

Dunkirk Parish Council
Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on
1 December 2014

Present: John Peto, Jeff Tutt, Sandra May, Paul Mellett, Vaughan Howland, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk)
Stephen Lee Alliston (for item 3)
James Freeman, Graham Thomas (Swale Borough Council) (for items 4 and 5)
11 members of the public

Declarations of Interest: Jeff Tutt declared an interest in item 6, relating to planning application 14/504246/FULL

1. **Apologies:** Don Coles and Phillippa Clarkson
2. **Notification of additional agenda Items:** None
3. **Dunkirk Football Field – Renewal of Lease
Courtenay Rangers Licence**

The Council had received the legal agreement to extend the current lease on the field for a further two years. Before signing this, the council wanted to be assured that Courtenay Rangers were also able to commit to a further 2 years and therefore Stephen Lee Allison (SA) was invited to attend the meeting and explained the current position with the club. He had also produced a statement showing the running costs and pointed out that during last winter and also currently the pitch is water logged and unable to be used; this means they then incur additional costs in renting alternative pitches to play on. However he confirmed that, although it would be difficult, the Club were committed to a further 2 year term.

He was reminded that it is the Club's responsibility to lag the pipes and keep the site tidy. SA confirmed that the pipes were lagged the previous week.

SA left the meeting.

4. **Mid Kent Planning Service**

James Freeman (Head of Planning Services) and Graham Thomas (Area Planning Officer) from Swale Borough Council were in attendance.

JT gave examples of where the new planning portal is giving inconsistent information and errors mainly due to incorrect inputting. The council feel they are unable to rely on the information it shows to do their job in representing the parish on planning issues.

James Freeman explained that there had been unforeseen IT problems with the new system which had affected the system both within Mid Kent and the public access portals. This then created a significant backlog in registering and validating new applications. Additional resource has been recruited both at senior level and within the scanning team where there had been particular problems with staff recruitment and retention. An audit is taking place, the results of which will be shared with the parish council once the conclusion is reached.

JF explained that they need to move forward and aim towards getting the system to work as it should, which will then provide a much more enhanced system than previously.

5. **Former RAF Mast**

- (a) Appeal:
SW/14/0393 - Erection of a data storage facility (B8) and permanent historical exhibition (D1).
Former Raf Mast, Courtenay Road

Graham Thomas explained the background to the appeal. The scheme has been revised following the previous appeal, resulting in the building being moved closer to the mast and the museum area reduced. SBC had requested some archaeological research be undertaken prior to them determining the application. However the applicant decided to take the application to appeal on the grounds of non determination as the target deadline had not been met.

There had been some confusion where the parish council had been told that a period of reconsultation on an amended scheme would happen, but this never materialised and it became apparent that the appeal was proceeding. This was further hampered by the fact that a key document on the Mid Kent Planning portal was unable to be opened. An extension has now been given for comments to be submitted to the Inspectorate (3 December). Discussion took place on what additional grounds could be submitted to the Inspectorate by the deadline.

(b) Strengthening Works:

A letter had been received from the agent, Fisher German, explaining that a structural assessment has been conducted on the mast which has highlighted the need for strengthening works to the mast being required. A listed building consent/planning application will be submitted to Swale Borough Council in due course for these works.

James Freeman and Graham Thomas left the meeting, along with the majority of parishioners.

6. Consider Applications

14/504246/FULL - Land Adjoining The Firs Dunkirk Road South

Outline application for the erection of a detached single storey dwelling, creation of a new access, construction of driveway and associated works.

Jeff Tutt declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion. Two members of the public (the applicants) were in attendance.

There were some reservations regarding the design and the roofline, however it was agreed to support the application.

7. Receive Decisions

None

8. Matters not on Agenda (for information only)

Dorothy Caravan, Dunkirk Road South

This site is for auction with Clive Emson on 15 December. The site has already been raised with Enforcement as the planning consent for residential use of the caravan was only for the lifetime of Olive Jones (who died in 2002) and there has been continued residential use since. A copy of the appeal notice detailing this to be sent to Swale asking them to ensure that Clive Emson notify any prospective buyers of the planning position.

It was also noted that part of the Dunkirk School site and a piece of land opposite are also in the auction on the same date.

Gypsy & Traveller

Jeff Tutt gave an updated position on numbers. Swale are now in a position of having 6.13 years supply of pitches.

A2 Roadworks

Part of the road is already being repaired again since the roadworks were completed. This work is being done with just a single lane being closed. John Henderson to be asked to explain the details.

Date of Next meeting: Monday 15 December - Full Council Meeting
Monday 5 January - Planning Committee

L Blackshaw
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed (Chairman)

Date