

SUTTON BY DOVER PARISH COUNCIL
<https://suttonbydoverparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Minutes

Parish Council meeting
Held remotely using the Zoom platform
Tuesday 4th May 2021 7:30 pm

- 1. Present and Apologies** B Merriman (Chair)
 G Akhurst
 G Smith
 A Calthorpe
 K Little
 KCC Member Steve Manion
 S Smith (Clerk)
 10 Members of the public
- Apologies: H Densham
 D Willet
 DDC Member Nick Kenton

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Little declared an interest on item 9. Local Planning iii)

3. Approval of the minutes 22 April 2021

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour

4. Matters arising from the minutes 22 April 2021

None

5. Matters arising from the minutes 6 April 2021

Lynwood. No update from DDC

Pilgrims Nook gates. No update from DDC

New bin at playing field. Installed.

Land adjacent to the A256. No update from DDC.

Donated bench. Work to be carried out on 17th May.

6. Insurance Renewal

To renew with Came and Co. (Hiscox) the 2nd year of the long term agreement at a fee of £402.79 was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour.

7. Finance:

i) To approve the payment schedule for May was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour.

Chq No.

001440 Clerk	April wages		£ 347.50
001441 Clerk	April ex	£ 20.00	
	Onedrive	£ 13.68	
	Stamps	£ 7.92	£ 41.60
001442 D Vickers	Concrete		£ 12.00
001443 KALC	Annual subscription		£ 341.74
001444 McCabe Ford Williams	Payroll		£ 240.00
001445 Came and Company	Insurance		£ 402.79

ii) Precept received £13,149. Noted

8. Local Planning:

For consideration by Councillors:

i) Manor Farm Airstrip. Notice was given that (the application number of DOV/21/00626 would only go live once all documents had been received by DDC but at the time, the application number was not accessible). The Parish Council considered this based on documents contained in the scoping proposal DOV/21/00340 at this meeting because the consultation period for DOV/21/00626 may expire before its next meeting of 22nd June. Any comments the Council decided to make would be filed against DOV/21/00626 once it had gone live. Cllr Merriman explained to the meeting that views would be taken from councillors on the application and then members of the public would be invited to talk on the application for up to 3 minutes per person. All comments from local residents regarding the proposed airstrip had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. A brief discussion took place and it was agreed to discuss the application on the basis of the scoping exercise, if the validated application was significantly different, the parish council would then decide whether another meeting should be convened. A list of objections to the proposed airstrip was read out to the meeting and it was agreed it would form the basis of the response to DDC Planning. A member of the public spoke agreeing with the list of objections and commenting further on DDC's decision not to ask for an environmental impact document. The resident also highlighted the green option comments in the planning application and it was agreed these did not appear a realistic representation of the situation. The information about electric planes and the green option comments to be incorporated in the response to DDC.

The following response to be submitted to DDC Planning. This was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and voted in favour by majority. Clerk to action.

1. Lack of demonstrable economic benefit. Only benefit, if any, is to the landowner. None to the local community (upon whom negative benefit in the form of reduced property prices due to noise pollution and nuisance).
2. Residents experience lack of amenities in the countryside (for example public transport, shops). This is to a certain extent offset by the benefit of living in a peaceful environment with lower pollution levels than in town. Approving this application would be akin to allowing a light industrial unit to open in the middle of a greenfield site from both a noise and visibility perspective. The hangars will be visible from both road and footpath.
3. The proposed airstrip is almost 3kms from any "A" road. The background noise in this vale is at an extremely low level. As an example some residents in Little Mongeham can hear the shooting at the Clay Pigeon club over 3.5kms away at West Langdon when the wind is from the west. The occupants of the 50 or so dwellings edging the vale are going to have their rural peace shattered by regular aircraft and microlight movements. The greatest of these presumably at weekends in the summer. With a "day" starting at 4am and ending at 10pm courtesy of the Glamping pods providing immediate access to planes. The attendant cars and planes will also increase rural pollution levels.
4. Any noise that can be heard in a peaceful environment is an irritant. The noise measurement will presumably be calculated from the runway itself. This ignores the noise made by planes that have either left the runway or are approaching it. If the wind is from the west then the noise will be "blown" over those 50 or so dwellings that are to the south-east, east and northeast of the runway (ie Northbourne, the top of Great Mongeham and half of Little Mongeham. If the wind is from the east then planes will take off towards Northbourne and the top of Great Mongeham. Even if they do not technically overfly properties they will inevitably pass close by as they gain height (in an easterly wind) or come in to land (in a westerly wind). Each end of the airstrip will be no more than

500 metres from the nearest dwelling and in Little Mongeham some dwellings will be within 200 metres of the airstrip.

5. the Noise Impact Assessment: a) should be undertaken when background noise is at its lowest eg 4am on Sunday morning when in summer planes could start flying b) should allow for noise drift mentioned in point 4 c) should allow for the noise generated by the tight turn necessary to avoid overflying properties and planes having just left or approaching the runway d) should be based on the noise generated by the engine power of largest plane intended to use the airstrip which is understood to be at least 180HP.
6. The implication in press coverage and documents in the scoping application that this is a green initiative we feel does not represent the intent. The closing of the Maypole airstrip in Herne Bay (which has led to this application) is apparently leaving 20 planes with no homes. This application is for 20 planes. We understand that some of the planes that used Maypole are either or both very old and very noisy (for example unsilenced biplanes). There are apparently only three electric fixed wing planes registered in the whole of the UK so the implication that the intended strip will be used by electric planes has to be questioned.
7. The airstrip's eastern end is showing as touching the existing footpath. If there is an easterly wind and a misjudgement there will be no protection for someone who happens to be on that bit of the footpath at the same time that a plane is landing. If there is a westerly wind planes will be crossing over the head of anyone using that element of the footpath at about 15 metres up. This is not safe.
8. The annual number of "movements" is somewhat illusory as a movement (take off or landing) does not include trial landings undertaken as practices. In such a situation a plane can touch down and immediately take off as many times as the pilot likes and this does not count as a movement.
9. There needs to be a report on the impact of bird life in the ancient woodland which is at one end of the runway.
10. We request a site visit by the planners at which members of the PC should be able to attend.
11. We disagree that with the lack of requirement for an environmental impact assessment given the presumed storage of aviation fuel on a site with the aquifer close to the surface.
12. In the event that the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2021 applies, and the planning department are minded to approve the application, then it would need to be referred to the Secretary of State.
13. It is noted that work has already started on the "new access track" and this has cut across the existing footpath and also resulted in the destruction of some 4 meters of mature hedge. Enforcement have apparently required that any further work cease.
In response to another local resident's comments on the strength of opinion in the parish, local residents were urged to respond to DDC Planning with their comments.
 - ii) DOV/21/00483 The Bungalow, Downs Road, East Studdal CT15 5BX
Erection of single storey front/side extension. To support the application was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour.
 - iii) DOV/21/00528 Three Horse Shoes, Homestead Lane, East Studdal CT15 5BL
Insertion of rooflight to rear roof slope. To support the application was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Akhurst and voted in favour by majority.

Noted:

 - i) DOV/20/01483 1 Meadow Cottages, Homestead Lane, East Studdal CT15 5BP Conversion of garage to habitable room and erection of a first floor extension over garage (retrospective) DDC granted permission
 - ii) DOV/21/00248 Balmore, Strakers Hill, East Studdal CT15 5BS Erection of single storey front, side and rear extensions and alterations to doors and windows. Erection of an annexe with 6no.

rooflights for ancillary use (existing rear conservatory and side workshop to be demolished). DDC granted permission.

9. Report from DDC/KCC

KCC Member Steve Manion reported on the following:

Brexit transition. Arrangements on the M20 have been stood down.

Pandemic. Testing centres have been stood down.

10. Annual Review of Documents

i) Asset Register. Updated with assets acquired during the year.

ii) Standing Orders. No comments

iii) Code of Conduct. Councillors encouraged to read up on conflicts of interest.

iv) Financial regulations. No comments.

v) Risk assessment. To be revisited as guidelines on locations for council meetings unfold in June.

vi) Maintenance of physical assets. Clerk to check with Cllr Densham that salt is available to refill the salt bin in Downs Close.

11. Litter Pick

Carried forward to the June agenda.

12. Local Community

i) Suggestion from Sutton Church for a memorial tree at Sutton Parish Community Centre. The Councillors supported The Church's suggestion to arrange a memorial tree/shrub and short service for those local residents affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Other parties to be approached for their approval.

13. Playing field

New bin. Thanks to Doug Vickers for installing the new bin.

DDC map. The map showing the location of the replacement bin has been sent to DDC.

Public Spaces Protection Order. Delayed for the moment.

Youth shelter painting. To go ahead soon in the same colour as the concrete part of the picnic bench.

14. Allotment/Orchard

i) Risk assessment. The risk assessment for the community event particularly with regard to bees on the site was discussed. To be revisited at the next meeting.

ii) Community involvement. The pencilled in date for this is Sunday 11th July 2021. Arrangements for the event were discussed. The plan is to invite residents to bring their own picnic to the orchard and allotment holders to be invited along to show and talk about the produce they are growing on their plots. To be discussed again at the June meeting.

Allotment rentals to go out. Clerk to action.

15. Correspondence.

None

16. Any other business to report/matters to discuss

Transparency obligations - payments over £100 to go on the website. Clerk confirmed this was in hand as part of the year end accounts.

17. Date and status of next meeting:

Monthly meeting Tuesday 22nd June 2021 7.30 pm- Sutton Parish Community Centre. Any special Covid instructions to be attached to the agenda.

Monthly meeting Tuesday 27th July 2021 7.30 pm - Sutton Parish Community Centre

Meeting closed: 20.41 pm

Signed: Cllr Merriman

Date: 22nd June 2021

A paper copy is on file with the Clerk