

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2009
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Ladds; Greenhead; Butler; Weeks; Roberts; Clark; Cllr Marchant (MBC); Mrs Irving (Clerk); PCSO Stevens (part).

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Clark to the meeting following his absence due to illness.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Bevan & Chainey (work commitments); PC Lee Tallon (holiday).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Greenhead 15 i MPE FC Donation.

3 POLICE REPORT from 7th July 2009 to 31st August 2009
08/08/09 Mobile phone was possibly stolen at a wedding reception.
Downswood Community Centre, Chiltern Close

09/08/09 Vehicle interference. Car entered, nothing taken.
Driveway of Longham Copse.

29/08/09. A vehicle was believed to have had damage caused – a dent - whilst parked on Bournemouth Close (owner was visiting a resident).

Complaints received regarding excessive noise from a party that recently took place from a private dwelling in Mote Park.

Complaints were also received regarding The Orchard Spot's firework party. Again noise was excessive & the firework display continued for a long time (fireworks were believed to have ended at 10.30 pm). PCSO Stevens to check whether he is correct in his belief that fireworks are allowed to be ignited up until 11.00 pm & whether there are restraints on the number of public displays that can be held at any one venue/ per year? Cllr Marchant to check whether a licence is required for firework displays and, if so, who issues the licence? The Clerk to write to The Orchard Spot requesting notification of future displays.

PCSO Stevens informed the meeting that PC Lee Tallon has now joined the neighbourhood team and is proving to be a really good, pro-active member. PC Tallon will be carrying out speed checks etc in the areas of; Bearsted, Downswood, Otham and another rural area.

PCSO Stevens to check report of motorbike (possibly a quad bike?) causing a nuisance up and down Church Road between 7.30/8.00 pm.

4. ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: No questions were raised.

5. APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2009: The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6 MATTERS ARISING:

- **Traffic Calming** (Review of Rat Run). The Clerk attended the Bearsted Parish Council Transportation Committee Meeting of 30 July. Unfortunately, the meeting commenced earlier than advertised and the Speedwatch discussions were almost concluded.

Notes regarding rat-running have since been circulated by BPC & duly circulated to DPC Cllrs. Once suggestions for future discussion have been received, a further meeting will be convened to discuss the way forward.

KHS have issued the formal Notice of Intention to move the 30 mph speed limit sign on Church Road. Letters of support or objections to the proposed Order need to be received by KHS before 21 September 2009.

As requested by KHS, traffic calming in Spot Lane was discussed. The Parish Council were pleased that KHS recognise that Spot Lane forms a primary route in and out of Downswood.

The overriding opinion was that the current chicanes are inadequate.

Comments made:

- Traffic has definitely increased since the installation of traffic lights at the Willington Street/Madginford Road junction.
- Signage is not clearly visible & needs improving.
- Several members of the parish council have been intimidated by aggressive drivers forcing their way through the chicanes when they do not have priority passage.
- Road markings need improving & should indicate priority clearly.
- Speed humps are not likely to make any difference.

Although only one crash has been reported over the past three years, it is known that a number of incidents have taken place. It is wondered whether these were not recorded due to minor injuries being sustained or damage to vehicles only? It was mentioned that the barriers at the bottom of the steps in Mallards Way are still missing following such an incident. (The Clerk advised the meeting that replacement barriers are in hand as KHS made contact during one of their site visits and enquired where the barriers should be located).

As members do not have full knowledge of alternatives that may be deemed suitable by KHS, they would like advice on what can be done to improve the situation.

As requested, the Roads Policing Team did monitor the area. On the evening of 11 July the highest recorded speed was 34 mph. Team to continue to monitor.

- **Foxden Drive Play Area.** New equipment information has not been received from Record RSS.
- **Orchard Spot Roundabout** – Quotations still outstanding from MBS.
- **Additional CCTV** – No news.
- **Summer Sweep** – Majority of those attending was from the cubs/church/PC (without these it would have been very poorly attended). However, it was agreed that the event will be repeated next year; ideally at the end of April/beginning of May. (5 May 2010 suggested coinciding with Beating of the Bounds).
- **KM Anniversary Tree.** Tree Warden to be requested to reconsider suggested time of 5.30 pm on 15/16 Oct as it will be dark.

7. URGENT MATTERS:

- Clearing of vegetation by MBC to be chased up.

- Tarmac repairs (from water leak) deemed to be unsatisfactory on path from Reinden Grove side, in direction of Longham Copse.

8. KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY: Archaeological report received.

Sutton Valance Chairman's Statement to be circulated for info. Cllr Cheesman to email headings for Downswood's Statement – input requested from all. Points made need to be unique to Downswood, rather than repetition of comments already made. Statement to stress that there are only three roads in and out of Downswood. One is the main bypass for the area, one is liable to flooding & one is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Borough/County Cllrs to be approached for JPG funding from devolved budget.

9. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Remembrance Day – 8 November.

Coffee/tea to be served in the Village Hall after the service on Otham green (details to be included in NL). Cllr Weeks to enquire with Cubs whether they can attend.

Parking to be made available in the farmyard next door to Madame Taylors.

10. KCC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Report not available.

11 GARDEN COMPETITION UPDATE. The three winners have all agreed to attend the Carols/Lights Ceremony to collect their prizes. Note to be sent to Chris Dyke thanking him for his part in the competition. It was agreed to attempt to have judging carried out in second week of June in future- suggestions for judge requested.

12 CLERK'S REPORT – Nothing further to report.

13 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED – Cllr Ladds attended the Police Forum Meeting of 15 July. Next meeting to be held on 18 November at 7.00 pm.

Cllr Ladds also attended the Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Meeting of 18 August.

14 PLANNING – Report not available.

Cllr Weeks requested that care was taken when items are delivered in person to his door as his neighbour has received some of the items in error.

15 FINANCE

i) Donation Requests:

DCA External doors + Modernisation proposal - No news received. It was noted refurbishment of the centre was not on the AGM Agenda. Clerk & Chairman were copied in on the DCA's letter to Southern Glass confirming that Planning Permission has been applied for & they hope to soon arrange a date for installation.

Downswood F.C. Decision deferred whilst Clerk enquires what donations will be spent on/how many players are from Downswood?

M.P.E. FC – It was resolved to support the FC with a donation of £100.00 (\$137).

Age Concern – It was agreed not to make a donation towards the Christmas party this year.

ii) Sponsorship for the Youth Sport Achievement Awards – Deemed not applicable to the parish council.

iii) Items for payment

Balance of Current Account £23,380.72 credit, after all cheques sent.

Balance of Investment Account £9,911.72 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments.		£
MBC	Relocation of Foxden Notice Board	175.38
BTCV	Tree Warden Donation	100.00
Zurich Insurance	Annual Insurance Premium 2009/10	351.54
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (July)	244.20
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (July)	740.31
Thurnham PC	KIG Contribution (June)	393.53
Ryan Perkins	Delivery of Newsletter	50.00
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (August)	244.20
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (August)	819.34

Cheques received:

R. Cheesman	Payment re. surplus of Peeks novelties	20.25
Caxtons	Litter Picking Contribution	182.00

v) Other matters to report

- Zurich Insurance has included Murrain fencing on this year's policy f.o.c.

16 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE. Following discussion, it was resolved to adopt the revised procedure. Information to be posted on website that DPC has a formal complaints procedure – details available from the Clerk.

17 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – KALC.

18 CORRESPONDENCE.

- **KCC 'Free trees blossom across Kent'**. It was suggested that three Rowan trees be requested; one for the corner of Foxden Drive, Grampian Way & Church Road. Clerk to liaise with tree warden.
- **MVCP – River Medway Photo Competition.** Included in circulation pack and on notice boards.
- **DCA – Music at the centre.** Information emailed to members.
- **MBC – Notice of Highways Scheme Meeting of 09/09/09** - Comments requested for improvements to the highways scheme.

19 KHS – SPEED LIMIT REVIEW – Details circulated in information pack.

20 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING: Remembrance Day Wreath, 'Free trees blossom across Kent', Newsletter (Cllr Clark to feature).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 6 OCTOBER 2009.