

DUNKIRK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held at Dunkirk Village Hall on 18 May 2014

Present: John Peto (Chair), Jeff Tutt, Vaughan Howland, Don Coles, Phillippa Clarkson,
Paul Mellett, Louise Blackshaw (Clerk)
3 parishioners
Catherine Hughes (for item 2)

1. Introduction

John Peto welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. John introduced Catherine Hughes who is the consultant working with the Neighbourhood Plan group.

2. Presentation on Neighbourhood Plan (guest speaker: Catherine Hughes)

Catherine gave an update on the planning system in the UK and how it works alongside the Local Planning Authority Local Plans and how Neighbourhood Plans fit into this framework. She gave an update on how the Boughton & Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan is developing. Following the questionnaires which were completed by householders last year, the responses have been analysed which has given an indication of what the community feel they would like to see and do not want to see in the villages. Local landowners have been approached to ask whether they wish to put any land they own forward for inclusion in the plan – these sites are currently being assessed for suitability. Character Assessments and Conservation Area Assessments are also taking place. The next stage is to draft the plan, which will then be available for the community to comment on before being submitted to an external examiner for approval. Once in its final form the Plan will be subject to a Referendum where all parishioners of both Boughton and Dunkirk will be able to vote whether to adopt the Plan. This will then be a legal document which will have to be used alongside Swale Borough Council's local plan when future development is considered.

Catherine then answered questions from those present.

Discussion took place on how industry/commerce included in the plan to encourage light industry into the area and therefore employing local people. It was agreed that this should be included and Catherine will take this forward to the NP Group.

How is the Plan paid for? It was explained that the NP is funded by grants and donations, along with officer support from Swale Borough Council. Dunkirk Parish Council donated £250 and Boughton Parish Council £500 in 2014.

John thanked Catherine for attending.

3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 May 2014

The minutes of the previous APM were agreed and signed.

4. Annual Report of the Parish Council

John Peto introduced the members of the council and thanked them for their work and assistance during the previous year. Sandra May had retired this year and there is now a vacancy for one member.

John gave a report on the activities of the parish council over the previous year.

RAF Mast – data storage application was rejected at appeal.

Crime Prevention - We are currently working on an initiative with Kent Police and everyone will shortly be receiving a UV marker pen to mark their property. Alongside this 3 new Neighbourhood Watch schemes are being set up in the parish.

Village Sign – a new post has been installed outside the village hall where a new village sign will be erected once the design has been agreed.

Highways – there have been various issues during the year, most of which are ongoing, however the one success was Donkey Bob Hill which has been resurfaced and now in better condition than it has been for many years.

5. Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2015 and financial plan for the current year

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the previous year’s accounts and the budget for 2015/16. A detailed copy of the accounts is available for anyone who wishes to inspect them.

6. To invite any questions from the public

The following issues were raised by parishioners present:

Hedge Cutting – the hedges in various locations were becoming overgrown – in particular along parts of Dawes Road. These will be looked at and the owners contacted.

Manor House building works – the parish council have been liaising with the site manager who is trying to keep traffic movements to a minimum, however it has caused some disruption to local residents at times. The Council will continue to monitor this and speak to the contractors if necessary.

7. Close

John Peto thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Louise Blackshaw
Clerk to Dunkirk Parish Council

Signed

.....
Chairman

Date