

Dunkirk Parish Council – Full Council Meeting

Minutes of Full Council meeting held at Hernhill Village Hall 16 January 2023 at 7.00pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr K Kemp (Chair), Cllr J. Tutt, Cllr Smith, Cllr Brice, Cllr Clifford and Cllr Hewett.
Cllr A. Gould (SBC) Cllr R. Lehmann (KCC)

There were two members of the public.

1. **Declaration:** Any Declarations of Interest by members present to be made at the commencement of the meeting – None
2. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr T. Valentine (SBC), Cllr J Coleman & R Parr (Clerk)
3. **Minutes of Full Council meeting 19th December 2022.** A motion to approve the minutes by all present once section Footpaths B1 changed ‘responded’ to ‘reported’.
4. **Public Participation**
 - i) David brown attended the meeting as the applicant for a planning application associated with Forge House. He was able to answer questions the council had.
 - ii) A parishioner attended the meeting asking about the forthcoming closure of Boughton Hill from the 13th February until the 2nd May. Cllr Lehmann has been liaising with all the relevant departments in order to negotiate a suitable bus service. In addition, the finish date is required to allow for the local elections to take place. Raised with Cllr Lehmann by the council was the issue should there be a closure on the A2 due to an accident and Sat Navs rerouting cars via the closed hill. **Action:** Cllr Lehmann will also take this up with KCC.
5. **Correspondence**
 - A. The Clerk had received confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate that they had refused our appeal for a footpath at Bossenden Wood.
 - B. There is to be a referendum, on the Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan on the 16th February 2023. Details have been posted on the website, Facebook and the noticeboards.
 - C. The Clerk had received a response from the Case Office in respect of our concerns not to engage KCC Highways further in for the planning application at Yew Tree Cottage. The Case Office said that they did not feel that KCC Highways needed to be involved. Cllr Gould and Cllr Lehmann both stated that they would support our assertion that Highways should have been involved. As there is a significant road safety issue. **Action:** Cllr Lehmann will look into the gates that were added by the junction at Yew Tree Cottage on Dawes Road.
6. **Matters for public concern:**
 - A. Highways Issues
 - i) Clerk & KCC written to landowner on southern side of Boughton Hill. Since then a planning application had been received for TPOA on works along Boughton Hill by KCC, which will be discussed at the next planning committee.
 - ii) A councillor raised the issue concerning vegetation in the pavement along London Road via Forge Cottage. They were advised to report via the link on the website to KCC.
 - B. Footpaths, Verges & Hedges
 - i) Concerning the flooding on Bossenden Lane of the road and surrounding land, Cllr Brice agreed to meet Mr Godden and KCC.
 - ii) The Clerk had met with KCC regarding Poundfall Wood and also had discussions with the owner regarding responsibilities and works going forward.

- iii) The tree falling from Christchurch House onto Boughton Hill had been removed by Timber Tasks Ltd.
- iv) Kent Plan Bee – The presentation by Cllr Coleman is to be delayed until the next meeting as the council need to discuss the contract going forward.

C. TPOs

Nothing to report.

D. Streetlights

- i) Nothing to report.

E. Playing field

- i) Benches are to be installed ahead of the Coronation. The Section 42 application to undertake a geophysical survey on the scheduled playing fields has been submitted and approved by Historic England.
Action: The Clerk is to arrange a date for the survey with FSARG.

F. Village Hall

- i) Cllr Smith provided an update on the village hall. Alan Farthing had joined the VH committee. Sally Harper had contacted Cllr Lehmann for support to cover the rental via the Boughton Community Project Group hall rental and will also contact Cllr Gould and Cllr Valentine.
- ii) A barn dance is planned for the Saturday of the coronation weekend as organised by the village hall. Nicola has purchased a maytree on behalf of the PC for the village hall. **Action:** Cllr Brice will purchase a cherry tree or crab apple suitable for pollinators.

G. Bus Shelters

- i) Nothing to report on repairs Funding information is still waited on from South East Water.

7. Speed Limits/TRO

- i) The Clerk had received an invoice from KCC which is in the process of being reduced by £1200 to reflect Cllr Lehmann's contribution. £400 A Gould grant applied for and accepted. Funds expected 16th January. Reduces HIP to £656. Boughton PC had agreed to donate £325 towards the cost of the HIP. HIP cost reduced to £331 to be covered by DPC. Cllr Lehmann would liaise with KCC Highways to arrange for clear signage associated with the road closure.

8. Jubilee Tree Planting

Email received from Donna at Ladybird Gardening Services about using a pollinator friendly tree. It was agreed for Cllr Brice to source a crab apple instead of a cherry tree.

9. Coronation

A new cypher is required which can be ordered under the Chair's discretion. Details are still waited from the Palace. On the 25th February at 7:30pm, a meeting is being held at Sam and Emily's and all councillors are invited to attend. The Clerk prior to the meeting had highlighted the new for stallholders to have appropriate insurance requirements. There is a requirement for a risk assessment and marshals will be required. To be discussed at the next full meeting.

10. South East Water

- i) The Clerk confirmed that she was still waiting to hear from SEW with regards to their community grant as there were delays as a result of the latest cold snap incidents across Kent and Sussex.
- ii) The Clerk has reported the leak on the northern side of the bank at Dunkirk Road North along with photos/video complaining issue been ongoing since May 2022. – Response is awaited.
- iii) Cllr Tutt and Cllr Kemp have noticed a drop in water pressure and will monitor and report back.

11. Replacement Bus shelter

- i) Nothing to report.

12. Streetlights Electricity Contract

- i) The Clerk had received a quote from Utility Aid and the council agreed to go with Utility Aid for a 1 year fixed contract. Whilst a better price than Npower, it is still a large increase. Cllr Tutt stated that SBC are voting on the lighting grant reduction on the 22nd February 2023. Cllr Tutt also reported that KCC pays for the majority of lighting of local councils in Kent. It was agreed for DPC to try and move to this position. Cllr Tutt has a meeting with SAC/KALC and SBC and will keep the council updated.
- ii) The Clerk had also been in contact with Npower and UK Power Networks to investigate the 2 MPANS. I have had it confirmed that it is not a case of some streetlights on one MPAN and the remainder on another. There is in fact one MAPN for the main streetlight bulbs and another MPAN for the sensors. Hence there will always be a minimum of two MPANS. This explains why the unit readings for the sensor MPAN is so much smaller than that of the main bulbs.

13. Bank Mandate / Bulk Payments

- i) All issues for Cllr Tutt have been resolved.
- ii) The Clerk had investigated batch processing for Lloyds Online Banking and had suggested a £2k limit. Cllr Brice proposed to agree with Cllr Tutt seconding. All councillors agreed. **Action:** The Clerk is to apply to Lloyds.
- iii) The council discussed adding Cllr Smith as a signatory to the Lloyds account. Cllr Brice proposed to agree with Cllr Hewett seconding. All councillors agreed. **Action:** The Clerk to instigate with Lloyds Bank the application.

14. Training

The Chair had been prompted by the Clerk to remind councillors of training opportunities for which there is a budget and to review the KALC website. **Action:** Cllr Hewett is to liaise with the Clerk concerning Dynamic Councillor course.

15. Planning

A. Received decisions:

- i) 22/505342/PNQCLA | Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building and land within its curtilage to 1no. residential dwelling with associated operation development. For its prior approval to: - Transport and Highways impacts of the development - Noise impacts of the development - Contamination risks on the site - Flooding risks on the site - Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use to C3 (dwellinghouses) - Design and external appearance impacts on the building - Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwelling houses. Land At Brook Farm Denstroude Lane Dunkirk Kent CT2 9JZ – Refused.

B. Consider applications:

- i) 22/505912/FULL: Demolition of existing side porch and erection of single storey side and rear extensions ADDRESS: Forge House London Road Dunkirk Kent ME13 9LL

Following the additional information provided, the council unanimously agreed to support the planning application. With Cllr Tutt proposing and Cllr Clifford seconding and all agreeing. The following comment was added to the planning portal:

“At full council on 16th January 2023 Councillors voted to support the application.”

16. Finance:

A. Finance report

The Chair read through the contents of the Finance Report which was approved and signed by the Chair.

B. Approve payments

A motion to approve all items for payment was unanimously agreed. It was agreed fro Cllr Kemp and Cllr Brice to authorise online. A receipt for the tree purchased by Cllr Smith was handed to the Chair to be passed to the Clerk.

