

## Dunkirk Parish Council

### Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 20 November 2017

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

Declarations of Interest: None

#### 1. Open Session

##### Footpaths

Paul Walker, footpath warden for Dunkirk, gave an explanation of his role and explained that he had walked the majority of the paths in Dunkirk. Where there had been issues with blocked/overgrown paths, he had been liaising with KCC Public Rights of Way. Various paths were discussed and ZR531 (Berkeley Close) and ZR533 (Woodside) were added to his list to have a look at. The parish council will keep Paul informed of any paths reported to be blocked/overgrown etc alongside reporting to KCC PROW. Paul was thanked for his update and it was agreed it was very useful to have him involved in helping to keep our footpaths clear.

The meeting was then formally opened.

2. **Apologies:** None

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

#### 4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16.10.17 and the Planning Committee held on 6.11.17 had been previously circulated and were signed as an accurate record.

#### 5. Matters Arising

##### (a) Road naming (London Road)

The three street nameplates had been installed. It was reported that these had been well received by local residents. After further discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed to purchase an additional sign to be placed towards the end of London Road (near A2 junction). The cost was £136.75 but the clerk would investigate this with Swale as the surround on one of the previously purchased signs had not been used.

In addition it was proposed, seconded and agreed to purchase a sign for Snake Lane to replace the one which had recently been damaged beyond repair (the damaged sign has since been removed).

##### (b) Bonfires & Burning

The clerk had written to the three businesses and it was reported that the fires were less frequent, but some were still taking place. The residents are continuing to keep a log of incidents to report to Environmental Health.

It was reported that the RSPB had written to Maytree Nursery regarding rubbish which was encroaching into the adjacent woodland (owned by RSPB). It was agreed that if RSPB got in touch with the parish council they would also bring this to the attention of Maytree Nursery. Andrew Bowles asked to be kept copied into any correspondence.

(c) Apsley Trust

A list of names had been put forward all of which were considered to be worthy cases. It was agreed that Phillippa Clarkson would recommend to the Trust that they all receive a donation.

(d) Parish Councillor Vacancy

The vacancy had been advertised. The closing date is 29 November. So far there had been one expression of interest.

(e) Tractors and trailers erratic driving during harvesting

A response had been received from the company concerned which was tabled. It was agreed that the clerk would write to ask that the parish council be kept informed when any future harvesting was due to take place.

**6. Matters for public concern**

(a) Playing Field

A reminder had been sent to the off road car club regarding removal of the cabin, but to date no response has been received. John Peto agreed to try to speak to them.

The clerk is chasing up the legal documentation with the solicitor for the purchase of the strip of land.

(b) Highways Issues

Water leak outside Remus on London Road had been repaired.

Jezzards Lane – white line markings at the junction of Scoggers Hill/Rhode Common Road had faded which was felt could cause accidents as the right of way was not clear. The clerk to report to KCC.

Repairs to Gate Services slip road – there had been a further delay to the installation of the delineators. The temporary cones had now all been removed. Jeff Tutt is continuing to chase with Highways England/KCC and also keeping Helen Whately MP informed.

(c) Footpaths, Hedges and Verges

The land owner regarding the hedge along Staplestreet Road from Thatch to Dawes Road junction had responded to say that he would ensure that it was cut back.

The van parked on the verge outside no. 7 Courtenay Road has since been moved to within the property boundary.

The hedges along Staplestreet Road adjacent the Orchard Gate properties were overgrown and overhanging the road. The clerk to write to the owners to remind them of their obligations to keep these cut back.

Verge alongside Mast site, Courtenay Road – a resident had been in touch to ask whether they could do some voluntary gardening to keep this piece of ground tidy. It was not part of the grass cutting contract but Maytree Nursery had previously cleared the ground and planted shrubs. It was agreed that the clerk would ask Maytree whether they objected to someone else tidying the area on a voluntary basis.

(d) Milestone Refurbishment

John Peto had been in touch with the Milestone Society and also Boughton Parish Council who had refurbished their milestones in the past. Daniel Brice had also been in touch with a

local stonemason to get an idea of what work could be done. It was agreed to obtain quotes for refurbishment of the milestone.

(e) Streetlights

The clerk reported that following problems with delays to repairs, lack of communication and responsiveness from the streetlighting contractor, the contractor had confirmed that as they did not have much work in the area they could no longer meet our expectations and therefore did not wish to continue to maintain the streetlights in Dunkirk.

The clerk had obtained quotes from Streetlights.co.uk and PrimeOne Maintenance. Streetlights.co.uk were used by Boughton parish council who had confirmed that they were pleased with their performance which far outweighed the service from the previous contractor. The costs quoted from both contractors were higher than the current arrangements, however the proposed new contract was for a regular maintenance and repair service rather than a call out contract as currently.

It was agreed that the clerk would get in touch with both Ash and Barham parish councils who currently use PrimeOne and ask for their comments on service performance and cost effectiveness.

(f) Crime Update

Complaints had been received about the 101 service where long delays in calls being answered had been experienced. The clerk to enquire whether there was a different way that the parish council could contact the police to report non urgent crimes. Previously we had contact details for the PCSO but now this is a shared service it was understood that personal mobile nos were no longer given out.

## 7. **Planning**

(a) Receive Decisions: None

(b) Consider Applications:

17/505642/FULL - Christchurch House - Part two storey with Juliette balcony/single storey rear extension. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed to record no objection to the proposal.

(c) Appeals

16/501247/CHANGE - Moth Field (Amos Field), Denstroude Lane. Site visit by the Planning Inspectorate arranged for 29/1/18.

17/500755/OUT- Land adjoining Sydney Cottage, Dunkirk Road South. Appeal dismissed.

(d) Planning Enforcement

S106 Agreement – Red Lion Park – It was reported that there were now two more park homes for sale on the site. The clerk to investigate as these have not been reported to the parish council.

## 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
1282	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£406.75	-	£406.75
1283	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£96.80	-	£96.80
1284	CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England – annual subscription	£36.00	-	£36.00
1285	Swale Borough Council	Supply and installation of 3x street nameplate signs (London Road)	£408.75	-	£408.75
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (October)	£218.48	£43.70	£262.18
		TOTAL	£1,166.78	£43.70	£1,210.48

(c) Budget 2018/19

The Clerk was preparing the draft budget for 2018/19. Council members were asked to consider any additional items/amendments to be included.

**9. Neighbourhood Plan**

The draft plan had been sent to Swale and it is expected that comments will be received before the officer leaves in December.

**10. Correspondence**

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

20/10/17	Swale Borough Council	Consultation on draft Statement of Community Involvement. Deadline 4 December 2017
16/10/17	KCC	KCC Draft Budget Strategy 2018/19 Consultation. Deadline 3 December 2017
21/10/17	Andrew Bowles	September newsletter
1/11/17	Swale Borough Council	Swale Borough Council - Landscape Designation Review. Deadline 1 December 2017. JP & JT preparing a response.
31/10/17	Kent Wildlife Trust	Amendments to SW17 Blean Woods South local wildlife site
3/11/17	KALC	Crime Prevention And Safety Conference – 7/12/17
7/11/17	KCC	KCC Highways Parish Seminars 2017 – Presentations
12/11/17	Andrew Bowles	October newsletter
16/11/17	KALC	Government announcement re: Lorry Park at J11 M20

The following items were tabled

13/10/17	Kent Wildlife Trust	Richard Neame Local Wildlife Award – Dunkirk Churchyard. A copy to be sent to Tim Last and copies to be displayed on the noticeboards.
11/11/17	Paulette Stubbings	Invitation to Carol Service – 17/12/17. Vaughan Howland agreed to do the reading on behalf of the parish council

**11. Matters not on the Agenda**

KALC AGM – John Peto & Jeff Tutt attended and gave an update on some of the items raised, in particular unauthorised lorry parking which had been discussed with KALC and Kent MPs.

**Date of Next meeting:** Monday 18 December

L Blackshaw  
Clerk

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....