

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2009
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Bevan; Butler; Ladds; Greenhead; Chainey; Roberts; Cllr Marchant (MBC); Mrs Irving (Clerk); + two residents; Mr Chris Chainey & Mr. Peter Fincham.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Clark (illness); Cllr Weeks (work commitment); PSCO Stevens (annual leave).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: - Cllr Cheesman - Item 13. 37 Reinden Grove.

3 POLICE REPORT

22/04/2009 Mobile Phone stolen in Mallards Way Park Area

14/04/2009 Willow Rise, burglary in dwelling

The following crimes of criminal damage were believed to have been caused by the same unknown persons on the 14/04/2009

Longham Copse- an exterior light damaged

Longham Copse- vehicle wing mirrors damaged

Frithwood Close - garden shed window broken, a free standing metal bird feeder bent, 2 garden lights smashed, nothing missing from the garden.

It was noted that PC Kingwell has left Maidstone Police and taken up a new position with Faversham Police. A replacement is still awaited.

4. ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

One question was addressed.

5. APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2009:

Following a minor amendment to the attendance when '(part)' was removed from Cllr Bevan's name, the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6 MATTERS ARISING:

- **Mallards Way Open Space.** No response received from MBC.

Mr. Newton has forwarded a subsequent letter to MBC stating their response to his original letter is not satisfactory.

- **Foxden Drive Play Area.** All three quotations have now been received and an application for funding has been submitted to MBC. It was resolved that in the meantime the purchase of a 'Buddy Swing', or similar, should proceed.

Hedge. Email from MBC's Parks and Open Spaces Officer was read to the meeting. A complaint has been received from a resident of Longham Copse regarding loss of light to their property. As the leylandii hedge does not re grow from the brown stems when cut back hard, MBC have suggested that an alternative hedge is planted. Clerk to obtain quotes for both pruning & a suitable replacement hedge.

- **Orchard Spot Roundabout** – Awaiting Open Spaces Committee.
- **Traffic Calming - Church Road/Deringwood Drive.** Toby Howe to clarify the position regarding maintenance of anti skid surface.

Additional CCTV – Clerk has been contacted by MBC & informed that new developments in technology may mean that it will be beneficial to make changes to the original proposals. Awaiting further information.

- **Newsletter/Website. Spring edition of the NL** has been delivered. Next edition to ask resident whether the recent school allocation system has caused them problems. **Website** – Cllr Butler continues update – to go live ASAP.
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – Agenda to be issued shortly.
- **Summer Sweep** – Brownies/Cubs to be invited to attend.
- **Additional/Replacement Grit Bins.** KHS confirmed suggested location of grit bins would be considered suitable. However, all applications for new bins are currently on hold for 2/3 months.
- **Planting Scheme.** Golden Hill confirmed the best time to plant will be end of Oct/early Nov. As it is currently their busiest time of year, they have agreed to visit the site & report back prior to June's meeting.
- **DCA Fete.** Cllr Cheesman informed the meeting that the following games are available; Pick a Straw, Boats (fishing), Roll a Ball, Ball in the Bucket, Higher/Lower Cards, Scrabble & Smash the Rat. Cllr Cheesman to check with DCA which of the above can be used. Sweets to be purchased & monetary prizes to be given. Social Committee to check whether The Spires will provide sweets on sale or return basis.

7. URGENT MATTERS:

- Report of tree having fallen in the River Len between Derringwood Drive & the wooden bridge to be passed to MBC for action.

8. KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY: Cllr Cheesman attended the JPG Meeting to discuss the forthcoming presentation at Maidstone TV Studios on 7 May when four speakers will be present. As many people as possible are encouraged to attend the meeting. Funding for the appeal to be looked at shortly.

9. GARDENING COMPETITION - Mr. Chris Dyke has kindly agreed to judge the competition. Cllrs are requested to bring their garden nominations to June's meeting.

10. CLERK'S REPORT – Nothing further to report.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS – None available.

12 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED – Cllr Butler attended a Madginford School Governors Meeting.

13 PLANNING.

New Applications.

MA/09/0538 – 37 Reinden Close

Erection of a two storey side extension to form granny annexe and single storey rear extension.

DPC do not wish to comment.

14 FINANCE

i) **DCA Donation Request: External doors + Modernisation proposal.** Clerk has received the three quotations in DPC's name. DCA have now informed DPC that they have already given Southern Glass the go ahead to carry out the work. Clerk to advise DCA that DPC cannot agree any funding until MBC have given written permission & a copy has been forwarded to DPC. Clerk to request a 'wish list' from DCA re. further modernisation with time scales.

ii) **Items for payment**

Balance of Current Account £18,825.69 credit, after all cheques sent.

Balance of Investment Account £9,911.72 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments.

	£
Ryan Perkins Newsletter Delivery	50.00
D. Marchant Paper/Ink for KIG Flyer	56.00
J. Noyce Litter Picking (April)	292.95
T. Irving Clerk's Salary & Expenses (April)	784.53
Downswood Under Fives Donation	250.00

Cheques received:

MBC Precept 2009/10 17,000.00

iii) **Approval of Annual Return.** The return was agreed by councillors and duly signed by Cllr Cheesman and the Clerk. Assets to be increased to include Christmas Lights; Clerk to check suggested value with Gala Lights. Value of computer to be reduced to £400 to allow for depreciation. Supporting statement will be sent with the return explaining variances in the Section 1. Return to be lodged with the Audit Commission by 1 June.

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

15 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – KALC Meeting attended by Cllr Cheesman last week where there were lots of comments regarding the ineptitude of KHS. KALC have announced that Clive Powell will be returning to work for them shortly.

It is proposed that training on Code of Conduct will be made available to all cllrs.

16 CORRESPONDENCE – Urgent correspondence previously circulated by email. Further correspondence included in circulation pack.

17 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Meeting with KHS to discuss rural roads and problems with bridges has been postponed until after the elections.

Cllr Marchant has raised the matter of the Freighter no longer taking electrical appliances with the Cabinet Member.

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

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2 JUNE 2009.

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