

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Doddington Village Hall on Monday 14 May 2018 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Kevin Attwood (Chairman), Cllr Steve Coates, Cllr Graham Cuthbert, Cllr Kevin Fraser, and Cllr Colin Jones and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were the High Sheriff Mrs Jane Ashton and thirty-three members of the public.

<p>1. WELCOME Cllr Attwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
<p>2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATED 8 MAY 2017 It was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 May 2017 as a true record. Cllr Attwood duly signed the minutes as a true record.</p>
<p>3. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN Cllr Attwood gave his report read his report, a copy of which is attached.</p>
<p>4. FINANCE – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018 A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, copy of which is attached.</p>
<p>5. VILLAGE HALL REPORT The Village Hall Committee had submitted a written report which been circulated prior to the meeting, copy of which is attached.</p>
<p>6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT Cllr Attwood said a report from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator had been received which will be discussed at the main meeting.</p>
<p>7. DODDINGTON IN BLOOM REPORT The Group had submitted a written report which been circulated prior to the meeting, copy of which is attached.</p>
<p>8. DODDINGTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT The Association had submitted a written report which been circulated prior to the meeting, copy of which is attached.</p>
<p>9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION No matters were raised from the floor.</p>
<p>10. PRESENTATION OF THE KALC COMMUNITY AWARD Cllr Attwood introduced Mrs Jane Ashton, the High Sheriff of Kent, and thanked her for attending the meeting. Mrs Ashton thanked the Parish Council for inviting her to the meeting and said that the KALC Community Award is given to special people and tonight it was for a very special lady. Mrs Ashton said the parish is proud but sad to present the award to Geoffrey on behalf of his wife, Sandra Parker for all that she did for the village of Doddington. Sandra would have been delighted that years of her dedication to this village have now been recognised.</p>

Sandra and Geoff first came to live in Doddington in 1980. They brought one of the early Tudor houses, Yew Tree Cottage on the Street. Here they lived for many years with their three girls, Melanie, Lyndsay and Victoria, before moving to West End Cottages

Before arriving in Doddington, Sandra had been teaching in Croydon. She took a career break to bring up her own children before taking up the post of teacher in the local Primary school. Being very creative, her classroom was always a wonderful environment to learn in and she was much loved by many of her pupils that kept in contact with her into their adult lives. She taught there for nearly 20 years and was instrumental in gaining the first computers for the school and also helping them maintain and run their own outside swimming pool.

Sandra helped out in nearly every event in the Village, if she was not running it she was behind the scenes probably making tea or being an essential element like the 'Prompt' in the village pantomimes. She helped in the Village Fete and then later the Fun Day, the Auctions, fund raising events including Wine and Wisdom's and was at the Fireworks helping every year. She was in the Women's Institute, Village hall Committee and the Village Cake club. Her cakes were delicious and her talent for icing meant that she produced many cakes for friends in the village from Weddings to Birthdays. She was also a great knitter and crocheted too and many people have one of her scarves or a bespoke item that no one else could make. She loved her flowers and allotment and was very proud to win the Ian Woodhouse Front Garden Competition and displayed the Award in her window.

She made a point of attending every Parish Council Meeting and was often the only member of the public to attend. She enjoyed her real ale and was a keen supporter of the pub, making the pies every year for Burn's Night and the post box each year at Christmas, plus bringing back exotic flowers each year from Madeira and leaving in the pub for all to enjoy. She was always ready to help anyone and in so many practical ways. She spent a lot of time researching family trees for a number of people in the village and if anyone wanted something, she was the Lady to ask.

The Village of Doddington lost a true supporter, worker and friend the day Sandra left. She is sorely missed by her family and many friends. A glass is often raised for her in the Chequers and quite often everyone will smile when they hear one of her favourite phrases 'Behave!'

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.47pm.

Doddington Parish Council
Chairman's Report 14th May 2018

This is the end of my second year as Chairman of Doddington Parish Council.

I would like to thank Councillor Haynes for being Vice Chairman, chairing meetings in my absence and when I have had to leave the room for reasons of conflict of interest.

We are fortunate to have maintained a full complement of councillors through the year and they form a very strong Parish Council.

Our Clerk, Wendy Licence, she has worked very hard in keeping us informed, preparing agendas and taking notes and producing accurate minutes. She has successfully taken the Parish Council through both internal and external audits and continues to take any opportunity to develop her knowledge and experience as a clerk.

Thank you to County Councillor Andrew Bowles and Borough Councillor Colin Prescott, our Ward Councillors, for their support during the last year.

Public Question Time. There have been a small number of members of the public attending meetings.

Planning. A small number of applications have been reported to the Parish Council for their comments and generally they have not been contentious. The exception has been the construction of the telecoms mast at Down Court Farm. Councillor Haynes has taken the lead on this matter due to my conflict of interest. The incidence of private Gypsy and Traveller sites within the wider locality remains an issue of concern and Swale Borough Council continues to deal with these unapproved uses through the planning system which is a slow process.

Finance. Is covered in the Clerks Finance report.

Highways. There are still the ongoing problems with the junction of The Hollingbourne Road and Lade Wood Hill. The Clerk and Councillor Duckworth continue to pursue the matter with KCC Highways. The highway improvements to Lenham crossroads have in practice not been successful and we are at the conclusion of a round of consultations as to what further measures can be taken to improve matters.

Playing Field. Cllr. Duckworth has continued to report monthly on the playing field and is assisted by Cllr. Fraser. Moss killer has been applied to the safety surfacing around the play equipment.

War Memorial. Ken Seyler has spent considerable time trying to establish all of the amendments that need to be carried out on the War Memorial. We are at the conclusion of the public consultation and quotes will be sought for remedial work. I would like to thank the gardening team and in particular, Ken Seyler, for the work in keeping the grass mown and the hedges trimmed.

Neighbourhood Watch. It has been a fairly quiet year for crime in the village. I would like to thank Susan Jackson our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the work she has put in this year keeping us all informed.

Community Warden. Our Community Warden Dave Osborne has attended most Parish Council meetings during the year and has assisted with any problems that have been brought to his attention and has provided a report to the council giving information on crimes and other problems occurring locally

Speed Watch. It has been a busy year for our Speed Watch team which is led by Councillors Fraser, Coates and Jones. Results in the village have been encouraging with a lower level of speeding vehicles but Wychling has seen very significant numbers of speeding vehicles on each occasion the Speed Watch has been deployed.

The Parish Council has continued to support the main stays of Doddington village life during the year including the Church, Village Hall and Playing Field including the Fun Day.

I would like to thank all of the Councillors and the Clerk Wendy Licence for the time and work they have given over the past year.

DRAFT

Doddington Parish Council Finance Report May 2018

2016-2017

PKF Littlejohn audited the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 which was a Standard Audit. There were no outstanding issues from previous years that required reporting to the Audit Commission. PKF Littlejohn approved the accounts on 22 September 2017 there were no issues raised causing concern.

2017-2018

The Precept for 2017-2018 was £8302.

The forecast budget requirement for the year was £8302 (ex VAT).

Total receipts were £9784 (ex VAT) which included a grant of £511 to alleviate the burden of complying with the Transparency Code. £612VAT was repaid on 28 November 2017.

Total payments were £6012 (ex VAT)

The bank balance at 31 March 2018 was £14,994.

The Independent Internal Auditor completed the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2018 on 9 May. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be completed at the Parish Council Meeting on 11 June. Under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the Parish Council will certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review and the Certificate of Exemption will be submitted to the PKF Littlejohn immediately after the June meeting.

The Elector's Rights Notice will be displayed on the Village Notice Board and the Parish Council website giving formal notice that the End of Year Accounts are available for inspection by the public. Viewing is by arrangement with the Chairman.

Donations made in 2017-2018

The Parish Council made donations of £60 to the Citizens Advice Bureau, £99 to the Allotment Association for the purchase of a new water trough and £20 to the Royal British Legion for a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day. Councillors also agreed to fund the provision of a Portaloo in the Playing Field during the month of August at a cost of £175.

2018-19

The Precept requirement for 2018 -19 is £8,500, a small increase to allow for inflation.

War Memorial

The Parish Council is working with Newnham Parish Council to draw up a list of additions and amendments for the War Memorial and work is expected to be completed in time for the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Wendy Licence
Clerk & RFO to Doddington Parish Council
May 2018

Doddington Village Hall – Report for Parish Council – May 2018

The Village Hall year.

Once again, it has been a busy year in the halls life. Drama productions played a significant role during the year, with the Spring Plays and the Christmas Pantomime being significant revenue earners. These events are well supported and enjoyed by those who attend.

The Annual Firework display was a resounding success. The venue provided by Graham and Liz Cuthbert lends itself to the event with a large display area and parking fields making movement, access and egress a simple matter. The event has grown in popularity and reputation.

As usual we must thank all the volunteers who help at all our events.

We continue to maintain and improve the hall as funds allow and a number of internal alterations have been carried out during the year. New kitchen cupboards have been installed and the rooms have been decorated.

I must thank the committee and its officers for its dedication to the hall.

Thanks must also be given to Doddington in Bloom as they continue with the maintenance of the gardens around the hall.

Income from lettings and shows have increased which demonstrates what a valuable asset it is to the community. We have been reaping the rewards of Ballroom dance classes generously given by Chris and Alli Thompson. Monies generated by the classes are donated to the hall funds.

Improvements to the sound system, hearing loop and acoustics are planned following a survey of hall users.

Les Roberts Chairman

Doddington in Bloom Report 2018

The small Doddington in Bloom committee, made up of local residents, has continued to work monthly and often fortnightly on the various flower beds around the village in order to make the village more visually attractive.

Work has centred on the flower beds at the Chequers, the village hall garden, the telephone exchange, the border adjoining the garage, the traffic calming areas at Dully Hill and West End.

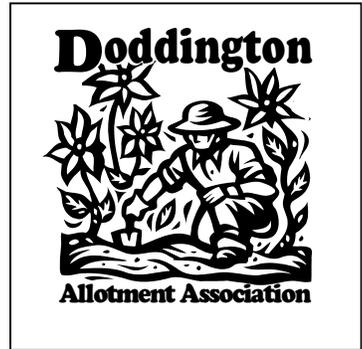
Jan West
May 2018

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Doddington Allotment Association

Annual Report - 2017 to 2018

Doddington Allotment Association has had another busy and successful year and we are all now looking forward to our fifteenth growing season at the site.



Doddington Allotment Association is grateful for the support of both our landowner Richard Oldfield and to Doddington Parish Council for their continued support of the allotment site. Our small committee of officers and ordinary members (see committee list below) continues to oversee the running of the site and has had a busy year. This year we have continued to build up group funds by holding a stall at the Village Fun Day and fund raising at allotment association social events. We have decided to keep plot rental for 2019 at the same level as that in 2017 and 2018.

Over the winter of 2017/2018 we finished putting a higher run of netting around the whole site and made improvements to the gates to rabbit proof the site. This work was carried out by plot-holders and committee members. This work was paid for from group funds without having to approach anyone else for support.

Doddington PC kindly gave us financial support in replacing a water trough in 2017, and a second trough was replaced this year using group funds.

One major change to the running of the site this year is the introduction of ban on bonfires from 1st May to the 30th September. This is to prevent any nuisance caused to the village or to other plot holders during the summer months and to tie in with our public liability insurance.

We are currently fully occupied with a short waiting list and have tenants from Wychling, Doddington and Newnham (see membership list below).

In 2018 the allotments will be open as part of the Village Garden Open Days and we hope to have a stall at the Village Fun Day.

Our Christmas tree is now being dressed every year with donations of new decorations each year. And hopefully more social events through the year which parish councillors are welcome to attend.

Kathy Friend (Secretary), 2 West End Cottages, Doddington.