

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 19 August 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Jeff Tutt (Chair), Daniel Brice, Steve Hitch, Alastair Gould, Andrew Bowles
Lizzie Talbot (Clerk)
Four members of the public

Declarations of Interest: None

1. **Apologies:** Julie Coleman, Vaughan Howland.
Apologies not received: Peter Demery

2. **Berkeley House, Boughton Hill (Planning Ref: 19/503137/FULL)**

Applicant was due to attend however, following sight of objections submitted by Dunkirk Parish Council (DPC), prior to the meeting, sent his apologies. He requires further time to review the objections with his agent.

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

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22.7.19 and the planning meeting held on 5.8.19 were both agreed and signed as accurate records.

Matters arising from previous meeting

- (a) Draft Car Parking Supplementary Planning Document – The Neighbourhood Plan Committee has been consulted and they will submit recommendations to Swale Borough Council (SBC) for both Boughton and Dunkirk.
- (b) Additional planting in hedge row on London Road - Cllr Brice confirmed this will take place once full hedge cutting by SBC has been completed.
- (c) Dog waste bin at Bossenden Woods – Not yet in place. Chair to follow up with SBC.
- (d) Jezzards Lane Drains – Still blocked. Chair to follow-up with KCC Highways.
- (e) Courtenay Road misleading road sign – Has now been removed by KCC Highways. Discharge.
- (f) Footpath beyond Red Lion Park - Has been repaired by KCC Highways but there is a hole to one side. Chair to follow-up with KCC Highways.
- (g) Goddens Corner – SBC Enforcement was due to undertake site visit (note newly installed gated entrance). Chair to follow up with SBC Enforcement.
- (h) Hedging and trees to be cut back - Chair to liaise with KCC and Andrew Bowles to establish dates of when this would be done (post nesting season) and request litter picking to be completed in advance to prevent waste materials being shredded.
- (i) Footpath ZR533 blocked ditches – Chair contacted PROW Officer post last meeting. Update to be obtained by Chair.
- (j) London Road - Hedge and grass verge maintenance required (before Faversham bound bus stop) – Update required.

- (k) Damaged safety railings on Boughton Hill (Lower upward section): Job logged with KCC Highways but low priority given current need. Ongoing.
- (l) TPO 2 of 2019 – Boughton Hill (Jays Wood) – Chair to follow up with SBC Tree Officer, Paul Hegley, re: site visit with local residents that did not happen.
- (m) Felling of trees at Dawes Wood – Chair to follow up with the SBC Tree Officer re complaints lodged with Forestry Commission around quality of felling and debris.
- (n) Courtenay Road/London Road Streetlight – This has now been reconnected. Discharge.
- (o) LED Certificates for upgraded streetlights - Still outstanding from UK Power. Clerk to follow up.
- (p) 'Thieves operate here' signs for Gate Services – Chair is continuing to liaise with PS Jason Hedges and Highways England.
- (q) Brotherhood Wood – Meeting with James Freeman. Cllr Gould reported no further information/comments available from James Freeman post their meeting.
- (r) Unused Post Box stand at Horselees Road end of Boughton Hill – This has been removed. Discharge.
- (s) Misleading signage for Esso Gate Services on London-bound A2 – Previously reported to Gary Gibbs. Awaiting further information/decision from Highways or KCC. Ongoing.
- (t) MP Helen Whately – Letters - to Highways England re continuing ownership and maintenance disputes for Brenley Corner roundabout. Also written to SBC Planning with reference to poor responses from SBC around Brotherhood Wood issues including toileting. Chair to follow up.
- (u) DPC Councillor Numbers - Update required at next meeting re: current Councillor Vacancy/application process.

5. Matters for public concern

(a) Highways Issues

Jezzards Lane to Scoggers Hill is closed for a week. The potholes are increasing and are dangerous but whilst the work is continuing it was agreed there was little to be gained by chasing repairs at this point. Ongoing.

Hedges at Goddens Corner, on both sides, need to be cut back as they are causing obstruction to sight lines. Chair to contact owner and request post nesting season hedge cutting.

(b) Footpaths, Verges & Hedges

Notice of Temporary Closure to Footpath ZR536 at Christchurch House received. Effective from 2.9.19 for a maximum of six months in order that works can be carried out on or near it.

(c) TPOs

Notice received that TPO 1 of 2019 (Bossenden Wood/ North Bishopden Wood) confirmed with no objections. Awaiting decisions on five outstanding planning applications for TPO status.

(d) Streetlights: Currently no reports of failed lights.

(e) Crime Update: No update.

6. Planning

(a) Receive Decisions: None

(b) Consider Applications: None

(c) Planning Enforcement: No updates forthcoming to current planning enforcement issues (as reported in previous minutes). Chair to follow-up with SBC and clerk and revert at next meeting.

(d) Brotherhood Wood: All approved draft reply letter (previously circulated by email) to James Freeman (Head of Planning) and CE at SBC re: No Confidence Vote and unanswered questions relating to Brotherhood Wood Planning Enforcement issues. Chair to send.

7. Finance

(a) Finance Report

The report and monthly cash account was tabled and were taken as read.

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

Cheq No:	Payee	Description	Amount £	VAT £	Total £
1404	L Blackshaw	Clerk wages/office allowance	425.25	0.00	425.25
1405	L Talbot	Clerk wages/office allowance	396.60	0.00	396.60
1406	HMRC	PAYE for Clerks	200.40	0.00	200.40
1407	G Doy	Grass Cutting	66.00	0.00	66.00
1408	Prime One Maintenance	Streetlight maintenance	149.45	29.89	179.34
1409	Dunkirk Village Hall	Hire of village hall 30/7/19 for joint parish meeting	20.00	0.00	20.00
1410	Jeffery Tutt	Purchase of printer and cartridges from Currys	116.66	23.33	139.99
DDI	EDF (by DDI)	Streetlight Electricity (July)	221.50	44.30	265.80
1411	KALC	Clerks' Conference 2019	60.00	12.00	72.00
1412	D K Networks	Laptop for Clerk + Cloning	445.83	89.17	535.00
		TOTAL	£2101.69	£198.69	£2300.38

8. Reports from Ward Councillor

Cllr Gould confirmed no relevant updates this month from SBC and Cllr Bowles confirmed the same from Kent County Council.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Committee meeting scheduled for w/c 26.8.19 to further develop the Plan in advance of the Public consultation (to be held at least 6 weeks prior to submission date which is currently 28.11.19). Ongoing.

10. Councillor Vacancy

DPC currently has a vacancy for a Councillor. Three interested individuals had been invited to attend a meeting to understand format, commitment required and to meet Cllrs. All attended this meeting.

11. Litter Pick

Clerk to email all Cllrs to ascertain suitable date for Community litter pick in September or early October.

12. Change to Meeting Start Time

It was agreed by all present that meetings will start at the earlier time of 7.00 pm as from the next full Council meeting on 16.9.19 if the Village Hall booking can be changed. Clerk to liaise with Village Hall and revert to Cllrs.

13. Correspondence

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

23/7/19	Swale Borough Council	Swale Landscape Sensitivity Assessment - invitation to comment on draft assessment. Comments by 9.9.19
2/8/19	KCC PROW	Temporary Closure of Public Footpath ZR536 (by Christchurch House) from 2.9.19 (maximum of 6 months)
11/8/19	Circulated by Chair	National Planning Policy Framework (76 pp) and Material Planning Considerations (1 pp) to be used for all planning decisions
13/8/19	Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner	Summer Newsletter and Annual Policing Policy
13/8/19	NALC	Chief Executive's Bulletin (9.8.19)
14/8/19	KALC	Transport Conference – 26.10.19
14/8/19	KALC	Finance Conference – 12.10.19
14/8/19	Swale Borough Council	Swale Green Grid Forum at Oare Village Hall + Visit to KWT Oare Marshes Nature Reserve / 11.9.19 - 1.30pm - 4.30pm
14/8/19	KCC Highways Depot	KCC Community Transport Grant Scheme 2019-20
15/8/19	Sent on behalf of Swale Councillor Richard Palmer (Community)	Kent Police - Rural Task Force CRAG report for Parish Councils
15/8/19	Terry Martin, CE, Kent Association of Local Councils	Data from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) re: 65 areas in the county designated for Neighbourhood Plans along with those now law.
15/8/19	Citizens Advice Swale	Invitation to AGM 17.9.19, Sittingbourne
15/8/19	CPRE (The Countryside Charity)	CPRE's National Green Clean Campaign
15/8/19	SLCC	National Conference (Speakers include Friends of the Earth: Climate Change and LLG: Tackling Bullying and Harassment) 2-3.10.19 in Leicestershire
16/8/19	KALC	Dynamic Councillor Event – 12.9.19 in Rochester
19/8/19	Kent Housing Group (via KALC)	Draft Kent and Medway Housing Strategy 2019-23 - consultation deadline 12 noon on 9.9.19
19/8/19	KALC	August 2019 Newsletter
19/8/19	My Neighbourhood Plan	Writing Specialist – Workshops

19/8/19	NALC	Chief executive's bulletin (16.8.19)
19/8/19	Kent & Medway	K&M Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Consultation - deadline 23.9.19
Various	Swale Planning	Weekly Lists for 2.8.19, 9.8.19, 16.9.19

Summer Edition of CPRE's Country Voice was tabled.

14. Matters not on the Agenda

Approach to playing field - Vice Chair to be asked to follow up with the landowners to reinstate fence.

Monies from cakes sold post War Memorial Event – All agreed the £10.00 raised should be donated to the Village Hall Fund via their Committee.

Local Transport issues: Two members of the public voiced their concerns and frustrations around the continuing traffic and lorry issues in Dunkirk and surrounding parishes and the multiple associated problems around safety eg, the village becomes gridlocked thus no access for emergency vehicles let alone villagers, human waste left by lorry drivers etc. Cllrs assured the attendees that DPC is continually communicating with many local and county organisations (KCC, Highways England, Kent Police, Swale Borough Council), as well as the local MP, to try to reach a solution. The attendees stressed that the lack of responsibility and therefore the lack of action by these bodies is unacceptable. DPC is limited in the action it is able to take but the Chair is pushing for a meeting to discuss these issues with as many of the relevant people and bodies but in the meantime asked that any parishioners with similar concerns to write to the local MP, Helen Whatley to request action.

Date of Next meetings:

Monday 2 September – Planning Committee at 7.30 pm

Monday 16 September – Full Council Statutory Meeting at 7.00 pm

L Talbot
Clerk

Signed

Chairman

Date