

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2010  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

**1 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Roberts/Greenhead (work commitment); Cllr Marchant – conflicting meeting;.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**3 POLICE REPORT**

01/12/2009 - Willow Rise.

Attempted theft from motor vehicle (two males arrested, ongoing investigations).

14/12/09 – Foxden Drive  
Wheel stolen from vehicle.

22/12/09 – Longham Copse  
Theft from motor vehicle (one male charged with the offence).

PCSO Stevens was pleased to report that there have been no problems with anti social behaviour around the area of the shops recently.

A quad bike has been causing a nuisance in Otham.

**4 DERINGWOOD DRIVE: PARKING DURING BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

Owners of vehicles parked inappropriately on Deringwood Drive during the recent bad weather have been sent a letter from PCSO Stevens/PC Tallon. PCSO Stevens requested that details of vehicles causing problems are forwarded to him in future on the Rural Police Office Number; 01622 604392.

The Clerk has tried to contact the Operations Manager at Arriva to establish how much of a problem the abandoned cars were to buses and whether it proved necessary to cancel the service. To date, calls to Arriva have not been returned. Cllr Weeks to check details with his contacts.

PCSO Stevens to check reports of a lorry being regularly parked in the lay-by between Bournemouth Close and Reinden Grove.

**5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Not applicable.

## 6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2009:

Following an amendment to Item 7 'Grampian Way' was amended to 'Pennine Way' and statutory powers were added to Item 8 ii) the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

## 7 MATTERS ARISING:

- **Mallards Way.** Breach on southern bank reported by LVPAS has been referred to agents, Smith Gore, by Cllr Marchant as the field lies in the Parish of Otham.

**Orchard Spot Roundabout.** Further progress on roundabout has been delayed due to the recent weather conditions.

- **Planting Scheme + maintenance.** Golden Hill Nursery has confirmed planting will take place in the next 2/3 weeks (subject to weather conditions). Clerk to obtain like for like quotes for maintenance for review at March meeting.

- **Additional CCTV-** Update not available.

- **Salt Bins.** Following advice from Cllr Cooke that he may purchase salt bins from his budget, two new bins have been requested. In addition, confirmation has been received that the vandalised bin will be replaced.

## 8 URGENT MATTERS:

- Survey to be requested due to several large branches coming down across the River Len between Spot Lane/Mallards Way

## 9 FINANCE

### i) Donation Requests:

**Downswood Under Fives.** Cllr Cooke to contact Ms Edwards as he may be able to help with a donation using money from his budget. Clerk to enquire whether DUF is a charity or a profit making organisation.

### ii) Items for payment

Balance of Current Account £8,223.22 credit, after all cheques sent.

Balance of Investment Account £9,911.72 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

		£
R. Cheesman	Glowsticks – Xmas Ceremony S145	10.00
Otham & Langley PCC	Church Choir Donation	80.00
Hilights	Erection/Dismantling of Xmas Lights S145	2001.00
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (December)	292.35
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary, Expenses & Backpay to April '09.	1100.79
Thurnham PC	KIG Contribution (October) S111	393.53
HM Rev & Customs	PAYE/NI	566.72
KCC/(KCS)	Newsletter Printing	128.13
Thurnham PC	KIG Contribution (November) S111	393.53
Hilights	New Timer (Maintenance) Xmas Lights S145	130.30
EDF	Electricity for Christmas Lights S145	185.28
DCA	Hire of Hall S133	210.33
DCA	Affiliation Fee	50.00
Thurnham PC	KIG Contribution (December) S111	393.53
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (January)	244.20
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	748.14

## **Cheques Received.**

DCA

Photocopying Accounts

6.00

MBC

Devolved Budget

1000.00

- A resolution was passed to renew membership to SLCC at a cost of £90.00
- Cllr Butler to investigate charge for website domain name. It was agreed to pay fee if it proves necessary.
- iii) Clerk's Pension Information – Not available. Deferred to next meeting.
- v) **Other matters to report** – None.

## **10 KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY:**

- Copy of Bearsted Parish Council's letter dated 19.01.10 was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. JPG are currently liaising with KALC re. legalities and response. Matters were agreed by all member parishes (or parish representatives).
- Minutes are now in public domain.
- Each parish should have response to BPC and minutes of meeting on website + financial statement from JPG as to how the money was used. Cllr Cooke suggested rather than each individual PC displaying minutes, there could be a link to one site.
- Information gathered is not only useful for KIG, but will help with LDF.
- In the scheme of things, £45,000 is considered to be a modest contribution. Not all of this was payable to Luther Pendragon, although one employee alone worked 415 hours. It was noted that if a prior agreement had not been in place, JPG would not have been able to afford LP's services.
- Cllr Cheesman thanked everyone for their commitment to KIG.

## **11 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Marchant had asked the Clerk to convey the following.

- A very productive meeting was held on 28.01.09 with the local police commander and the rural team. The police have agreed to intensify their efforts to sort out the three areas of concern highlighted; Motorcycles on private land, quad bike, and unidentified foot trespass across winter wheat fields & possible trespass together with whippets near stock at Gore Court. It was agreed that residents need to be alert and report all incidents immediately.
- Recent Standards Training has been well attended.

## **12 KCC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- KCC's precept is set to go up 1.86% (the lowest increase on record). However, the Government has not been forthcoming with funds owed re. Asylum Seekers and, if not paid, this could mean an additional increase of 0.71%.
- Local Forums. Interested groups to get together with County Representatives (formerly Local Board). This will not cost parishes anything as KCC has regional area grants available.
- Cllr Cooke has approx. £500 available to DPC, OPC LPC re. KIG contribution (must be applied for prior to April).

## **13 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS 2010 + REVIEW OF 2009 CEREMONY.**

- Date for this year's ceremony agreed as 3 December 2010.

- Concern was expressed regarding the problems with the replacement bulbs. However, it was agreed that Gala Lights did everything possible to rectify the unforeseen problems. No new motifs to be purchased until the PC are confident that existing lights are working efficiently.

#### **14 CLERK'S REPORT (Tree Preservation Information)**

- Trees should meet the following criteria to merit protection under a TPO:-
  - potentially under threat.
  - visible from a public place or prominent within the wider landscape
  - In a generally sound condition
  - Above 15cm diameter at 1.5m above ground level

The Borough advised that if trees are on Borough land it is considered that they will be looked after and 'protected' as a matter of course.

- Report received from resident of Foxden Drive that fire hydrants are not working in Downswood was passed to the Fire Brigade with a request that they are checked.

**15 SPRING CLEAN.** A resolution was passed to hold the Spring Clean this year. Subject to availability of the hall, a date was agreed of Saturday 10 April commencing at 10.30 am.

**16 GARDENING COMPETITION.** A resolution was passed to hold a gardening competition with prizes remaining at £50, £25 and £15. Dr. Vaux to be requested to judge the competition.

#### **17 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED.**

Cllr Butler's comments that the Code of Conduct Training was very useful and worthwhile were noted.

#### **18 PLANNING.**

##### **Applications Granted**

MA/09/1982 – 14 The Beams.

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

**19 COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None available.

#### **20 CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Arriva Realtime Information Request** – Following a request from a resident, enquires have been made with KCC. They advised 'Following a Bus Stop Hierarchy Study of the whole County KCC is intending to roll them out to other stops listed as Level One in the Hierarchy subject to the availability of budgets. The Hierarchy Study should be available for Consultation in March, however, in the meantime the locally based Team member will look at the bus stop you have suggested'.
- **Abandoned Car** – Damaged car left in Foxden Drive formed part of police investigations. This has now been removed.
- **Training Course Clusters.** The Parish Council are in agreement with the suggested Clusters and feel it will be better to use local amenities, rather than travelling to the town.

- **Spot Lane Litter Bin.** Request for additional bins/tidying of area around ‘the triangle’. Cllrs requested to give some thought to previous discussion regarding making a feature of the area.
- **County Watch Liaison Officer.** Grass roots opinions as to why the national group is needed. No response to be made due to the short notice.
- **Local Works** – Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill

**21 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING**

- St Nicholas Churchyard Donation Request
- Planting Maintenance.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.**

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2 MARCH, 2010.**