

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 15 April 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Jeff Tutt (Chair), Philippa Clarkson, Daniel Brice, Peter Demery, Julie Coleman, Steve Hitch, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk), Andrew Bowles
5 members of the public

Declarations of Interest: None

1. **Apologies:** Vaughan Howland, George Bobbin

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

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18.3.19 and Planning Committee held on 1.4.19 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

4. **19/501493/FULL - New Bungalow Staplestreet Road**

Planning Application for single storey front, side and rear extension with loft conversion to residential bungalow and creation of new parking

The members of the public present expressed their concerns over the proposal. The proposal was two storey (no longer a bungalow) and would overlook the properties on either side. The other properties nearby were all single storey and it was felt that this proposal was out of keeping with the area. The extension was large on a small site and would leave very little garden. The adjacent site already had planning consent for 2 further dwellings which had not yet been built (and were not shown on the plans). This would make the area extremely over developed. Access to the enlarged property and the adjacent site was very tight.

The plans were reviewed and it was proposed, seconded and agreed to object to the proposal (with one member abstaining) citing the items discussed.

Three members of the public left the meeting.

5. **Matters for public concern**

(a) Highways Issues

London Road – chevrons on the island at the junction needed to be replaced. KCC Highways to be notified.

Staplestreet Road/Potters Corner – new 7.5 tonne weight restriction sign had been installed but the hedge was already growing around it. KCC Highways to be notified.

Boughton Hill – red patch covering part of 30mph sign on road surface. KCC Highways to be notified and repainting of 30mph sign requested.

(b) HGVs travelling through village

Jeff Tutt reported that he had received complaints about lorries travelling through the villages of Boughton & Dunkirk when there is a problem on the A2 and this is becoming an increasing

problem. Jeff was seeking a site meeting with KCC Highways and the Police. Andrew Bowles asked to be invited to attend.

(c) Footpaths, Verges & Hedges

It was reported that there was a lack of connection of the footways near Foresters Lodge. To be reported to KCC Highways.

It was reported that a tree was blocking the zigzag path between Dunkirk Road South and Dunkirk Road North. To be reported to PROW.

(d) TPOs

No further TPOs had been placed since the last meeting. SBC Tree Officer had advised that the remaining TPOs should be in place by the end of May.

Dawes Wood – a response had been received from Jonathan Harding at the Forestry Commission following the complaint about the work at Dawes Wood. The Forestry Commission had revisited the site and felt that overall the felling licence had been complied with and were not intending to make further visits in the immediate future. This was a disappointing outcome as it was still felt that the work was a very poor standard of workmanship.

Hurst Cottage/Hickmans Green – this area was continuing to be monitored. The trees cut so far are not subject to a TPO.

(e) Streetlights

The LED upgrades were now completed. The Clerk would submit the details to the energy company to obtain a discount on energy charges.

6. **Planning**

(a) Receive Decisions: None

19/500340/ADV - Sunnyside Bungalow London Road - Advertisement Consent for 1no. wooden framed free standing sign with pvc banner (retrospective). Refused

(b) Consider Applications:

19/501493/FULL – New Bungalow. Agreed to object as discussed earlier in the meeting.

(c) Planning Enforcement:

Brotherhood Wood:

A question had been put to Swale's Council meeting on 3 April asking why only 18 out of the 40 caravans on the site were listed for Council tax and whether they had considered the financial implications of the site not being issued with the licence. The response was that they were updating the information they have and any backdated council tax due will be collected. They were pursuing the licencing with the owner.

After a discussion about the Brotherhood Wood site and the ongoing concerns that the parish council have over the site, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to record a vote of no confidence in the officers who have dealt with the site in the past. It was noted that the current enforcement team were making progress but were playing catch up on everything which had been left unresolved ever since the first planning application at the site.

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
1381	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	£425.45	-	£425.45
1382	HMRC	PAYE for Clerk	£101.20	-	£101.20
1383	Jeff Tutt	Expenses – rubbish bag hoops for litter pick	£72.29	£14.50	£86.79
1384	G Doy	Grass Cutting	£66.00	-	£66.00
1385	Prime One Maintenance	Streetlight maintenance	£149.45	£29.89	£179.34
1386	KALC	Annual subscription	£357.54	£71.51	£429.05
DDT	EDF	Streetlight Electricity (March)	£218.65	£43.73	£262.38
		TOTAL	£1,390.58	£159.63	£1,550.21

8. Neighbourhood Plan

The draft plan had been submitted to Swale and feedback was awaited.

9. Apsley Trust

Pippa Clarkson was the current Trustee representing the parish council on the Trust. As Pippa was no longer continuing as a councillor, the position of Trustee was discussed. It had been established that the Trustee did not need to be a councillor, and the council could nominate someone to act on its behalf. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Phillippa Clarkson would continue to act as the parish council's representative on the Trust.

10. KWT Wild About Gardens Awards

It was agreed to ask Tim Last whether he would be interested in the churchyard to be nominated for an award.

11. Correspondence

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

22/3/19	KALC	Kent PCC Newsletter
25/3/19	KALC	KALC Swale Area Committee minutes – 11/3/19
27/3/19	KCC	Off-peak closure – Brickfield Lane – 17/4/19
29/3/19	PS Jason Hedges	PCSO engagement with parish councils and a 'Day in the Life'
3/4/19	Kent Police	Kent Police rural update
9/4/19	KCC	Temporary Closure – Horselees Road 29/4/19 for 2 weeks
9/4/19	Andrew Bowles	Andrew Bowles March newsletter

12. Matters not on the Agenda

Litterpick – this had taken place on 13 April and had been very successful with more people turning out to help than on previous occasions.

Flytipping in Donkey Bob Hill – Hernhill Parish Council to be notified.

As this was Pippa's last Council meeting she was thanked for her contribution and hard work throughout the 5 years she had been on the council.

Date of Next meetings:

Tuesday 7 May – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Planning Committee
Monday 20 May – Annual Statutory Meeting

L Blackshaw
Clerk

Signed
Chairman

Date