

**MINUTES OF THE DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2015  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Carmichael; Weeks; Roberts; Butler; Wyld; Clifford; Mrs T. Irving (Clerk); Cllr Newton – MBC (part); 3 members of the public – Mr John Everett/ Ms Diane Thompson (DCA representatives) & Ms Samantha Brooks; PCSO Timon Gurr.

**1 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Clifford for lateness – conflicting engagement; Cllr Cooke (KCC); Rajen Kantaria; Richard Young (received retrospectively).

**2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS** – Not applicable.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations.

**4 POLICE REPORT: 02/12/14 to 02/02/15**

Grampian Way: Burglary dwelling

Pennine Way: Theft from motor vehicle

Cotswold Gardens: Theft from motor vehicle

Rhodewood Close: Theft miscellaneous (theft by finding).

No anti-social behaviour calls.

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

The meeting reconvened.

**6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2014:** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**7 COUNCILLOR VACANCY:** Two members of the public had expressed an interest in the vacancy. Following due consideration by members, Samantha Brooks was co-opted. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed at the meeting – additional paperwork to be completed in due course.

**8 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Not available.

**9 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

Cllr Newton has written to a local paper to express his concerns about the LDF.

He believes protecting the environment and character of the area has not been taken into account.

It was agreed that DPC will arrange for additional copies of MBC's questionnaire to be printed and personally delivered by councillors to residents on their street lighting routes. Help to be offered to complete the questionnaire and residents to be informed that it can be collected on a specific date or, subject to agreement, it can be posted in a box at the Spires Shops. Cllrs Butler and Brooks agreed to produce a post box.

DCA representatives kindly offered for completed copies of the questionnaire to be left at the Community Centre. They are also willing for displays to be on show.

If possible, a newsletter to be produced entirely devoted to the LDF and delivered with the questionnaire. It should contain; a map, bullet points, information where more questionnaires can be obtained (1 per person) and links to websites.

The agreed woodland belt has been increased to 80M to protect the environment from H17.

## 10 URGENT MATTERS:

- Lights that are set in the steps between Ravensdane Close and Deringwood Drive are not working.
- Deposits of dogs mess left on the footpath between Cotswold Gardens and Spot Lane + between Grampian Way and Cotswold Gardens.

**11 CONSIDERATION OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROPOSAL:** It was agreed not to pursue the suggestion, as more detailed views are likely to be available for residents to purchase on line.

## 12 FINANCE

### i) Items for payment

<b>Balance of Current Account</b>	<b>£4,691.94</b>	<b>credit, after all cheques sent</b>
<b>Balance of Investment Account</b>	<b>£10,183.17</b>	<b>credit</b>
<b>To Whom Payable</b>		

A.M. Butler	Expenses – Christmas Ceremony	39.92
Otham with Langley PCC	Donation – Choir	100.00
Aylesford Electrical	Installation of Christmas Lights/New Motif	2379.60
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (Dec)	303.75
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Dec)	850.61
KCC	Clerk's Pension – Employer + Employee Conts (Dec)	197.32
HMRC	PAYE	80.61
Gala Lights	Hire of Triolet Motif	384.00
Thurnham PC	JPG Contribution	70.11
Aylesford Electrical	Removal Of Christmas Lights	690.00
Gala Lights	Hire of Ruban Star Light	102.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Jan)	940.95
KCC	Clerk's Pension – Employer + Employee Conts (Jan)	213.62
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (Jan)	243.00
Lilypie Ltd	Refund of duplicate advertising fee	80.00

**Cheques Received:**

Lilypie Ltd	Newsletter Advert	80.00
Lilypie Ltd	“ “	80.00
NS & I	Interest	75.81

**ii) 2015/16 Precept Review (LCTS Funding):** It view of the funding letter from MBC on 7 January 2015, it was unanimously agreed to reduce the previously agreed precept of £27,000 to £26,500.

**iii) Donations: Kenward Trust:** The request was considered favourably, resulting in a unanimously decision of a £100 donation to be made in accordance with LGA S137.

**v) MBC Funding Agreement:** The agreement was considered and approved.

**vi) SLCC Membership:** It was unanimously agreed to contribute 2/3rds of the total membership cost. It was further agreed that if OPC decide against a contribution, DPC will bear the total cost of membership.

**vii) Other Matters to report: KCC Pension.** Cllr Wyld agreed to review the pension updates, including possible sharing with other PC's, and report at the March meeting.

**13 CLERK'S REPORT:** No additional items to report.

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

- Cllr Roberts attended the Police Forum when traffic in other parts of the County was discussed.
- Clerk attended KCC Pension Workshop on 15 December (slides circulated by email).
- DCA meeting was attended by Cllr Roberts when the committee agreed in principle to pay the running costs (electricity) for a defibrillator.

**15 PLANNING:**

An enquiry has been forwarded to the Borough Council in respect of a business operating from a private address in Pennine Way.

**New Planning Applications**

14/506414/FULL 13 Reinden Grove Downswood Kent ME15 8TH

Removal of rear conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension and additional door to side elevation.

Comments were required to MBC by 08/01/15.

**16 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS (2015 ceremony date):** Clerk to request main hall from 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm on Sunday 29 November.

Further to comments that it would be 'nice to have the bells again'. Cllr Cheesman to investigate.

A decision on how to signal when the lights should be switched on will be discussed further.

**17 UPDATE REGARDING DEFIBRILLATOR:** Cllr Weeks to update in the near future. See also item 14.

**18 FOXDEN DRIVE/MALLARDS WAY PLAY AREAS:** Work in Foxden Drive is expected to commence during the new financial year. Mallards Way. Alternative quotations will be sought as the Wicksteed's racing car springer is thought to be very expensive.

**19 DATES/EVENTS TO BE AGREED:** Subject to availability of the hall etc, the following dates were agreed:

- Spring Clean – Saturday 11 March commencing at 10.30 am, concluding at 11.30 am.
- Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 5 May at 7.30 pm (preceding DPC monthly meeting).
- Annual DPC Meeting – Tuesday 12 May at 7.30 pm.
- Olympic picnic – Saturday 18 July between 11 am to 2 pm
- 15 September 2015 was agreed for the monthly meeting as the hall is not available on 8 September.

**20 COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None received.

**21 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- **Email from Rajen Kantaria** in respect of bins and rubbish disposal at the Spires Shops.
- **Electoral Review of Kent.** Consultation began on 9 December 2014 and ends on 2 March 2015. No comments. Further info available at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk) or [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)
- **Mid-Kent Astronomical Society** – Information circulated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 3 MARCH 2015 AT 8.00 PM**