

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 22 October 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Jeff Tutt (Chair), Philippa Clarkson, Vaughan Howland, Daniel Brice, Julie Coleman, Andrew Bowles, George Bobbin, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk)
Ralph & Alistair Noel + Richard Scott (Architect) (item 2)
1 parishioner

Declarations of Interest: None

1. **Apologies:** Steve Hitch & Peter Demery

2. **Berkeley House**

Ralph, Alistair & Richard presented their proposals for a new development on the Berkeley House site. The existing property would be demolished and a new structure built which would include 20 units, underground parking and a swimming pool. They stressed that these were initial pre-application ideas and invited any comments from the parish council which they could take on board. Originally on the site was a Victorian villa and this new proposal was designed to replicate that idea but in a modern contemporary design. It would make the most of the stunning views from that location.

The parish council were not against modern design but felt that the proposed design did not fit into the character of the area and would not be complimentary to Nash Court and Mount Ephraim. It was also felt that the development would be visible from lower Dunkirk, Boughton and Hernhill. It was also pointed out that the previous villa had to be demolished due to the stability of the ground and this should be considered for any development on that site.

Ralph, Alistair & Richard were thanked for attending and left the meeting.
The parishioner present also left the meeting.

The meeting was formally opened

3. **Notification of Additional Agenda Items:** Apsley Trust (item 10), Winterbourne (item 10), Bossenden/Courtenay Exhibition (item 10), Sheldwich (item 10)

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17.9.18 and the Planning Committee on 1.10.18 had been previously circulated. The minutes of 17.9.18 were agreed, subject to a minor amendment, and then signed as an accurate record. The minutes of 1.10.18 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

5. **Matters for public concern**

(a) Highways Issues

Dawes Road/Staplestreet Road junction – 3-way traffic lights had been installed while SE Water undertook a repair. A vehicle had to be pulled out of the verge due to the lack of road barrier and the 4-5 metre drop alongside the road. This had been highlighted in the site visit which took place in April 2018 and still no thing had been done by KCC. A response is still awaited on the safety audit and this incident highlights that the road needs attending to and barriers installed. Jeff Tutt to continue to chase and stress the urgency to KCC.

KCC Highways Parish Seminar – it was agreed that Jeff Tutt would attend with one other.

(b) Footpaths/Verges/Hedges

Hedge needs cutting back at the junction of Dawes Road/Staplestreet Road. The owner to be notified.

(c) TPOs

There had been no further update to the request for TPOs. A response was due by the end of October.

James Freeman had also confirmed that the additional request regarding Berkeley House would also be responded to by the end of October.

It had recently come to light that the previous TPO on the land at the rear of the Old School had been amended in October 2017. The clerk has asked SBC to confirm the reason for the amendment and why the parish council had not been notified.

Holly Hill Wood – there had still been no response from the Forestry Commission regarding the standard of workmanship in this wood.

(d) Streetlights

A response had been received from the contractor following the complaint and allegations of poor workmanship received from another contractor. This response was reviewed and the parish council were satisfied with the comments made. The contractor had agreed to fit secondary isolators on the new LEDs however these were not strictly required as the contractor has G39 Isolation certification.

The parish council were not happy in the way that the lights had been accessed by another contractor without permission (who could presumably tamper with the lights) and would look into what recourse could be taken.

(e) Crime Update

Jeff Tutt reported on the recent Faversham & District Engagement meeting where Kent Police had given an update on crime in Faversham. Gangs on housing estates had become a problem and the police had made several arrests.

6. **Planning**

(a) Receive Decisions:

18/504642/FULL - Christchurch House - Proposed garage extension and internal alterations. Approved.

(b) Consider Applications:

18/503983/FULL - Land Adj The Old School London Road - Proposed residential development of 6no. units with associated parking and external works. This would replace the current consent for 5 units on the site. The plans were reviewed and agreed to object to the application based on the same reasons as the previous application (overdevelopment and difficult access to the site).

18/505342/FULL - 10 Berkeley Close - Conversion of garage to habitable room and erection of single storey front extension. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed to object to the loss of off street parking which would add to more cars parking along the road which was becoming dangerous in that location.

(c) Planning Enforcement:

Jeff Tutt reported on an update received from George Mynham on Brotherhood Wood following a site inspection which had taken place.

It was understood that the community building, which included washing and toilet facilities for the residents, had been locked up and the management had left the site. This was discussed at length and agreed that there was a severe concern for the welfare of those living on the site. It was also known that the site does not have a licence (which had been pointed out to Swale several times) which throws into question public liability and issues of health and safety. The parish council had a duty to raise their concerns and agreed to write to SBC as Licensing Authority and ask for an urgent investigation.

(d) Correspondence with James Freeman, Head of Planning

Jeff Tutt tabled the response he had received to his complaint about the performance of Graham Thomas at the planning committee. Although an apology had been received from Graham for any distraction that his actions had resulted in, there was no recognition of the fact that his behaviour was unprofessional and unacceptable. It was agreed that this was not acceptable and that Jeff should receive an apology in public (at the planning committee where the incident occurred).

James Freeman had offered a meeting with the Chairman and the Clerk to discuss issues of concern with the parish which was being arranged for 6 November.

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 Precept (£5,896.00) and Lighting Grant (£1,540.00) had been received from Swale Borough Council

(b) Payments: The following payments were proposed, seconded and approved:

Cheque no					
1340	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£425.25	-	£425.25
1341	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£101.40	-	£101.40
1342	Prime One Maintenance	Streetlight maintenance	£149.45	£29.89	£179.34
1343	G Doy	Grass cutting contract	£66.00	-	£66.00
1344	Timber Tasks	End of season cut and tidy of Draw Road	£180.00	-	£180.00
1345	Namesco Ltd	Renewal of Dunkirkpc.org.uk domain & authenticated SMTP access (2yrs)	£55.24	£11.05	£66.29
1346	Kent County Playing Fields Association	Annual subscription	£20.00	-	£20.00
1347	Campaign to Protect Rural England	Annual subscription	£36.00	-	£36.00
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (Sept)	£217.61	£43.52	£261.13
		TOTAL	£1,250.95	£84.46	£1,335.41

(c) Budget 2019/20

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

8. Neighbourhood Plan

The landscape and character assessment sections were being revised.

9. Correspondence

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

18/9/18	Boughton Village Hall	Village Hall open morning 27/10/18
24/9/18	KCC	KCC Highways Parish Seminar – 2/11/18 (agreed that Jeff Tutt + 1 other to attend)
24/9/18	KALC	KALC Community Awards Scheme 2019
25/9/18	KALC	Kent Police Rural Liaison team report
28/9/18	Helen Whately MP	Newsletter
1/10/18	KALC	KALC Swale Area Committee draft minutes
8/10/18	Faversham Town Council	Faversham and District Engagement Forum – Agenda 16/10/18 & minutes of previous meeting
14/10/18	Andrew Bowles	Monthly newsletter

The following items were tabled:

- CPRE Kent Voice
- CPRE Invitation to CPRE AGM 9/11/18
- KALC KALC AGM (17.10.18) invitation and papers – agreed Jeff Tutt + one other to attend

10. Matters not on the Agenda

Bossenden/Courtenay Exhibition

A very successful afternoon with good feedback from lots who attended. The amount of information and memorabilia gathered was fantastic with a lot of work put in by those involved. There had been requests to do it again at some point. The school may also be interested in using some of the info for a project next year which would be good in keeping the local history known within the community.

Sheldwich – public meeting 21/11/18.

Proposal for a village garden comprising 5000 houses at North Street. Sheldwich parish council had arranged a public meeting for 21/11/18 where the developer would be present.

Winterbourne Quarry

It was reported that waste was being tipped at Winterbourne. To be reported to planning enforcement and Environment Agency.

Apsley Trust

Any nominations (with a brief summary of reasons) to be submitted by the next meeting for the Apsley Trust to consider at their meeting in November.

Date of Next meetings:

- Monday 5 November 2018 – Planning Committee
- Monday 19 November 2018 – Full Council

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed
Chairman

Date