

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2008
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Bevan (Vice Chairman); Clark; Butler; Greenhead; Chainey; Laing (part); Mrs Irving (Clerk); PCSO Stevens (part); Cllr Marchant (MBC); twelve members of the public (part).

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Cheesman (holiday); Cllr Weeks (work commitment); Diane Thompson (prior commitment).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

3 POLICE REPORT

Crime figures from 01/07/08 to 01/09/08.

03/07/08. Criminal damage Pennine Way, door window panel broken.

12/07/08. Criminal damage Gorham Dirve, car wing scratched.

16/07/08. Arson Chiltern Close, burn out car at back of surgery.

16/07/08 Attempt burglary to garage Grampian Way.

25/07/08. Criminal damage to shutters doctors' surgery, Chiltern Close.

10/08/08. Criminal damage to door, tool marks on door Ellenswood Drive.

PCSO Stevens advised that he intends sending letters to all Downswood residents asking if they will consider becoming members of Neighbourhood Watch.

Ongoing issues being covered at PACT Meetings include; speeding, parking & nuisance vehicles. Anti social behaviour will be discussed at next meeting.

Youths congregating at The Spires Shops is deemed to be the biggest problem. PCSO Stevens continues to take names of youths if they are causing problems.

4 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC –

Comments were received from 11 residents protesting against the possible installation of a huddle in Mallards Way. Main objections; no lighting, will attract youths from surrounding areas & likelihood of encouraging the use of alcohol/drugs.

5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2008: The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings

6 URGENT MATTERS:

- 39 Reinden Grove has removed ancient vegetation when erecting new fencing. Article to be place in NL stating hedge either side of Church Road walkway is protected and must

not be cut back. Check to be made with Highways regarding this area.

- Tree fallen in Spot Lane has already been reported.
- Gate leading into Mallards Way Play Area needs attention.
- Check to be made whether NALC have issued the new model Standing Orders.

7 KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY: Cllr Laing reported on events from 02/07/08 meeting - no further action at present. If a decision on KIG is extended until December it will go straight to Government, rather than MBC.

8 MATTERS ARISING:

• **Mallards Way:**

Open Space. The two letters received from Mr. Gordon Newton (one to MBC, one to DPC) regarding fishing were discussed. Clerk was requested to invite Gordon Newton/LVAPS/MBC to attend October PC Meeting to address issues raised.

Youth Huddle. In view of the concerns raised by residents & PCSO Stevens, it was resolved to abandon this project. Article to be placed in newsletter requesting alternative suggestions.

Ideas for Roundabout. Further to the advice provided by KHS. It was agreed the Clerk should apply for a Licence to Cultivate, providing it will not automatically obligate the PC to carry out work.

Grass Verges. As KHS have advised that grasscrete will not be suitable, Clerk to ask what they are prepared to do. (The possibility of concrete/asphalt to be considered).

- **Foxden Drive Play Area** – New fencing is complete. Quotation from Sutcliffe Play for cable ride passed to Open Spaces Committee for consideration.

- **Traffic Calming** – Following a meeting held on 22/07/08 with Andy Corcoran/Ben Hilden (KHS), David Marchant, Rev. Andrew Sewell, PCSO Stevens, Roz Cheesman & Teresa Irving, KHS agreed the two 30 mph signs are too close to the built up area and these should be moved to a new location of more than 50m from the last lamp column to avoid the need for lighting, preferably in the clearing just past the church. There is a possibility that finance could be a stumbling block. If this proves to be the case, KHS to inform the PC to enable them to consider financing the project.

- **Gardening Competition.** Garden shortlists awaited from Cllrs; Greenhead, Chainey & Weeks.

- **Youth Achievement Award.** No nominations received in the under 12 category. In the 12-18 category, Alex Torbica & Alexandra Adams were declared joint winners & will each receive £20 and a certificate. Awards to be presented at Christmas Lights Ceremony.

- **Solar Panels.** Email from John Everett detailing progress with grant applications has been circulated to councillors.

- **Additional CCTV.** No response received to email request of 18/07/08. Clerk to progress.

9. GRASSCUTTING/REPLACEMENT FENCING (Parish Council land, rear of Murrain Drive). Further to a complaint received from a resident of Murrain Drive that the above fencing is broken and needs replacing, two quotations have been obtained. J. Dowle have included for replacement fencing at the top of the bank in their quotation - which although still standing at present, is likely to soon require replacing - S W Yorke to be invited to submit a similar quote. Quotations passed to Open Spaces Committee for their consideration. MBC have quoted to trim/cut the grass: £60.00 per occasion, once in May, August & November.

10. NEWSLETTER. In view of the fact Michael Butcher has commenced full time employment, he will no longer be delivering the NL. It was resolved to make an additional payment of £30 from the Chairman's allowance as a thank you to Michael Butcher for the very timely way he's delivered the NL in the past. New delivery person to be discussed at October's meeting. Next NL expected to be ready for delivery in November.

WEBSITE. Cllrs Greenhead/Laing to update ASAP.

11 CLERK'S REPORT:

- KHS advised that engineers reviewed line repainting on 04/08/08. Their comments were then passed to Ringway to carry out the work.
- New Bournemouth Close sign has now been erected.
- A date was arranged for a sign writer to update the honours board during August. Clerk to check why this has not been carried out.
- Details/photos received from David Nuttall re. MBC's 'Favourite Tree'. Information to be forwarded to MBC & included in next edition of NL & on website.
- Still no response from MBC regarding; missing roundabout, replacement wooden posts at The Orchard Spot, vehicles parking inside Mallards and graffiti on climbing wall.

12 COMMITTEE REPORTS – None available.

13 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED – Cllrs Greenhead, Ladds and Clark reported that the KALC Cllr Training Day was very informative.

14 PLANNING

New Applications

MA/08/1657 - 19 Horton Downs

Erection of single storey side extension including garage and two storey rear extension.

Decision not yet reached.

MA/08/1275 - 26 Cotswold Gardens

Erection of a single dwelling.

The Parish Council object to this application.

Dr. Felicity Simpson (CPRE) was thanked for the copy of her objections to the proposal.

15 FINANCE

i) Donation Requests; Downswood Football Club - Further to the correspondence from Steve Cragg advising the PC that the club's future is secure, it was resolved that a donation of £100 should be made.

ii) Items for payment.

Balance of Current Account £3,555.26 credit, after all cheques sent.

Balance of Investment Account £ 9,586.14 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments.

		£
Thurnham PC	JPG(KIG) Contribution	575.24
BTCV	Tree Warden Scheme (Re. David Nuttall)	100.00
Zurich Insurance	Annual Insurance Premium	325.50
J.A. Noyce	Litter Picking (July)	281.25
T.A. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (July)	647.82
Wicksteed Leisure	Replacement Fencing - Foxden Drive	18,882.27

J.A. Noyce	Litter Picking (August)	225.00
T.A. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (August)	771.92

Cheques received

Caxtons	Litter Picking Contribution	118.30
DCA	“ “ “	62.50

Cllr Bevan requested a projection to the end of the financial year.

iii) Other matters to report.

- A revised quotation has been requested from Hilights to include the installation of four new motifs.
- Clerk's annual review. The 2008 pay claim has yet to be settled and NALC/SLCC is not in a position to issue revised pay scales.

16 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – None available.

17 CORRESPONDENCE.

- Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Report together with an invitation to attend their Annual Public Meeting on 15 September 2008.

18 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.

- Cabinet member has agreed to concentrate on Conservation Area review in 2008/09 (Otham is to be in the first tranche).
- Public consultation is being held concerning Mote Park (copy of Eva Girling's email has been circulated). Cllrs are requested to comment. Suggestions included; more tree, areas which are dead need replanting (by gate in Willington Street), clearing vegetation from around red wood trees, producing a maintenance programme that is adhered to, introduction of red squirrels. The general consensus was that the rest of the park should be left as it is.
- Mote House. Will the proposed traffic lights cause a problem? Has a traffic survey been carried out? If so, what will be done to limit traffic diverting to use Mallards Way? Cllr Marchant to query with Highways & chase HGV restriction sign for Mallards Way.

19 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING: Possible 2009 Community Event?

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 7 OCTOBER, 2008.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.