

Dunkirk Parish Council – Full Council Meeting

Minutes of Full Council meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall 7.30pm 18 October 2021

Present:

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

Ward Councillors: Alastair Gould (AG) who joined from item 3 onwards

Declaration: Any Declarations of Interest by members present to be made at the commencement of the meeting – none declared

1. **Apologies for absence** – apologies received from Parish Councillor Hewett, County Councillor Lehmann and Ward Councillor Valentine
2. **Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting 20 September 2021 and matters arising** – the Council agreed a couple of small adjustments before the Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair with no matters arising
3. **Matters for public concern:**

a) Highways Issues

i. Review position with regards to replacement speed signs on Boughton Hill

Members continued to raise concerns at the costs quoted by KCC for an asset it wouldn't own and taking into consideration this is to replace a previous sign not install a completely new one. A motion for JT and KK to draft a further response to KCC on behalf of Council was proposed by JT, seconded by JCL and agreed unanimously **ACTION JT**

ii. Weatherall Close – concerns regarding parking, double-yellow lines and potential flooding

Members noted that a lot of vehicles are parked by non-residents in and around the close but as there are no double-yellow lines, there isn't much that can be done to limit this. However, any vehicles parking too close to the junction would be a police matter and members agreed for JT to prepare a response to the police regarding this **ACTION JT**

Members again raised concerns about the amount of works taking place in the area, particularly on roads which are used as alternate routes when the A2 is closed for works. Members agreed that JT would again write to National Highways to highlight the various issues **ACTION JT**

Members raised concerns regarding a new white gate which has been installed on the verge on Boughton Hill which obstructs the view of the road sign which is situated immediately behind it. **ACTION MB** to write to Boughton Parish clerk to ask them to review the position of this.

b) Footpaths, Verges & Hedges

i. Consider quotation from G Doy for vegetation clearance works at Courtenay Road

A motion to agree the quotation provided by the contractor to clear the pathway was agreed unanimously

ii. Concerns regarding overgrown hedgerows in the village

Members discussed a couple of locations where this was considered to be an issue and then agreed that many hedgerows around the village required attention.

A motion agreeing for the Chair to ask KCC to write to all applicable households requesting they cut their hedgerows as a road safety issue was agreed unanimously **ACTION JT**

On the wider issue of road safety, councillors discussed a number of issues including a suggestion people may benefit from an education piece on the hazards of driving in the countryside, the increased number of cyclists, including cycling clubs on the roads and general speeding and the following actions were agreed:

- write to local cycling clubs (or "Spokes" the cycling association) to explain the Council's concerns and to review their procedures **ACTION MB**
- prepare article in local magazine highlighting the hazards of driving in the countryside **ACTION JT**
- Follow up on PCSO's previous enquiry regarding speed watch initiatives in the village and also ask them to attend the next Full Council meeting to report on local policing matters **ACTION MB**

iii. Consider proposal for volunteer community mural project in A2 Underpass

One member objected to the idea as it was felt it encourages more graffiti whilst another agreed people would only graffiti over the mural. A motion to decline the mural but to report the issue of graffiti to KCC instead was agreed unanimously **ACTION MB** to reply to resident, contact KCC regarding this subway and also write to Boughton Parish Council regarding the graffiti on the Horselees Road underpass

c) TPOs

One member queried if Swale Borough Council were to offer any additional resource to deal with all outstanding TPO matters and AG confirmed this was the intention. AG also agreed to follow up the outstanding TPO matters raised previously

d) Streetlights

i. Update from contractor regarding dimming arrangements

The clerk confirmed that the following dimming arrangements were now in place:

Dusk until 7pm – lights on at 100%

7pm to 9pm Dimmed to 60%

9pm to 11pm - Dimmed to 40%

11pm to 5am – Dimmed to 30%

5am to dawn - Dimmed to 100%

Notice had also been placed on the website and Facebook page that residents could request individual settings on each light

e) **Playground Equipment and Safety Surfacing**

JCL to obtain quote from contractor to prepare 4ft wide pathway on the access path to the playing field **ACTION JCL**

4. **Planning:**

a) Received decisions:

- i. **21/504363/FULL** | Demolition of rear conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. | 66 Courtenay Road Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9LH **PERMITTED**
- ii. **21/504361/OUT** | Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 1no. two bedroom detached two-storey house with off-street parking and rear garden amenity space. | 19 Horselees Road Boughton Under Blean Faversham Kent ME13 9TG **REFUSED**
- iii. **21/504729/TPOA** | Tree Preservation Order application: Re-coppicing, harvesting and clearing Chestnut Trees to preserve the stools. The Sweet Chestnut makes about 95 of the trees. The remaining 105 is made up of Oaks, Beech, Birch, Holly, Hornbeam and other native trees. These will be left standing. We will leave trunks and brushwood in places around the edge of the area for wildlife and biodiversity. | Hurst Wood Iron Hill Dunkirk Road South Dunkirk Kent ME13 9PD **GRANTED**

b) Consider applications:

- i. **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. | Marisdene London Road Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9LF

A motion to support the application was proposed by KK, seconded by JCL and agreed by JT. All other members abstained and a majority decision to approve the application was passed.

- ii. **21/505180/FULL** | Demolition of existing single side garage. Erection of a single storey side and rear extension together with replacement of roof tiles with enviro slate effect tiles and cedar cladding to front elevation. | 2 Dawes Road Dunkirk Faversham Kent ME13 9TL

A motion to object to the application due to the loss of parking and the materials required for the construction was proposed by JCL, seconded by KK and agreed unanimously.

5. **Finance:**

a) Amendments to Finance Report for September 2021

b) October Finance report

c) Approve payments

A motion to agree the above and approve payments was proposed by JT, seconded by NS and agreed unanimously.

KK asked the clerk to ensure future invoices from the streetlight contractor are for the full month and not days 1-28 as usually recorded **ACTION MB**

d) Consider most appropriate way for Council to arrange funding for village hall defibrillator

The Council has been made aware that Swale Borough Council have previously created a centralised fund for such circumstances and a motion for the Chair to confirm the position and request support was agreed unanimously **ACTION JT**

6. **Contributor from Dunkirk Parish Council required for monthly Parish Magazine article**

The Chair advised that the responsibility for preparing the article had fallen to various councillors previously before being passed to the clerk. However the deadline for this coincides with this meeting and asked for a councillor to support with this. JCL agreed to look into what this entails, with the clerk offering to support in the process **ACTION JCL and MB**

7. **Proposed village survey**

All members reviewed the provisional survey which had been kindly prepared by NS and JC with some suggestions for how adapted. The Survey includes a question regarding Electric Vehicle charging and on that point the Chair advised that the Village Hall would be unable to accommodate such a facility due to the need for additional parking places to be provided.

One member asked that the clerk liaise with Newington Parish Council, who had undertaken a similar task, in order to assist in this process **ACTION MB**

The Chair asked that all councillors review the provisional survey and contact NS and JC with any suggestions they may have **ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS**

8. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2 June 2022 – consider options for beacon lighting ceremony and participation in "The Queen's Green Canopy Project"**

The Chair informed the Council that the Village Hall Committee had confirmed their willingness for the venue to be used as part of the celebrations. KK, NS, JC and JT kindly offered their services to meet with the Committee to consider what arrangements could be made **ACTION JT** to arrange meeting

The Chair asked for all Councillors to review the "Green Canopy Project" to see if this is something the Council can consider **ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS**

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

One member raised a concern that the pathway outside the new development at the old school had not been finished. JCL agreed to look into why this had not been done and would speak to the relevant persons **ACTION JCL**

One member asked that the Clerk acknowledge all emails from parishioners as they had been made aware this had not always been done **ACTION MB**

The Chair advised that the general and dog waste bin previously requested for Boughton Hill by the Council was now due to be installed by Swale Borough Council. NS declared her interest as a very near neighbour to where this is due to be installed and expressed her objection to this. This objection has been raised with Swale Borough Council previously and no acknowledgement of this has yet been received.

NS stated that the need for this was unproven and that several residents had objected to this. JT advised conversely that other residents had asked for it and had previously been agreed by Council.

NS had previously asked for a site meeting to look at alternative locations for this nearby and JT agreed to contact Swale Borough Council with a view to them considering possible alternatives. **ACTION JT**

The Chair advised that Remembrance Sunday will take place on 14 November 2021 this year. As there is no vicar available it has been suggested that a non-secular service is held, with coffee and cakes offered, a bugle player had been sourced to play The Last Post and non-religious poems would be read.

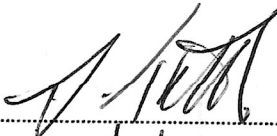
One member furnished the Council with a proposed running order which all agreed. JT asked for all councillors to review the selection of poems put forward and confirm their preferences as soon as possible. **ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS**

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.05pm.

Matthew Bullen
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed
Chairman
Date


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15/11/21
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Date of next meetings: Planning Committee: 1 November 2021
Full Council: 15 November 2021