

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2011
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Weeks; Butler; Roberts; Chainey; Ladds; Mrs T. Irving (Clerk); PSCO Stevens (part); Cllr Cooke – KCC (part); Mr. M Wood – Gala Lights; Chris Chainey.

The Chairman welcomed the guests to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Bevan (personal reasons); Cllr Marchant – MBC (conflicting meeting).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

3 POLICE REPORT - DOWNSWOOD CRIME FIGURES from 30th January 2011 to 28th February, 2011.

There have been no related CAD reports or ASB's.

2nd February 2011

Kings Acre, Burglary.

The Property backs onto an open field with access to Church Road. The side fence has a garden gate which is kept bolted, but not padlocked. This leads to a field, which in turn gives direct access to Church Road. The property is therefore quite vulnerable. The offenders are likely to have climbed over the fence, undone the bolt on the gate giving them direct access to the back of the house.

A male has been arrested for the offence and has made a full admission

4 CHRISTMAS CAROLS/LIGHTS CEREMONY INC. PURCHASE OF NEW MOTIFS & VISIT FROM GALA LIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE.

Proposals for new lights had been circulated prior to the meeting. The suggestion for an 'Enchanted Tree' to be located at The Orchard Spot roundabout was well received but it was suggested this should consist of three sections, in place of two. This will be a main feature for the area and therefore it was resolved to spend approximately £2,000.

Caxtons to be approached regarding new motifs for the front of the shops as this will involve drilling the building to fit anchor points or wall plates. If not permitted, a new swag and motifs around the building will be considered.

5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC –

There were no questions.

6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2011:

Following amendment to Item 11 Clerk's Pension '.....the necessary *quality* period....' was changed to '.....the necessary *qualifying* period.....' and Item 13 Clerk's Report 'AMP' was changed to 'APM' the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (reported between Items 3 & 4 as Cllr Cooke had another meeting to attend)

KCC has agreed to freeze the precept for 2011/12.

There has been a cabinet reshuffle.

Highways will be agreeing the most suitable locations in Willow Rise, Grampian Way and Cotswold Gardens for three additional salt bins.

Repairs of potholes are continuing (patching has been carried out in Otham). Cllr Cooke/ Clerk to continue to request improvement for Mallards Way road surface.

Secondary School Selection: 97% of children in Kent were allocated a space at a school of their choice.

8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Not available.

9 BEARSTED YOUTH CLUB/ELDERS – No discussion took place as requested information was not available.

10 MATTERS ARISING:

- **Handrail for Willow Rise/Old Church Road.** Clerk waiting to hear from MBC regarding land search. Proposal in abeyance following a review by Cllrs Cheesman/Butler & Clerk.

- **Waste Disposal.** A meeting was held on 17/02/11 with Jim Noyce, Rajen Kantaria, Cllr Cheesman, Ahmed (Kebab Shop) & the Clerk to review litter picking. It was agreed to discontinue purchasing the large bin liners with handles to allow cheaper, standard liners to be used. Rajen to source a smaller dustbin for the Convenience Store to allow continued lining/emptying. Caxtons have been requested to write to the resident(s) of the flats to ask that they refrain from throwing their rubbish from the top floor.

A request to MBC to reinstate a litter bin near DPC's notice board has been refused due to cutbacks.

A subsequent meeting was called by MBC on 24.02.11 to review the DCA's waste disposal arrangements. It was agreed that 2 x recycle bins would be delivered for use in the waste compound. The car parking space adjacent to the bins will be coned off the day before collection.

The new food waste caddies were discussed. It was generally agreed that the amount of waste collected in these are minimal. Cllr Weeks highlighted a problem in Murrain Drive - also experienced elsewhere in Downswood – in that residents who were allowed to remain using black sacks were told these would be collected weekly. However, the sacks are being collected fortnightly, causing a build up of rubbish. Cllr Weeks/Butler to look for original notification & forward to Clerk.

Clerk to contact Spires Medical Centre to request a contribution of £30 per quarter towards the cost of litter picking.

11 URGENT MATTERS:

- **Councillor Vacancy.** Cllr Weeks to approach resident that previously expressed interested in joining the PC.

12 FINANCE

i) Items for payment

Balance of Current Account £18,922.88 credit, after all cheques sent.

Balance of Investment Account £9,938.62 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

W. Greenhead	Charges Related to Website S144	45.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (February)	772.30
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (February)	244.60

Cheques Received 62.50

DCA Litter Picking Contribution

ii) Membership (KALC/SLCC) Subscription Renewals.

It was resolved that SLCC Membership will be renewed at a cost of £90, if shared with Otham Parish Council, or £135.00 as a single renewal.

It was resolved not to subscribe to ACRK due to necessary cutbacks.

Renewal details not yet received from KALC.

• **Update re. Clerk's Pension.** KCC awaiting a ratified copy of minutes detailing DPC's proposals. Joining details will be sent to the Clerk once copy minutes are received.

Other Matter to Report. MBC has requested a new CF form is completed to provide more information regarding 2010/11 spend.

The email from MBC's Parks and Open Spaces Officer was considered.

- Railings in Mallards Way to be at MBC's expense?
- Councillors do not feel that fencing is necessary at the unofficial BMX area in Old Spot Lane as further encroachment into the wood at the point indicated is unlikely due to the steep slope.
- Old Church Rd/Old Spot Lane grass island earmarked as location for project to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee (see below).

13 CLERK'S REPORT.

- The cost of an Enviropol bench has risen to £800. However, MBS are able to provide one from their stores at £500 + installation. A resolution was passed to accept the quotation.
- Suggestions received to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee were circulated for consideration prior to the meeting. Clerk to contact MVCP/ MBC for guidance.

14 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED – Cllr Ladds attended the Neighbourhood Forum & provided notes for the circulation pack.

15 PLANNING – Nothing to report.

16 COMMITTEE REPORTS – None available.

17 GARDEN COMPETITION – Clerk to ask Steven Waring if he will consider judging this year's competition.

18 SPRING CLEAN – It was confirmed that this will take place between 10.00-11.30 pm on Saturday, 9 April.

19 DCA Fete – Clerk to clarify with the DCA Chairman whether 1 or 2 gazebos will be allowed.

20 CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from DCA's Chairman circulated to members for discussion. Councillors requested the Clerk to advise Mr. Everett that they wish circulation of DCA correspondence to be left to her discretion.
- Email received from resident of Willow Rise stating concerns regarding lack of lighting in car park area. Chairman/Clerk visited the site but resident was advised that the PC is unable to assist as this is private property.

21 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING:
Additional signatory required.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 5 APRIL, 2011