

Dunkirk Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall Car Park at 7.30pm 17 May 2021

Present: Parish Councillors: Jeff Tuff (JT) Chair, Julie Coleman (JC) Vice Chair, Stephen Hitch (SH), Kevin Kemp (KK) and Jason Clifford (JCL) and Matthew Bullen (MB) clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council and one member of the public.

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies received from Councillor Brice, County Councillor Lehmann, Ward Councillors Valentine and Gould
2. **Minutes of the previous meetings of Full Council, 26 April 2021, Annual Statutory Meeting of the Council 4 May 2021 and Planning Committee Meeting 4 May 2021:** the Minutes were approved and signed as a true record
3. **Matters for public concern:**
 - a) Highways Issues
Members noted that a number of potholes had recently been attended to which was good to see.
 - b) Footpaths, Verges & Hedges – no comments
 - c) TPOs
Members raised concerns that the conditions applied to the recent TPO application for recurring woodland ride maintenance at Blean Woods are not all being met, including the ride widths exceeding the permitted limit of 10 metres **ACTION POINT – MB** to write to Paul Hegley, TPO officer at Swale Borough Council.
 - d) Streetlights
In an effort to save energy costs and light pollution, the Chair asked Councillors to give consideration as to the times at which the streetlights should be dimmed now that we have the means to control this. **ACTION – ALL COUNCILLORS** to provide suggestions to the clerk
 - e) Playground Equipment and Safety Surfacing – no comments
4. **Planning:** No decisions received and no applications to consider
5. **Finance:**
 - a) Finance report - the clerk read through the contents of the May Finance Report
 - b) Approve payments – the clerk sought approval for payment of the items referred to in the Report and presented the relevant invoices and a motion to agree these was proposed by JT, seconded by KK and agreed unanimously.
6. **Response to Department for Culture, Media & Sport's consultation for evidence on improving broadband connectivity**

Members commented that the broadband provision for the village is terrible, with fibre broadband only available to private individuals willing to pay significant amounts to install the necessary infrastructure to receive it. Despite there being a connections available off the mast and a cross route between Boughton and Selling, Dunkirk does not enjoy the same access at street level enjoyed by other areas.

ACTION POINT – KK to prepare a response on behalf of the Council to KALC, who are co-ordinating a wider response to the Department for Culture, Media & Sport's consultation on behalf of all local councils in Kent.

7. Review of Dunkirk Parish Council's Risk Assessment Register

JC suggested some amendments to the existing Risk Assessment Register which were reviewed by all Councillors. A motion to agree the amendments was proposed by JT, seconded by JCL and agreed unanimously.

8. "Great British Spring Clean 2021" initiative

Swale Borough Council are organising their annual litter picking initiative between 28 May and 27 June and JT asked all Councillors to propose a date for when the Council will undertake its own event. **ACTION – ALL COUNCILLORS** to respond to clerk

9. Matters not on Agenda (for information only)

JT advised that the Council was awaiting the written judgement of a court case regarding the felling of trees which were otherwise the subject of TPO's before considering its implications further.

Date of next meetings:	Planning Committee	7 June 2021
	Full Council	21 June 2021

Matthew Bullen
Clerk for Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed
Chair
Date 21/6/21