

Dunkirk Parish Council - Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes of Extraordinary Committee Meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 6 June 2022 at 7.30pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr K. Kemp (Chair of Parish Council), Cllr J. Coleman (Vice Chair),
Cllr J. Tutt, Cllr D. Brice, Cllr J. Clifford and Rebecca Parr (Clerk).

There were no members of the public.

1. **Declaration of Interest** – A declaration of interest was made by Cllr Brice in respect of the grass cutting contracts due to a personal relationship with one of the potential suppliers (Ladybird). Following a discussion where it was made clear that Cllr Brice has no impact or involvement in the quoting process for Ladybird, it was unanimously agreed by the remaining councillors to grant a dispensation to Cllr Brice in order that he could vote and partake in the discussions.
2. **Apologies for absence** – received from Cllr Smith and Cllr Hewett.
3. **Correspondence**
 - a) **GDPR Complaint.** Cllr Kemp advised that he had been in correspondence with Cllr Lehmann at KCC concerning the complaint. This was regarding the speed sign supplier passing on the details to KCC of the enquiry made by DPC and what is considered to be a breach of GDPR. Cllr Lehmann responded that the issue need to be taken up with the supplier and not KCC. However, DPC still consider KCC to have used illegally obtained data. It was unanimously agreed for **Cllr Kemp to write to KCC and the sign supplier to further our complaint.**
 - b) **Speed Signs** - KCC have made it clear that we are required to purchase items through themselves and authorised suppliers for speed signs and that we cannot purchase ad-hoc. A solution provided by them is to replace the existing speed sign is for a portable solution with 5 posts in different locations. The cost is considered to be a prohibitive £8k+. KCC suggest that this is something that could be shared across parishes. There are concerns regarding speeding in the parish at several places and this need to be discussed and prioritised as part of the HIP in the full meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the HIP is already on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - c) **Speedwatch** is a scheme provided by Kent Police was discussed and the council agreed to explore further. **Cllr Clifford will contact with Rough Common** who has a Speedwatch project in place and the **Clerk is to contact the central Speedwatch Project** for more information. DPC will include a request volunteers in the next parish newsletter.
 - d) **Boughton Hill Accident.** - The Clerk had received notification of a fall that had occurred on the pavement at Boughton Hill on Thursday 2nd June that required attendance to A&E. The person concerned had reported this to the KCC Emergency Line who had attended quickly to inspect the pavement. They have since closed the footpath pending remedial works. Concerns by the parishioner were also made regarding the pavement at the beginning of Horselees Road on the eastern side which the KCC inspector also noted for works. The parishioner requested the presence of street lighting for the hill. As the hill is subject to national speed limits it is not eligible for lighting. However, the council discussed that it is seeking to place a 30mph limit and street lighting will be considered as part of the HIP. **The overgrown path side vegetation on the hill is to be reported to KCC by the Clerk** to ask KCC to write to the landowners to undertake remedial work.
 - e) **SBC Planning** – Cllr Baldock advised that they would be consistently following the scheme of delegation by the Head of Planning to determine applications where written representation from a parish council are in conflict with Head of Service recommendations to ensure that there are then heard in committee.
 - f) **Quad Bike issues** - Cllr Brice reported that a quad bike had been seen without lights or helmets in the village. This had been reported to the Police under reference number 27-0551. **The Clerk is to ensure that the PCSO is aware.**
 - g) **Footpath ZR539** – The footpath between Dunkirk North and South was still not fit for purpose with broken railings, fallen trees and potential slippage of the bank despite previously being reported. **The Clerk is to contact the KCC PROW Officer requesting the works be undertaken.**
4. **Planning:**
 - a) **Received decisions: None**

b) Consider applications:

22/502082/FULL PROPOSAL: Change of use of existing woodland to use as a therapeutic and educational teaching area, including erection of a wooden shelter, siting of 2no. portaloos, creation of trimmed trails through the woods, creation of 3no. parking spaces, erection of a post and rail fence around existing clearing, and repair of existing fencing where required. ADDRESS: Poundfall Wood Canterbury Road Dunkirk Kent ME13 9LL

The council noted that this was a resubmission of an earlier application. Following a discussion, the council unanimously agreed to support the application with the following comment:

'The Parish Council are unanimous in their support of the application and consider it a suitable change of use for the land. The Parish Council notes KCC Highways and transportation comments regarding parking and provided these are taken on board with a suitable solution do not see that the requirements should be prohibitive. The Council are pleased to see the proposals include new fencing and repair of the existing which should include the repair and removal of existing fencing staples from trees subject to a TPO that were put in last couple of years before it is too late to remove and prevent further damage to the trees. It is also recommended in conjunction with the Police recommendations in respect of Security and potential CCTV, on the southern boundary for the fencing with the roadside to be a secure, higher fence in order to combat potential rubbish into the Site occurring from the adjacent layby, which has health and safety implications for users of the land in that area.'

5. **Review of Grass cutting and maintenance contracts**

Following the previous meeting, an additional local contractor had provided quotes for the verge and churchyard contract. A discussion was then held comparing the contracts three contracts received each for the verge and churchyard. It was unanimously agreed to continue with Mr Doy for a further year for the cutting of the verge and to award the churchyard contract to Ladybird Gardening. **The Clerk is to contact each and prepare the contracts accordingly as well as diarise to ensure a new specification is prepared in ahead of renewal in a year's time to include number of cuts etc. for consistency of requirements.**

Clr Coleman commented that Mr Moon had undertaken an additional cut of the playing field ahead of the Jubilee celebrations which he provided free of charge as a contribution towards the parish. Clr Coleman also mentioned that KCC had also recently cut most of the verges in the village.

6. **Quorum**

The Clerk upon review of the Standing Orders highlighted that there is a current requirement of 4 councillors that was need for a quorum whereas the legal minimum requirement was 3. It was explained that this was set at 4 because it represented a democratic more than half of the council. The Clerk highlighted the potential for frustration of council business if a requirement of 4 is required rather than 3 which offers greater flexibility for unseen events. The council voted 4 in favour to reduce the quorum to 3 with one voting against. **The Clerk is to amend the Standing orders.**

7. **Finance Sub-Committee**

The Chair requested consideration is given to the formation of a finance sub-committee to consider funding and grant concerning projects in the village given the interest seen for community events over the Jubilee weekend. **The Clerk is to add to the agenda at the next Full Meeting.**

8. **Defibrillator**

The Clerk had received correspondence from SBC concerning the requirement for weekly maintenance for the defibrillator and to ensure it was added to the national database as well as SECAM/The Circuit. The council confirmed that the defibrillator was a donation to the Village Hall and that the Village Hall is responsible for ongoing care and maintenance. **The Clerk is to remove the defibrillator from the Asset Register and forward onto the Village Hall the relevant correspondence received.**

9. **Matters not on Agenda (for information only)**


- a) Cllr Coleman commented on the former cats eyes on Boughton Hill where the tarmac has sunk in addition to the potholes on the road at the bottom of the hill be the bus shelter. **The Clerk is to report these to KCC Highway.**
- b) Cllr Brice mentioned that the bus timetabled had altered again this week with the new timings having an impact particularly with school children. The Clerk read a Facebook post by Cllr Lehmann made earlier in the day confirming he was aware and that he is to be emailed with cases that he can forward to Stagecoach. **Cllr Brice is to email Cllr Lehmann.**

The Meeting was closed at 9.30pm

Date of next meetings: Full Council: 20 June 2022
Planning Committee: 4 July 2022

Rebecca Parr,
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed
Chair


A K KEMP

Date

20-06-2022

Signed
Vice-Chair



Date

20-6-22

PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN AND AROUND THE VILLAGE: www.dunkirkpc.org.uk