

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 7 JULY 2009
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Bevan; Ladds; Greenhead; Butler; Chainey; Roberts; Cllr Marchant (MBC); Cllr Cooke (KCC); Mrs Irving (Clerk); Cllr Cooke (KCC); PCSO Stevens (part); + three residents (part).

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Cooke and residents to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Clark (illness); Cllr Weeks (work commitment); PC Warren Jarvis.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Butler re. item 14 i Madginford Primary School Donation.

3 POLICE REPORT from 2nd June 2009 up until 6 July 2009
13/06/09. Pennine Way
Hanging basket stolen from front of house.

13/06/09. Frithwood Close
Flower pots stolen from garden of premises.

26/06/09. Len Valley Walk
Attempted theft of motor vehicle.

06/07/09. Kings Acre
Criminal damage to front driveway; digging up without consent.
Ongoing investigation.

A question was raised as to why a traffic accident which took place on 2 June was not on the police report. PCSO Stevens believes this is due to the accident being logged by traffic police, as their reports do not necessarily appear on the same system.

PCSO Stevens explained that PC Jarvis had been hoping to attend the meeting to discuss Speed-Watch, but was unable to do so due to a conflicting appointment. PCSO Stevens was reminded that previous discussions regarding Speed-Watch had been abandoned due to a lack of volunteers.

Cllr Cooke advised that he has a delegated allowance of £25,000 for highway issues. It is possible that a contribution could be made towards the anti skid surfacing or traffic calming in Deringwood Drive/Mallards Way/Church Road.

PCSO Stevens expressed his disappointment that not enough residents are interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to commence this project.

*Due to concerns expressed regarding the noise from groups congregating in cars at the rear of the shops/using the surrounding area as a racetrack, Clerk to request traffic police to keep an eye on the area again from 9.30 pm onwards.

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4. ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

*Questions were raised regarding the aforementioned.

5. APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2009:

Following amendment to title '5 May' amended to '2 June', the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6 MATTERS ARISING:

- **Traffic Calming.** KHS Officer dealing with the project is on long term sick leave. Fellow officer is investigating the current situation. Correspondence to be forwarded to Cllr Cooke to allow him to assist with progressing.

- **Foxden Drive Play Area/Hedge.** It was agreed to re-examine the proposals for new play equipment due to misleading information being submitted. It was agreed in principle to refurbish the existing swings, remove broken wooden structure & purchase the 'Cone Climber'. Information regarding new equipment to be forwarded from Record RSS ASAP. Work undertaken on the hedge has been successfully carried out.

- **Orchard Spot Roundabout** – Mr. Boyd-Howell has kindly agreed to donate ragstone. A quotation has been requested from MBS to cement ragstone in place/plant heathers.

- **Additional CCTV – No news.** However, MBC have agreed to include cameras/equipment on their insurance.

- **Summer Sweep** – Brownies have advised they will not be able to attend. Julie Reid has kindly agreed to enlist help from cubs. All available cllrs requested to attend.

- **KM Anniversary Tree.** Tree planting ceremony to be held on either Thursday 16 or Friday 17 October 2009. It was resolved to purchase a tree guard at a cost of £129.00. David Nuttall has kindly agreed to excavate the hole a week or two in advance of the ceremony. Invitation to attend the ceremony to be extended to Willow Rise Nursery School.

7. URGENT MATTERS:

- Trees in Church Road require cutting back as they are overhanging.

- Mesh on wooden fencing adjacent to the road at Mallards Play area is down again. Part of fencing on zig zag path is also down & considered to be a health and safety issue.

- Tree in river between wooden bridge/Willington Street.

- Barrier still missing from cut through between Mallards/Cotswold Gardens.

- Repairs to road by Downswood boundary not considered satisfactory – Cllr Cooke to action.

- Damage to step on cut through from Old Church Road to Willow Rise.

- Wooden post on the green, outside the Orchard Spot still broken.

8. KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY: Date for next meeting not yet advised.

Appellant has reduced the amount of warehousing required. New letters need to be sent to MBC ASAP stating 'all original objections still stand'.

9. GARDENING COMPETITION – Cllr Chainey to accompany judge, Chris Dyke, on 8 July at 7.45 pm.

10. CLERK'S REPORT.

- Revenue & Customs have confirmed that to claim back VAT, receipts must be made out to the PC & telephone bills etc in Clerk's name are not acceptable. (Ref. BVH 36672).

- ACRK have advised that The Spires Convenience Store has not been chosen for the final short list of Rural Community Retailer 2009.
- Cllr Ladds to attend KALC Cllr Information Day on 29 July (subsequently advised he is unable to attend due to conflicting appointment).

11 COMMITTEE REPORTS – None available.

12 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED – None attended.

13 PLANNING.

Applications Granted.

MA/09/0634 – 86 Murrain Drive

Erection of a single storey side/rear extension.

TPO Ref. TA/0070/09

Land south of 15 to 20 Horton Downs

Works to one Ash tree & one Field Maple

14 FINANCE

i) Donation Requests:

DCA External doors + Modernisation proposal. DCA have advised that obtaining planning permission will add an additional £150 to the original costs.

No news received re. timescales/costing for wish list.

Madginford Primary School – It was resolved to donate £50.00 (S137) towards the school's talent contest.

ii) BTCV – Kent Tree Warden Scheme – A resolution was passed to make a donation in the sum of £100.00 (S137) as per BTCV's suggestion.

iii) Items for payment

Balance of Current Account £26,296.97 credit, after all cheques sent.

Balance of Investment Account £9,911.72 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments.		£
Madginford Jnr School	Talent Show Donation	50.00
Kenward Trust	Donation	250.00
Heart of Kent Hospice	Donation	150.00
Auditing Solutions	Audit 2008/09	172.50
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (June)	292.75
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (June)	735.65
HM Rev & Customs	PAYE	329.68

Cheques received:

MBC	Concurrent Functions Grant	6,350.00
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v) Other matters to report

- Zurich Insurance have advised that DPC are on their lowest level of fidelity guarantee and therefore it is not possible to reduce this/make a cost saving.

A resolution was passed to accept the renewal notice from Zurich at a cost of £334.80. Clerk is awaiting details of cost to include Murrain fencing on policy.

- Cllr Cheesman has issued a cheque for £20.25 in respect of surplus prizes from Peeks.

15 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE. Update not yet received.

16 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – None. (In the absence of reports, this section will be removed from future agendas).

17 CORRESPONDENCE.

- **Kent Police Newsletter & Raffle Tickets** – NL included in circulation pack, raffle tickets offered for sale with no success.
- **Safer Kent Awards 2009** – It was unanimously agreed to nominate PCSO Stevens for the award (it was subsequently found that due to insufficient notice, the cut off date for entries had already expired).
- **Documentation re. Gypsies/Travellers and Minerals Consultation** passed to Cllr Bevan.

18 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr Marchant advised that the minutes of the Local Advisory Development Group are now available on MBC's website.
TPO 0069/09 – One Beech & one Willow tree to be trimmed in Church Road during the autumn.

19 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING: Please inform Clerk prior to the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 1 SEPTEMBER 2009.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.