berkeley Close	142.75	28.55	£171.30
1274	D Buckett	Internal audit fee	£233.10	-	£233.10
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (July)	£218.48	£43.70	£262.18
		TOTAL	£1107.76	£72.25	£1180.01

(c) Consider the report from the Internal Auditor

The report had previously been circulated. There were no significant issues raised and the annual return had been submitted. The auditor had suggested that a new printer/scanner could be considered which may be eligible for funding under the Transparency Fund – the clerk will investigate this. The clerk was congratulated on keeping everything in good order resulting in a successful audit.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Awaiting confirmation from Swale Borough Council that they are able to review the draft plan before public consultation.

8. Correspondence

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

16/7/17	Andrew Bowles	Monthly Newsletter June
25/7/17	Helen Whately MP	Helen Whately MP newsletter
26/7/17	KALC	Swale Area Committee minutes 12.6.17
1/8/17	Swale Borough Council	Adoption of the Swale Borough Local Plan
8/8/17	KALC	Reform of Data Protection Legislation. The clerk to look into the requirements of this legislation which is due to take effect in May 2018.
7/8/17	Andrew Bowles	Monthly Newsletter July
11/8/17	KCC	Rights of Way Improvement Plan Stakeholders – consultation closes 17/9/17. Phillippa Clarkson agreed to respond.
11/8/17	Swale Borough Council	Swale Green Grid Forum & Site Visit to Perry Wood 19/9/17
16/8/17	SECamb	Invitation to annual members meeting 28/9/17

Items tabled:

20/7/17	Air Ambulance	Thank you letter received following donation
4/8/17	Swale Borough Council	Call for Sites – Strategic Land Availability Assessment/ Brownfield Land Register
Summer 2017	CPRE	Countryside Voice

9. Matters not on the Agenda

Electricity column in the field at the junction of Dawes Road/Thread Lane was reported to be leaning. The clerk to report to UK Power Networks.

Flytipping on Donkey Bob Hill – John Peto to speak to Sandes Dawes.

Road closures Staplestreet Road & Bull Lane – a roadworks notice had been received showing that Staplestreet Road and Bull Lane would be closed at the same time for 2 days (for different works). It was agreed to ask KCC Highways to reconsider the scheduling of these works as it would close off direct access for Berkeley Close/Stoney Rd area.

Maytree Nursery – a response had been received from the owners following the reports of burning coming from the site. They had stated that not all fires come from their site and asked whether the neighbouring businesses had also been written to. They also added that they were considerate to the nearby residents by not lighting fires if the wind was in the wrong direction and also in other ways, such as keeping hedges cut back, car parking extended to keep cars off the road, and deliveries directed via Gate services slip road rather than through Boughton.

Date of Next meeting: Monday 17 September

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed

Chairman

Date