

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2009
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Bevan; Butler; Ladds; Weeks; Cllr Greenhead; Mrs Irving (Clerk); one member of the public.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Clark (unwell); Cllr Chainey (work commitment); PCSO Stevens; Cllr Marchant (MBC).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: - None.

3 POLICE REPORT

Crime figures from 02/12/08 up until 02/02/09.

07/12/08 Pennine Way. Car believed to have been scratched when parked on the driveway.

22/12/08. Pennine Way. Motorcycle taken without owner's consent – has now been recovered.

13/01/09. Willow Rise. Graffiti on wall of house.

Police Surgery to be held at Downswood Community Centre on Friday, 27 February between 5-6 pm.

4. COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION. Terry Laing has resigned due to pressure of work. In his absence, Terry was thanked for his contribution to the parish council – in particular, his JPC/KIG involvement – and was wished well for the future. Cllr Greenhead to discuss vacancy with a resident that he believes may be interested. Clerk to undertake formal proceedings..

5. ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC –
No questions.

6. APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2008:
Following amendment to title '*November*' changed to '*December*', the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings

7 URGENT MATTERS:

- Bollard by Orchard Spot roundabout has been hit by a car and sustained damage.
- Bollard on Deringwood Drive – located close to shops – is not illuminated.
- Potentially dangerous branch/tree on pedestrianised Spot Lane, between the bridge and Cotswold Gardens footpath.
- Website requires updating.

8 KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY: DPC/OPC have delivered a flyer to all residents reminding them to register their objections to the application by 6 February. Cllr Cheesman attended the JPG Meeting of 27 January when it was announced that no further money would be spent due to the current situation.

Cllr Weeks had hoped to attend the JPG Meeting of 2 February but was unable to do so due to work commitments. From the articles read by Cllr Cheesman – obtained from the STOPKIG website - the meeting was hailed a ‘great success’ with more than 300 attending, despite treacherous weather conditions.

Cllr Ladds to attend next JPG Meeting at 7.30 pm on 11 February at the Tudor Park Hotel.

Cllr Bevan to resubmit DPC’s comments regarding the planning application.

9. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING/DPC ANNUAL MEETING. Dates agreed as; 19 May at 7.30 pm & 5 May at 7.30 pm respectively (subject to availability of hall). Speakers to be invited include; Steve Horton – KCC, Hilary Newman – former Hadlow College lecturer and Andrew Pierce – Environment Agency. No response from LVP& AS re. attendance.

10 MATTERS ARISING:

- **Mallards Way/Open Space/Roundabout:** Clerk/Chairman now in receipt of Inspection Reports. Photos supplied by Mr. G. Newton re. injured swan were circulated (copy of letter circulated previously). Doubts were expressed as to where the fishing line was picked up. This could have been carried by the swan from Mote Park?

Mini Spinner Roundabout – back on site.

Roundabout – MBC have no objection to 3 x silver birch trees with white trunks. Response awaited from KHS.

- **Traffic Calming - Church Road/Deringwood Drive.** KHS have confirmed that the Church Rd proposal is progressing. Ben Hilden to provide update. Clerk to request quotation for extension of anti skid surface for inclusion in 2009/10 budget.

- **Additional CCTV** – Meeting to be held 10/02/09 with all interested parties.

- **Christmas Carols & Lights Ceremony.** Mayor to be invited to attend 2009 ceremony on 4 December at 7.00 pm. Patio willow to be purchased for Cllr Bevan’s parents as ‘thank you’ gift for storage of lights.

In response to Gala’s letter, Clerk to enquire about the life of LED lights compared with standard filament ones. Will the additional cost justify replacement of bulbs?

- **Community Event** – It was agreed that DPC would try to become more involved with the DCA’s fete, rather than hosting a separate event. Clerk to enquire with DCA if they would be happy to provide more space to allow a larger activity area for young children. Does the DCA’s insurance cover this? Any costs to be deducted from takings with remaining proceeds donated to DCA. Volunteers for this year to include; Cllrs Cheesman, Ladds, Weeks, Bevan & Greenhead.

- **Community area Group Volunteer(s).** Cllr Weeks agreed to be DPC’s volunteer.

- **Planting Proposals** – Cllr Bevan to provide full information to Clerk to allow re-quotes to be obtained.

11 CLERK’S REPORT:

a. The sad loss of Cllr Jim Thompson, Otham PC’s Chairman, was reported.

b. MBC have no objection to the notice board being moved to a new site outside Foxden Drive play area. Quotes are being prepared & checks undertaken that underground services are not in the way.

c. Cllr Clark’s computer is now connected to broadband.

d. Letter received from Hugh Robertson MP confirming that he is investigating the Willington St traffic lights and will keep DPC informed of events.

- e. Yorke Fencing confirmed additional supports on Murrain Drive fencing are a temporary measure and have/will be removed.
- f. Once agreed, Freedom of Information Act will be displayed on website.

12 COMMITTEE REPORTS – None available.

13 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED – None.

14 PLANNING.

MA/07/2092 Kent International Gateway

Resubmission of application – See item 8.

Enforcement Action Pending.

MBC Ref. 414/3330. Grampian Way – Operational Development.

15 FINANCE

i) Items for payment.

Balance of Current Account £6,710.33 credit, after all cheques sent.

Balance of Investment Account £9,586.14 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments.		£
Kent Scouts	Congo Expedition	100.00
PCC of Otham with Langley	Church Choir Donation	80.00
KCC	Printing of Newsletter	116.55
HilightsXmas Lights	(erection, dismantling, etc).	2,397.04
A.M. Butler	Xmas Carols/Lights Expenses	34.17
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (December)	303.75
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary, Expenses + Backpay (December)	1,011.93
Revenue & Customs	Clerk's PAYE	494.51
Audit Commission	Annual Audit Y/E 30 March 2008	327.75
Ryan Perkins	Delivery of KIG Flyer	50.00
KALC	Delivery of KCC Laptop	5.00
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (January)	243.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (January)	771.28

Cheques received:

MBC	Devolved Budget Grant (Foxden Fencing)	2,000.00
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ii) Annual Audit Y/ E 31 March 2008 - Confirmation received from Audit Commission that the audit is complete. No actions recorded.

iii) Other matters to report. – Copy of 2009/10 Budget circulated as agreed. MBC advised of £17,000 Precept requirement.

It was resolved to renew the Clerk's SLCC membership at a cost of £133.00. (It is hoped that OPC will be contributing 1/3rd of expense as in previous years).

It was resolved that Cllr Greenhead would advise the Clerk when the website domain has been renewed & reclaim expense of approx £50.00.

Clerk to investigate increasing litter picking contributions by, say, 5%. Spires Surgery also to be requested to contribute.

16 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – None available.

17 CORRESPONDENCE.

- Communities in control: Real people, real power. Documentation included in circulation pack.
- ACRK – Parish Plan questionnaire/Village of the Year. It was agreed not to respond on this occasion.
- ACRK - Retailer of the Year. If agreeable to the suggestion, Rajen Kantaria to be entered. Cllr Butler to take photographs & prepare brief for entry.
- ACRK – Membership. DPC will not subscribe this year.
- MBC. St. George’s Day Parade – Sunday 26 April. Details to be emailed to cllrs.
- Maidstone Carers Project – Trusted Trades in the Borough of Maidstone. Details to be emailed to cllrs for comment.
- Email received from Sharon Riches requesting an additional grit bin at the entrance to Cheviot Gardens. Request to be passed to KHS.

18 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – None available.

19 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING:
Newsletter, Spring Clean.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 3 MARCH, 2009.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.