

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2016 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Butler; Weeks; Carmichael; Eady; Brooks; Mrs T Irving (Clerk). Part attended by: Cllr Pearson; Cllr Cooke (KCC); Cllr Newton (MBC); PCSO Timon Gurr; John Leaf – MPE; Yasmine Gordine (MBC).

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Roberts (work commitment); Richard Young; Rajen Kantaria.

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Greenhead – Item 11.

4 POLICE REPORT: 01/03/16 to 05/04/16

Crimes reported x 1.

Attempted burglary dwelling, Pennine Way x 1

Anti-social behaviour calls.

2 x Calls relating to a group of youths causing a general nuisance in the area of Longham Copse

PCSO Gurr to investigate if the cars for sale in Willington St lay-by are being sold by a business? If so, can action be taken to remove them?

5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

The meeting was reconvened

6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2016:

Following amendment to: Item10 – Finance. W Greenhead Expenses '19.95' changed to '119.95, with Balance of Current Acct subsequently reducing to '£6,097.21' the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Written Report provided – see Appendix 1.

Cllr Cooke advised the meeting that yellow lines have been reinstated on the corner of Chiltern Close.

Despite extensive investigation being carried out the road surface in Mallards Way, no fault can be found. Cllr Cook to obtain a quotation for the PC for an anti-skid surface.

Article to be placed in newsletter stressing that care needs to be taken when driving on that particular stretch of road.

22) CORRESPONDENCE (item moved forward)

Complaints from 2 residents concerning anti-social behaviour at/following a party in **Longham Copse** were addressed as a matter of courtesy. (It was also noted that a noisy party took place in Kings Acre last Saturday).

It was reported that the matter is being dealt with privately (apologies have been given and arrangements will be made to pay for any damage caused).

PCSO Gurr stated that the police did not attend as calls are prioritised and no one was available.

MPE – John Leaf. Problems continue with parking issues for Mallards Open Space. Yasmin Gordine offered to investigate and report back on ownership of strip of land between The Spot and the Mallards Park and whether it could be used for parking?

Concerns have been raised that the **'gravel path' at the Community Centre** is proving to be intrusive for neighbouring properties. Cllr Newton volunteered to address with the DCA when discussing another matter.

8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Newton will be addressing the planning committee on Thursday to voice his objections to the retrospective application for storage of topsoil on land North of Bicknor Wood/Gore Court Road. Survey of Downswood/Otham shows that resident satisfaction has dropped by 6% from last year's figures (50 residents approached from each ward in Maidstone). Problems with fly tipping continue.

9 URGENT MATTERS:

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 3 May 2016. This will be followed by the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** and the customary monthly meeting.

Inconsiderate parking continues to be a problem with particular incidents noted on; Murrain Drive, Gorham Drive, Pennine Way & Reinden Grove. Article to be included on the front page of the next newsletter.

It was noted that the cycle path through to Mote Park is flooded but nothing can be done as it's on a floodplain.

10 FINANCE

i. Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £ 4,332.53 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account £10,259.54 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

To Whom Payable

A.M. Butler	Christmas Expenses (Mulled Wine)	35.92
SLCC	Membership 2016/17 (2/3 Share)	99.32
M. Weeks	Flyer – Surgery Questionnaire	79.00
L. Greenhead	Newsletter Delivery	75.00
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (March)	231.40

T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (March)	844.57
KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions) March	201.67
Commercial Services	Printing Newsletter	197.80

Cheques Received: None

ii) Membership Renewals: Resolved – renew annual subscription to CPRE @ £29.

iii) Audit Arrangements 2017 (SAAA Opt in/Opt out). Resolved: Sector Led Body - External Audits: DPC will opt in to SAAA arrangements.

iv) Clerk's Salary Review. It was clarified that the Clerk's employment with DPC and OPC are totally separate and therefore there is no official reason to liaise on salary. This has been done previously to ensure continuity between the parishes.

v) Other Matters to report: It was requested that DPC/OPC financial arrangements (expenses) are reviewed at May's meeting.

11 PLANNING:

New Applications:

16/502635 - 17 Kings Acre. Two storey side extension with alterations to rear fenestration. (Interest declared by Cllr Greenhead – See Item 3)

DPC view: No objection

Refused.

TPO 16/500570 – 13 Kings Acre application to 1no. Oak tree - Crown lift 4m, thin by 33% and reduce by 4m

Amended Application 16/500201/FULL 10 Frithwood Close

Alterations to proposed first floor side elevation window and provision of first floor front elevation window.

Enforcement Action: 6 Reinden Grove. Shed/summerhouse requires planning permission as it is in excess of 2.50m and positioned next to the boundary fence

12 DAVID NUTTALL MEMORIAL UPDATE: Due to problems sourcing a suitable piece of ragstone, an alternative material - York stone? - may need to be considered. (Approx. dimensions: 3' 6" high, to allow 2' 6" above the ground, and 2' wide).

13 DEFIBRILLATOR: Delivered to DCA chairman to allow installation to be arranged. Cllr Butler to watch DVD/ read Operation Guide and report back to cllrs.

14 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS 2016:

Four new motifs to be purchased from Aylesford Electrical.

Loan of PA system has been confirmed.

15 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:

River Len meeting 10 March attended by Cllr Cheesman and Clerk (minutes circulated). It was noted that Nature Reserve status has been applied for but consent from Natural England has not yet been agreed.

16 PLAY AREAS/MALLARDS OPEN SPACE: Cllr Newton has been advised that new play equipment will be installed at Foxden Drive prior to the summer holidays.

Derek Doyle (LVPAS) will ask the club secretary to get in touch with DPC to provide an update following the meeting last August. As the water quality has been tested as 'good' to 'excellent' there are plans to introduce more fish, with a view to stirring up the water to make it cloudy. This should help reduce fish loss to cormorants.

MVCP attended the site to reattach the duck house to its anchor, but it had already been done by an unknown source. MVCP mentioned that they have free materials available for revetment work. Labour will involve 1 or 2 weeks at a rate of £225 per day.

17 SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE: Questionnaire circulated and 400 completed forms have been returned. Results should be available for the early part of next week. It is understood that Dr Singh has not responded to NHS England or Helen Whately.

18 OLYMPICNIC: Attendance has been confirmed by the Red Cross and Menz Ices. **Resolved:** Four Jays quotation in the sum of £240 inc VAT. Richard Young confirmed that he will be assisting again this year and should be able to borrow equipment for use on the day.
Cllr Greenhead to update poster.

19 GARDEN COMPETITION: It was agreed to continue with the competition again this year. Cllr Cheesman to enquire if her nephew – a horticulturalist– will consider judging again?

20 DCA: CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT/PARKING: Cllr Greenhead to discuss with the DCA the possibility of boarding out the area behind the stage. It was agreed that the DCA should source the insulation, to ensure the correct specification is purchased.

PARKING: DCA has advised that the problem has improved since KCC has reinstated yellow lines on the corner of Chiltern Close

21 COMMITTEE REPORTS: None available.

22 CORRESPONDENCE: Various items circulated by email.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.40 pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 3 MAY AT 8.00 PM (to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45 pm & the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)