

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 21 January 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Jeff Tutt (Chair), Phillippa Clarkson, Vaughan Howland, Daniel Brice, Julie Coleman, Steve Hitch, Peter Demery, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk), Andrew Bowles (item 7(c) onwards)

Declarations of Interest: None

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Notification of Additional Agenda Items:**

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17.12.18 were agreed and signed as an accurate record. It was noted that there were no minutes of the Planning Committee on 7.1.19 as the meeting had been cancelled.

4. **Matters Arising**

(a) Water leak Dawes Road/Staplestreet junction – work had taken place and it was now thought that the leak had been resolved.

(b) Horselees Road – overhanging vegetation opposite Blean House. The clerk to follow up with the owner and ask for it to be cut back.

5. **Matters for public concern**

(a) Highways Issues

Denstroude Lane – it was reported that the road near the Church & State had been repaired.

Staplestreet Road proposed 7.5 tonne weight restriction TRO –two responses had been received by KCC during the consultation period both supporting the proposal. The TRO is scheduled to be sealed by KCC legal department and come into force 12/2/19.

(b) Footpaths, Verges & Hedges

Footways in Highview Close/St Pauls had been reported as damaged and uneven. Some work had been done, but one path still to be repaired.

The owners of Jays Wood were installing fencing to ensure that the public kept to the public right of way, however there were trees on the line of the definitive path, and a TPO on the site. They had been advised to ask both KCC PROW and Swale Tree Officer to visit the site to confirm the best way forward.

(c) TPOs

No further TPOs had been placed since the last meeting.

An email had been received from the owners of Poundfall Wood stating that they were thinking of selling the site. Swale Borough Council had advised them that they were unlikely to support an application for commercial use of the site due to the TPOs in place. There had still not been a satisfactory answer from Swale as to the reason that the TPO was not disclosed at the time of the sale of the land.

(d) Streetlights

The LED upgrades had not yet been completed. This would be chased up with the contractor to establish a start date.

6. Planning

(a) Receive Decisions: None

(b) Consider Applications:

18/506545/FULL - 25 Stoney Road - Single storey side extension. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed to record no objection to the proposal.

19/500089/FULL - Gordon Cottage, London Road - First floor rear extension (revision of 18/504637/FULL). The plans were reviewed and it was agreed to record no objection to the proposal.

(c) Planning Enforcement:

Brotherhood Wood: Jeff Tutt reported on a meeting he had with Graham Thomas when the size of the site was discussed. It appeared that the size of the site differed on each planning application and the applicant was now stating that the current enforcement notice (which he was appealing against) was not valid as a previous planning consent gave him permission to build on part of the site within the enforcement notice. It was a concern that Swale had never measured the site or had an accurate record of its size, particularly given how contentious the planning applications had been and that the parish council had also notified them on various occasions that the site was being expanded and measurements given by the applicant were not accurate. It was agreed that a thorough investigation was needed and questioned whether Graham Thomas should be involved due to the many inaccuracies in the past..

(d) Berkeley House

Berkeley House – the owner had submitted some visual plans of alternative ideas for the site, still comprising 20 units. It was generally agreed that the scale of the proposal was too large and not sympathetic to the area. This would be fed back to the owner and also let him know that the parish council were not aware of any areas of land in the parish which could be considered for low cost housing as part of his scheme.

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
1360	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£425.25	-	£425.25
1361	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£101.40	-	£101.40
1362	Prime One Maintenance	Streetlight maintenance	£149.45	£29.89	£179.34
1363	G Doy	Grass cutting contract	£66.00	-	£66.00
1364	KALC	Attendance at Higher Level Planning Training (Jeff Tutt)	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00
DDR	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (Dec)	£218.65	£43.73	£262.38
		TOTAL	£1,020.75	£85.62	£1,106.37

Andrew Bowles joined the meeting.

(c) Grass Cutting Contract

The contract was due for renewal in April and the clerk tabled the current specification. It was felt that the contractor was doing a good job and after discussion it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to offer him a fixed 3 year term contract on the same terms. The

verge area alongside the RAF mast in Courtenay Road would be priced on an ad hoc basis as and when required.

(d) Churchyard Maintenance

There was currently no formal contract in place for the maintenance works. A specification detailing the work to be agreed and 3 quotes obtained.

(e) Budget 2019/20

The Clerk tabled the final version of the budget for 2019/20 following comments from the previous meeting and inclusion of the agreed Precept. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to accept the budget.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

The team were still aiming to get the draft plan to Swale by the end of January for it to be reviewed.

9. Correspondence

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

20/12/18	KALC	Minutes of 20's Plenty Working Group
9/1/19	Andrew Bowles	December newsletter
11/1/19	KALC	Draft KALC AGM minutes
18/1/19	NALC	Open letter to councillors

10. Matters not on the Agenda

Bossenden/Courtenay to be on the February agenda to discuss ideas on a further exhibition/event in 2019.

Playing field – Julie Coleman reported that notices had appeared at the playing field stating “you are being watched” regarding clearing of dog mess. She said that since the dog bin had been installed she was not aware of a problem. It was agreed to leave the signs for the time being but keep an eye on it.

Noticeboard – the noticeboard in the bus shelter had been vandalized and the front polycarbonate cover had been damaged. Costs were being obtained for a replacement front and it was agreed to go ahead with the repair at a cost of in the region of £60.

Quinn Estates had contacted the parish council regarding the land to the north of London Road/Canterbury Road. They were proposing a development of self build homes on part of the site. Further details awaited.

Date of Next meetings:

Monday 4 February 2019 – Planning Committee
Monday 18 February 2019 – Full Council

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed

Chairman

Date