

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Weeks; Butler; Fairhurst; Brooks; Alden-Morris; Fincham; Cllr Gary Cooke (KCC).

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Newton (MBC).

Apology and the reason for absence was noted and accepted.

2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS – None received.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Brooks – Item 14 (re. 31 Reinden Grove).

4 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Not applicable, no members of the public present.

5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING 5 SEPTEMBER 2017:

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6 CRIME REPORT: The following reports were obtained from e-watch.co

Pennine Way. Crime Rpt No. YY/018258/17. Theft from motor vehicle.

A Nissan Navara was broken into between 11.00pm on Tues 4 July and 6.00 am on Weds 5 July. A tool bag with tools was stolen.

Grampian Way. Crime Rpt No. YY/017139/17. Theft from motor vehicle.

Parts were stolen from a Peugeot Partner van parked in a parking bay between 9.30 pm on Sun 25 June and 7.00 am on Mon 26 June. Parts are missing from both inside the vehicle and from the engine compartment.

Cllr Alden-Morris attended the Police Liaison Meeting of 20 September, when further reorganisation was discussed.

Cllr Cheesman, the Clerk and Cllr Gray (OPC) met with PCSO John Boyd to discuss how things will move forward in the future. Whilst PCSO Boyd has a large area to cover, he is very keen to establish close links with the council.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

- Cllr Cooke was 'appalled' at the manner decisions were reached at MBC's Planning Meeting. He believes that it is evident when Land North of Bicknor Farm was discussed, some councillors had pre-determined the application and negotiations had taken place with the applicants'.

The application was granted, but not in the original form.

KCC will continue to object to the road layout.

- The only 'You Decide' event for this year will be held at 6.30 tomorrow in Heather House, Parkwood. Cllr Cooke believes that Heather House is scheduled to close in the future.
- A public meeting will be held at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm on Thurs 6 November at the Mercure Hotel, Hollingbourne. This meeting will be a call for action to support the relief road.
- Cllr Cooke believes the Garden Village proposal for 5,000 homes could re-emerge in 5 years' time.

8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Not available.

9 URGENT MATTERS:

- Cllr Alden-Morris to forward photos to the Clerk re possible fungal disease on several trees at Mallards.
- Cllr Cooke to check the different sizes of salt bags that are available for the spreaders and advise accordingly.

10 MAP/DISPLAY BOARD: Cllr Greenhead to provide update for November's meeting.

11 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- Cllr Cheesman enquired whether contact has been made with Simon Corrigan with the agreed 'thank you' for his work on the website. Cllr Weeks reported that Mr Corrigan has been away on holiday, but he will be in contact with him soon.
- Deeds for Ravens Dane property have been obtained, but were of no help as they are registered to the property.

12 FINANCE:

i. Items for Payment.

Balance of Current Account £18,784.05 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account £10,321.18 credit

Cheques sent:

To Whom Payable	Details	Amount
M. Weeks	Expenses - Various	35.47
Royal British Legion	Donation – Wreath	45.00
KCC Re. Kent Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension (Employer & Employees Conts Sept)	270.35
HMRC	PAYE	216.03
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Exp (Sept)	917.44
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (Sept)	270.00
R. Cheesman	Garden Comp Expenses	8.00
M. Weeks	Expenses – LED Lights x 2 Strings	38.38

Cheques received:

From Whom Rec'd	Details	Amount
HRMC	VAT Refund	2315.93

The accounts were formally agreed (proposed by Cllr Fincham, seconded by Cllr Alden-Morris).

- ii. **Suggestions for 2018/19 budget.** To be considered by all in time for November's meeting.
- iii. **Other matters to report** – There were no further matters.

13 CHRISTMAS CEREMONY: Aylesford Electrical confirmed to Cllr Cheesman and the Clerk that the motifs will be ready and arrangements for the ceremony are all in place.

Cllr Weeks to arrange a meeting with the DCA Chairman to check the best way for the pagoda lights to be used.

Cllr Cheesman to contact the choir & young musicians to confirm their attendance. It was agreed that a more structured program should be introduced this year, with everyone outside in time for the switch-on.

A donation for the choir of £100 was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed in accordance with LGA S137.

Cllr Butler to source food and drink, assisted by the social committee.

Cllr Greenhead to update flyer to enable Cllr Weeks to place an order (usual quantity, subject to discount).

14 PLANNING: New Applications

17/504480/FULL 31 Reinden Grove
Erection of a single storey conservatory at the rear of the property
No objections.

17/504673/FULL 54 Pennine Way
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension
No objections.

Applications Granted **17/504057 - 2 Monkdown**

17/501449 - Land North of Bicknor Wood
(Approved with revised S106 contributions.)
Cllr Cheesman believes it is very unwise to discuss the application with developers, as happened at the planning committee meeting when the above application was granted.

Concerns were expressed about the amount of building work being carried out at 17 Kings Acre. A planning application has not been submitted for what appears to be a two storey side extension.

Cllr Fairhurst reported that he found the MBC planning training 'interesting but not a great deal of relevance'.

15 PROW KM80/KM86 (Steps):

Steven Waring to visit next week in preparation for a quotation.

No response received from Underwood's.

Quotation awaited from Summerfield, although it's believed that the job may be bigger than they anticipated.

Cllr Weeks will continue to look for quotations.

16 DCA Update: Cllr Weeks stated there was nothing major to report from the AGM. Cllr Greenhead to attend the next meeting of 10 October.

17 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:

KALC Social Media Training - Cllr Weeks.

It was noted that a lot of the slides in the presentation were out of date.

Whilst DPC has one of the best PC websites from those present, a social media policy is required and a committee should be considered.

Cllr Weeks to investigate how DPC's Twitter has been set to operate.

18 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Downswood Diggers. Next working day will be on 28 October, meeting at the SSSI between 10 am and noon. Cllr Weeks to purchase bulbs for planting on the grass verges by Foxden Drive, Reinden Grove and Longham Copse.

The area around the Spires notice board to be cleared.

It was noted that the bat population seems to have increased.

Cllr Fincham reported that HMP Maidstone is trying to get some wood and then they will build the items requested.

19 CORRESPONDENCE: Various correspondence circulated by email.

- **Heart of Kent Hospice** – Donation request to be a November agenda item
- **Maidstone Riverside Rotary Club** – Crocus Planting in Aid of Polio Eradication Appeal. It was agreed not to partake in this campaign as the Downswood Diggers will be planting bulbs in the community.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7 November at 8.00 pm