

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

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Bevan; Ladds; Butler; Roberts; Chainey; Cllr Marchant (MBC) (part); Cllr Cooke KCC); PC Lee Tallon (part); Mrs Irving (Clerk); Rajen Kantaria (part); one member of the public (part).

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Weeks (work commitment); Cllrs Greenhead/Clark (unwell); PC Tallon; Rajen Kantaria. Apologies for slight lateness received from; Cllrs Ladds/Bevan.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

3 POLICE REPORT

Mallards Way – 12/11/09.

Car windscreen broken, possibly a domestic dispute.

Driveway of Longham Copse – 4/11/09.

Driver's window smashed.

Reports of a green Peugeot 205 raising suspicion are being monitored.

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

5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2009: Following an addition to Item 2 DOI '*Cllr Chainey – Item 11 Choir Donation*' the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6 MATTERS ARISING:

- **Mallards Way (maintenance)/Orchard Spot Roundabout.** Despite several attempts to make contact with Golden Hill Nursery, no news is available re. the planting scheme. Quotations for the maintenance of the planting areas have been received from ALS Ltd & Paul Waring. It was agreed to defer discussions until February when it is hoped that planting news will be available.

Work has commenced on the roundabout & is on schedule for completion before Christmas.

- **Additional CCTV-** MBC have confirmed that the existing camera is fully operational. PCSO Stevens to request the return of the mobile camera. No news regarding new unit.

- **Salt Bins.** KHS has stated that there is no money left in the budget for new bins. Clerk has requested that this is reconsidered as DPC's request should have been considered earlier for inclusion in this year's budget.

- **BTCV Heritage Trees Project** – It was agreed to take no further action as this project is unlikely to be beneficial to Downswood,. Cllr Marchant suggested contacting the Borough to request TPO's for certain trees in the parish - To be discussed further at February's meeting. Clerk to contact MBC to ascertain whether TPO's could be acquired for two trees in particular; KM's anniversary oak tree & the whitebeam located by the golden hollies.

7 URGENT MATTERS:

- Blocked drains in Spot Lane/Mallards Way to be checked & reported to KHS in the New Year.
- Salt bin at the top of Pennine Way has been tipped upside down

8 FINANCE

i) Donation Requests:

Downswood Under Fives. Clerk to enquire what specific item(s) the donation is required for. It was not felt appropriate for the group to run a face painting stall at the Christmas Lights Ceremony.

Victim Support & Citizens Rights for Older People. Following discussion, it was agreed not to donate at this moment in time.

ii) Items for payment

Balance of Current Account £14,145.05 credit, after all cheques sent.

Balance of Investment Account £ 9,911.72 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

| | | £ |
|--------------------------|--|----------|
| R.B.I | Wreath | 35.00 |
| A-M Butler | Christmas Carols/Lights Expenses | 31.60 |
| Thurnham PC | KIG Contribution (September) S111 | 393.53 |
| Southern Maidstone Glass | DCA Replacement Doors S19 | 7,500.00 |
| Gala Lights | Replacement LED Bulbs | 1,882.32 |
| T. Irving | Clerk's Salary & Expenses (November) | 847.19 |
| J. Noyce | Litter Picking (November) | 244.20 |
| Mrs T. Carman | Garden Competition 1 st Prize | 50.00 |
| Mrs L. Freeman | “ “ 2 nd Prize | 25.00 |
| Mr & Mrs J. Noyce | “ “ 3 rd Prize | 15.00 |
| Mr. D. Nuttall | Tree Warden Honorarium S137 | 100.00 |
| Downswood FC | Donation S137 | 50.00 |
| R. Perkins | Newsletter Delivery | 50.00 |
| Cheques Received: | | |
| DCA | Litter Picking Contribution | 62.50 |
| Caxtons | “ “ “ | 182.00 |

iii) The following item was held in camera.

Annual Salary Review: Litter Picker - To be further reviewed in July.

Clerk – It was resolved to lift the salary scale to SCP 21 (backdated to April 2009).

Clerk was requested to obtain pension information from KALC for future reference.

v) **Draft Budget.** Following agreement to increase the contingency fund from £5,000 to £6,000, it was resolved to accept the budget proposals and set the precept at £22,000 for 2010/11.

iv) **Other matters to report** – None.

9 KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY:

- CPRE are reported as being very interested in the Downswood flooding issues.
- Anti KIG posters to be displayed as the Inspector is due to visit.
- Up to date information is available on StopKIG and Persona Associates Ltd websites.

10 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.

- Details received regarding freight flows through Dover harbour.
- MBC have advised that it is not possible to provide a daily update on their website.
- Local Development Advisory Board to meet on Wednesday 2 December (sewage and fresh water will form a major part of the report).
- Standard Board Sub-Committee met two weeks ago. An investigation has been undertaken by a Senior Officer regarding nine complaints against the Chair of a local Parish Council.
- A mental healthcare review is due to be undertaken.

11 KCC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – No report available.

12 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS CEREMONY.

- Refreshments have been purchased.
- Cllrs are requested to arrive at 6.30 to assist with setting up.
- A diary will be presented to Chris Dyke as a small thank you for judging the Garden Competition.
- Clerk to request Gala Lights to provide info regarding possible purchase of 2 new motifs (choice from three selections to be available)

13 CLERK'S REPORT – MBC has confirmed that the funding application for Foxden Drive has not been successful & there is currently no finance available to update the Play Area.

14 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED.

- Cllr Cheesman – KALC AGM (details included in circulation pack). It was noted that there will be no subscription increase for 2010/11.
- Cllr Cheesman/Clerk - KHS West Kent Parish Seminar 24.11.09

15 PLANNING.

New Applications

MA/09/1896 – 50 Gorham Drive.

Erection of front porch.

Object due to lack of house elevations within the application.

MA/09/1985 – 76 Longham Copse

Erection of two storey side extension.

No objection.

MA/09/1982 – 14 The Beams.

Variation of condition of MA/84/1090 to convert garage into additional living accommodation.

Object due to traffic management concerns in this vicinity. The Parish Council do not wish to lose car parking spaces which may result in on road parking & possibly cause problems for the emergency services.

Applications Granted

MA/09/1766 – 23 Rhodewood Close

Conversion of garage to habitable room, erection of a single storey side extension and first floor extension.

16 COMMITTEE REPORTS – None available.

17 CORRESPONDENCE.

- **DCA.** Letter dated 1 November 2009 was discussed - No action required.

18 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING - Please advise Clerk prior to meeting.

Note to be placed on notice board advising that the date shown in the newsletter of 8 Dec was incorrect & DPC meeting took place on 1 December.

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

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2 FEBRUARY, 2010.