

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 8.00 PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Butler; Weeks; Roberts; Brooks; Eady; Carmichael; Pearson; Mrs T Irving (Clerk); Cllr Richard Ash (Bearsted & Borough); 2 members of the public.

**1 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Cooke (KCC); Rajen Kantaria.

Received retrospectively from; Cllr G. Newton (MBC) & PCSO Timon Gurr.

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

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Greenhead Item 12 – Planning Leaflet Delivery.

**4 POLICE REPORT: 27/11/15 to 05/01/16.**

**Crimes Reported x 6**

Vehicle interference x 2; Len Valley Walk & Bournemouth Close

Criminal Damaged x 1; Foxden Drive

Theft from Motor Vehicles x 3; Bournemouth Close x 2 & Deringwood Parade x 1

There has been a large increase in vehicle crime recently in both Downswood and other local areas of Maidstone. There have been increased patrols in the area in order to try and prevent any further offences.

**No Anti-social behaviour calls this month.**

**5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

- Cllr Richard Ash took the opportunity to inform the meeting that S106 money is available for Mallards Way in the sum of £35,819.20.

The meeting was reconvened

**6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2015:**

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

**7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Cooke):**

Written Report provided – see Appendix 1.

**8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Newton):** Not available.

**9 URGENT MATTERS:**

Increased dog mess in and around the steps leading to/from Cotswold Gardens/Mallards Way. Warning signage to be requested for lamp columns & Clerk

to enquire if a warning can be sprayed on the pavement (subsequently reported Ref. 544581).

## 10 FINANCE

### i. Items for payment:

**Balance of Current Account** £ 8,221.79 credit, after all cheques sent  
**Balance of Investment Account** £10,259.54 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

#### To Whom Payable

Aylesford Electrical	75% Charge of Christmas Lighting Installation, 2 LED Displays, 200 LED lamps (£4 discrepancy pd on next inv)	3651.91
Otham with Langley PCC	Donation	100.00
KALC	Defibrillator + Cabinet & Pads	1704.00
Spires Minimarket	Xmas Ceremony Supplies	29.18
Martin Weeks	Expenses: Chipper Hire	66.00
KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions) Dec	201.67
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Dec)	858.20
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (Dec)	231.40
Martin Weeks	Expenses: Chipper Hire	130.48
HMRC	PAYE	121.87
Aylesford Electrical	25% Charge of Christmas Lighting Installation	739.00
Gala Lights	Motif Hire	842.40
KCC	(MVCP) Duck House	390.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Jan)	838.87
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (Jan)	231.40
KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions) Jan	201.67

#### Cheques Received:

Mr Clarke	Hedge Cutting (Foxden Drive) Contribution	100.00
Mr Richard Young	Donation - Christmas Motifs (2)	500.00
Spires Medical Centre	Litterpicking Contribution	120.00
NS & I	Investment Acct Interest	76.37

ii) **Clerk/Litter Picker Annual Review:** Agreed in principle but further information to be presented at 1 March meeting.

iii) **Other Matters to report:** None.

## 11 PLANNING:

### New Applications:

16/500201/FULL 10 Frithwood Close Downswood Kent ME15 8UT  
Proposed side and rear 2-storey extension

**DPC decision:** No Comment.

16/500570/TPO 13 Kings Acre Downswood Kent ME15 8UP

TPO application to 1 no Oak tree – Crown lift 4m, thin by 33% and reduce by 4m.

**DPC decision:** Supports the application.

-2- (2016)

It was agreed to deliver a flyer to all Downswood households publicizing the Local Plan meeting of 11 February.

**12 DAVID NUTTALL MEMORIAL UPDATE:** Wording agreed as; 'David Nuttall 1950 – 2015. Molded the landscape of Downswood'.

It is hoped that the memorial will be unveiled at the Olympic picnic (Members of David's family to be invited).

**13 DEFIBRILLATOR:** Community Centre to be asked to arrange an electrician once a delivery date is confirmed.

**14 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS CEREMONY REVIEW/2016 DATE:**

It was agreed to take on board the request from residents to have a few more carols at this year's ceremony. Madginford Brass Band to be invited.

Festive lighting for hall - for the ceremony only - to be explored.

Load testing of the columns was carried out by KHS - in accordance with their instruction - and will need to be repeated on a 3 yearly basis.

Saturday 3 December from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm was agreed for this year's ceremony.

**15 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:**

DCA Committee Meeting of 12 January was attended by Cllr Greenhead (Cllr Roberts away on business). Some of the items were reported: 30 whips planted in the grounds, steps to the stage are being painted, finance report, fund raising is ongoing and a new cleaner has been employed.

**KCC/KALC Workshop** attended by the Clerk on 26 January (slides from the presentation to be forwarded).

**16) PLAY AREAS/MALLARDS OPEN SPACE:** Clerk to check the conditions for the S106 funding (see item 5). If possible, consideration to be given to maintenance of the pond and the surrounding area.

Clerk to enquire if it is possible to receive a copy of the monthly inspection reports for Foxden & Mallards Way.

**17 SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE:**

The initial consultation proposal was rejected as misleading and unrealistic. A second proposal was marginally better, but objections were again raised and it was rejected.

The question 'If appointments were available at Downswood Surgery, would you use it?' needs to be addressed.

It was unanimously agreed for DPC to produce a consultation document which will be delivered to every household. A draft questionnaire will be forwarded to Helen Whately MP for approval. Results will then be passed to NHS England.

The question 'Would NHS facilitate another practice taking over the surgery?' remains unanswered.

**18 SSSI:** A very successful day was held on 12 December with help from two operatives financed by Cllr Cooke. Further volunteer sessions have been held, resulting in the area being cleared and the waste either burnt or chipped: the latter being spread on the adjoining footpath. Thanks were expressed to all those involved with the work.

A meeting has been arranged by the Footpaths Officer & Natural England for 12 February to look at the site & decide what work, if any, can be undertaken. Cllrs Greenhead, Weeks, Cheesman and the Clerk hope to be in attendance.

**19 QUEEN ELIZABETH 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:** It was agreed to take part in the Borough's 'Clean for the Queen' event. A tidy up along Old Spot Lane will commence at 10.00 am on Saturday 5 March. No equipment will be required from MBC.

Cllr Roberts to enquire with DCA if a maximum of 5 bags of rubbish can be left at the centre for collection by MBC on Monday 7 March.

Cllr Greenhead to order bat boxes in the hope that they can be installed at the same time.

**20 DATES: SPRING CLEAN** – To be assessed after the tidy on 7 March/**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** – 5 April at 7.45 pm/**AGM** – 3 May at 7.45 pm/**OLYMPICNIC** – 16 July commencing at 11.00 am.

**21 DCA: CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT:** It was agreed that DPC will purchase the loft insulation, with certain members installing it in conjunction with the DCA (DCA to provide dates). Is it possible for the top of the stage to be boxed off and insulation installed?

**22 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2016:** Date for nominations has expired.

**23 COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None available.

**24 CORRESPONDENCE:**

Various items circulated by email.

- Oakwood Park Grammar School – Community Volunteering Initiative.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 1 MARCH 2016 AT 8.00 PM** (See item 23).