

Dunkirk Parish Council – Full Council Meeting

Minutes of Full Council meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall 7.30pm 15 November 2021

Present:

Parish Councillors: Jeff Tuff (JT) Chair, Julie Coleman (JC) Vice Chair, Daniel Brice (DB), Nicola Smith (NS), Greg Hewett (GH) and Jason Clifford (JCL) and Matthew Bullen (MB) clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Ward Councillors: Alastair Gould (AG)

Two members of the public

Declaration:

Councillor Hewett declared a non-pecuniary interest as a near neighbour of the property being considered for planning application 505825

1. **Apologies for absence –**
Apologies received from County Councillor Lehmann, Ward Councillor Valentine and Parish Councillor Kemp
2. **Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting 18 October 2021 and matters arising –**
A motion to accept the Minutes as a true record was agreed by JT, DB and JCL, objected to by JC and NS and GH abstained so the motion carried.
For matters arising, JC and NS updated the Council with regards to the mostly positive responses they had received to their preliminary village survey findings.
3. **Matters for public concern:**
 - a) **Highways Issues**
 - Virtual meeting with National Highways set for 19 November to confirm impending A2 closures from which the clerk will update the website **ACTION MB**
 - Members expressed previous concerns once more that there are a lot of works taking place in the area with an apparent lack of a joined up approach. JT asked AG to raise this issue in the Swale Borough Council Joint Transportation Board meeting for them to raise their concerns with KCC and National Highways once more **ACTION AG**
 - A member advised that a previously raised concern regarding appropriate drainage around an inspection hole on Dawes Road/Holyhill Way needs to be looked at again, to avoid run off water going into residents gardens like before **ACTION JT** to investigate with KCC
 - A member mentioned that Stoney Road has drainage issues too with a request that a watching brief is kept on this and to report to KCC if necessary **ACTION GH with MB** to support with the reporting as required
 - b) **Footpaths, Verges & Hedges**
 - i. Review of existing grass cutting contracts with a view to fresh tender process early 2022
The clerk updated the Council with regards to two contracts which are up for renewal in March 2022 and another which is currently tendered for annually and asked how best to approach this next year. One member advised that it would be preferable if the contracts were kept separate as they are now and offered to local tradespeople, rather than a larger company who may be more competitive but not provide the service required.
The clerk was asked to place a notice on the website to inform residents that the contracts are up for renewal and to request people register their interest accordingly **ACTION MB**
 - JC advised she is due to attend the KCC "Plan Bee" virtual meeting later this month and will provide feedback on any guidance offered regarding verge management for the benefit of pollinators
 - JT reminded councillors of the A4 guide to the minimum height clearances necessary for trees and hedgerows, that had been prepared and issued to councillors previously, was now ready to be distributed as a leaflet **ACTION JT**
 - A member advised of overgrowing brambles on Boughton Hill and the clerk agreed to write to KCC to ask for these to be cleared from the path **ACTION MB**
 - c) **TPOs**
 - i. Brotherhood & Poundfall Woods - Felling licence consultation
Members agreed for the clerk to write to the Forestry Commission to register its objection to the proposal. If the Commission is still minded to grant the application, the Council stipulated this should be subject to a condition requiring the affected areas to be replanted in accordance with the Forestry Commission Standard and that this is kept under constant review, to ensure this is carried out appropriately **ACTION MB**
 - d) **Streetlights**
The clerk updated the Council to advise he had contacted the street-lighting contractor to ask that the dimming of streetlights previously agreed had been updated to reflect the end of British Summertime (BST)

e) Playground Equipment and Safety Surfacing

4. **Planning:**

a) Received decisions:

- i. **21/504889/FULL** | Conversion of existing double garage to form 2 no. holiday pods including raising of existing pitched roof with new slate finish, external garden areas to each pod with cycle storage and fencing, off road parking for both pods, foul drainage to existing septic tank. | The Firs Dunkirk Road South Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9PD **REFUSED**
- ii. **21/502877/FULL** | Erection of 1no. detached dwellinghouse with associated access, parking and landscaping. | Land Adjacent To 72 Courtenay Road Dunkirk Kent ME13 9LH **GRANTED**

b) Consider applications:

- i. **21/505804/FULL** | Partial demolition of existing extension. Erection of part single storey, part two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and part ground floor, part first floor side extension with balcony. Erection of a detached double garage. (Revised scheme to 20/505884/FULL) | 1 Rhode Common Cottages Rhode Common Dunkirk Kent ME13 9PT

Councillors agreed unanimously to offer “no comment” in respect of this application.

- ii. **21/504793/FULL** | Erection of a single storey rear and side extension to create master bedroom with en-suite and additional living space along with internal alterations. Erection of a detached outbuilding for ancillary use as amended by drawing no's. SE-05-D; SE-06-D; SE-07-C and SE-08-B. | Marisdene London Road Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9LF

A motion to support the revised plans was proposed by JT, seconded by JCL and agreed by all except DB who abstained.

- iii. **21/505825/FULL** | Erection of a first floor to existing bungalow, including erection of a two storey rear extension. | 41 Stoney Road Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9TN

A motion to offer “no comment” in respect of this application was proposed by NS, seconded by JCL and agreed unanimously.

5. **Finance:**

a) Finance report

b) Approve payments

The clerk read through the contents of the Finance Report and a motion to approve the payments requested was agreed unanimously. For the uncleared cheque in favour of DK Networks, a motion for the Chair to draw cash equivalent to the value of the cheque for presentation to them, subject to a signed receipt, was agreed by GH, seconded by DB and agreed unanimously. The clerk also advised he was working on reviewing the current electricity tariffs against the market and, as requested by councillors, would consider options based on both pricing and environmentally-friendly considerations. **ACTION MB**

6. **Review of Parish Precept and lighting grant and agree timescales for subsequent budget review and precept proposals**

JT declared that in his capacity as chair of the KALC Swale Area Committee he had previously written to other parish councils to make them aware of the proposals, urging them to write to Swale Borough Council to make them aware of the negative impact this would have on their finances.

One member noted that given the village is quite spread out; this would have a more negative effect on Dunkirk than some other villages.

A motion objecting to the cut whilst potentially accepting this if it spread over a period of at least 5 years was proposed by JT, seconded by JC and agreed unanimously. **ACTION MB** to write to Swale Borough Council

7. **Review of Swale Borough Council revised Local Plan October 2021 Issues and Preferred Options (Regulation 18)**

Members raised concerns about the Regulation and the apparent lack of proposed infrastructure to support this. Members also queried how the proposals would be “carbon-neutral” by 2030 and on this point AG highlighted certain aspects of the proposals which considered this.

Members noted that it had been stated that some of the issues raised by the original Regulation 19 consultation had apparently been addressed but how this has been done wouldn't be known until the new Regulation 19 is published.

JT offered to prepare a draft response to the Regulation 18 on behalf of the Council which would be submitted to all councillors in advance for their approval, which was agreed by all. **ACTION JT**

8. **Review of current arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

As agreed at the previous Council meeting, three members had met with the Village Hall Committee to discuss potential arrangements for these celebrations. The meeting was described as very positive and it was agreed that further meeting would be

held 6 December 2021 at 7pm to discuss how to progress this further. Although this would not be a meeting of the Parish Council, it was agreed the Council would promote the meeting on its media platforms to encourage as many local residents as possible to attend, to help shape the plans. **ACTION MB**

JT closed the meeting at 9.55pm and reopened it immediately without objection.

9. Proposed village survey

In addition to the preliminary feedback referred to above, two members proposed that a meeting is held on the village playing field itself, where all residents would be invited to attend.

Another member suggested this should be done in conjunction with the survey the Council had agreed to organise previously and which needs to be finalised and approved by members **ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS** to review previous question sets put forward by members and agree final version

Members agreed a time of 10am on 30 January 2022 to hold the playing field meeting and asked the clerk to put notice of this on the website and Facebook page **ACTION MB**

10. New defibrillator for Village Hall update

JT advised that the order for the defibrillator had been finalised and that this is due to be installed in the near future.

11. Matters not on Agenda (for information only)

One member suggested a bench be installed in the playing field for the public to use, to which the members of the public in attendance then offered to contribute towards the cost of, if required. JT asked the clerk to add this matter as an item for the Agenda of the next Full Council meeting in order for the Council to consider **ACTION MB**

A query was also raised with regards to rights of access to the playing field. One member suggested a professional opinion with regards to the deeds may be required and another offered the services of a solicitor to assist with this without charge.

One member noted with disappointed that the red telephone box had now been removed by its owner.

A member advised they had followed up the issue of the unfinished entrance to The Old School Field and advised that the contractor was aware of the matter and confirmed the repair works would begin shortly.


JT updated the Council to advise that the invoice for new village hall signs had original been sent to the wrong address but had now been presented and asked the clerk to add an Agenda item for the next meeting of the Council to authorise payment **ACTION MB**

12. Meeting closed and private meeting held to review arrangements for previous clerk

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.20pm.

Matthew Bullen
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed
Chairman
Date


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A K KEMP
17/1/22
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Date of next meetings: Planning Committee: 6 December 2021
Full Council: 20 December 2021