

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 JULY 2015 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Roberts; Carmichael; Weeks; Brooks; Pearson; Cllr G. Newton – MBC (part); Cllr Cooke (KCC)(part); Allison Allan - Community Liaison Officer for Maidstone, KCC (part); Mr Richard Young; Mr Derek Doyle - LVPAS (part); Mr Rajen Kantaria (part).

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Anne-Marie Butler; Teresa Irving – Clerk: PCSO Timon Gurr.

2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS – One Item: Allison Allan, Community Liaison Officer to photograph the handing over of clean up equipment donated from Cllr Cooke's budget. This took place during transference between vehicles. (Items for Otham PC were also delivered).

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

4 POLICE REPORT: 03/06/15 to 07/07/15

Assault x 1.

Domestic incident x 2

5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:
None.

The meeting was reconvened

6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2015: The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION: It was requested that all circulate information regarding remaining vacancy.

8 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: (Written Report – see attached Appendix 1)

Verbal report.

- Cllr Cooke confirmed that the road markings at the junctions of Deringwood Drive and minor roads will be repainted.
- Assurances were given that liaison with Arriva and KCC Transport Dept is taking place daily to avoid disruption of the bus service during the planned road works.
- It was reported that during the next 2 years KCC is to show a saving of £80million but that this would be tackled with as little an effect on services as possible.

- There will be a “You Decide” event in October. This will enable residents of Maidstone East to vote on their favourite, shortlisted local project. The winner will receive the dedicated prize fund of £7,500. Cllr Cooke will be organising flyers for the event to be held in Downswood. Anyone over the age of 11 is eligible to vote.
- A public meeting will be announced re: the Local Plan, on 22/09/15 at the Mercure Hotel (Great Danes), 6.30 for 7.00 pm, to apply pressure on MPPF to reduce housing numbers.

Mr Richard Young queried access to Deringwood Drive during the road works. Cllrs Cheesman & Weeks had also read information that there would be no access. Cllr Cooke was sure this was not true, but undertook to check.

9 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR’S REPORT - Cllr Newton

- Requested that DPC confer and decide on a plan to present to MP Helen Whately (copied to Jeremy Hunt) re the closing of the Downswood Surgery.
- Reported that Foxden Drive Play Area should be agreed by 01/09/15. Cllr. Cheesman informed the meeting that a quote had been received for leylandii pruning of £320.00.

10 LEN VALLEY PRESERVATION & ANGLING SOCIETY

Cllr Cheesman welcomed Mr Derek Doyle, Liaison Officer LVPAS to the meeting. He gave an update of the current status of the Society now there is a new committee. Cllr Cheesman queried coppicing on the island and if contract between LVPAS and MBC for maintenance of Mallards Lake and surrounds had been ratified? Cllr Greenhead raised the issue of the exposed mesh on banks and queried whether there could be a volunteer based collaboration between DPC and LVPAS to provide labour if Tony Morris (MBC) could provide materials? Mr Doyle proposed asking the men at the Fusion Centre (Parkwood) if they would be willing to participate. Cllr Cheesman raised the issue of the silt build-up in the lake which needs addressing. Derek Doyle highlighted an eco-friendly company - Aquatic Solutions - and will provide further information with regards to Nicospan fencing. Cllr Roberts queried rules on fishing the River Len. Mr Doyle confirmed that if members of the public have a Rod Licence they can fish it, if not they may incur a £1000 fine. It was also confirmed that LVPAS operate a no ‘Closed Season’ policy. Cllr Greenhead advised Mr Doyle that the 2 noticeboards at The Mallards belong to LVPAS. Cllr Weeks suggested a joint Open Spaces/LVPAS meeting which was agreed and scheduled for 4/8/15, 7.30 pm meet Orchard Spot car park.

11 URGENT MATTERS:

- Repair to damaged fence (2 sections) on Mallards Way remains outstanding
- It was decided to investigate viability of having NL produced externally, perhaps by printing company.

12 FINANCE

i) Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £25,956.46 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account £10,183.17 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

To Whom Payable

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------|
| Heart of Kent Hospice | Donation | 250.00 |
| Bearsted PC | Donation | 125.00 |
| Four Jays | Toilet/Fire Extinguisher Hire (Olympicnic) | 240.00 |
| Zurich Insurance | Annual Insurance Premium | 237.02 |
| Paul Waring | Roundabout Maintenance | 126.00 |
| KALC | Clerks Conference (2/3 cost) | 48.00 |
| T. Irving | Clerk's Salary & Expenses (June - inc new computer) | 1407.10 |
| KCC | Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions) | 201.67 |
| MNRC | PAYE | 86.67 |
| J. Noyce | Litter Picker's Wages (June) | 303.75 |
| L. Greenhead | Olympicnic Flyer Delivery | 75.00 |

Cheques Received:

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------|---------|
| MBC | PSS 1 st Instalment | 314.50 |
| HMRC | VAT Refund | 4557.68 |

ii) Donation Requests:

Victim Support –Due to the present economic climate, it was unanimously agreed to decline the request.

Kenward Trust – to be readdressed in September.

iii) Other Matters to report: Cllr. Roberts to purchase medals for Olympicnic; cheque for £234.00 to be raised.

13 PLANNING:New Applications.

15/504856/FULL 23 Monkdown Downswood Kent ME15 8SP
Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
Decision: No comment.

14 TREE PLANTING: Oak saplings would be transferred to DPC's land.

Cllr. Weeks reported cost for a reasonable sized Ash (memorial to David Nuttall) from the Potted Garden - £125 including visit to site by member of staff. (MBC has agreed location at Mallards for a small plaque.)

15 OLYMPICNIC: All equipment was deemed ready. Cllr. Weeks suggested an announcement on the day to make families aware that there is going to be a maximum of 2 medals per person. All agreed. Cllr. Roberts to liaise with John Everett re sacks and ropes. Set up time: 9.00 am.

16 DEFIBRILLATOR PROPOSALS: Cllr. Greenhead gave report on meeting with Clerk, DCA Secretary and 'First Rescue' (defibrillator supplier) Mr Craig Ward. Subsequent correspondence from DCA, plus First Rescue information sheets, which included training, had been circulated to Cllrs. First Rescue and DPC recommended siting equipment opposite side of entrance to notice board. Cllr. Roberts reported DCA User Groups satisfied with proposed installation. Costs for installation £545 + £30 + electrician fee and purchase of children's pads (£30), were agreed. There is

likely to be an additional cost (key pad) as it was agreed to purchase a lockable cabinet.

Cllr Greenhead to make enquiries regarding training session & battery following usage.

17 GARDEN COMPETITION: Cllr Cheesman escorted Rumwood Garden Centre representatives during initial stage of judging. They will present prizes at the Christmas event. Accepted was their kind offer to break with protocol, in that in addition to winners' prizes supplied by DPC to (14 Mallard Way) – 1st; (36 Murrain Dr) – 2nd; and (32 Grampian Way) – 3rd, Rumwood's will supply £10 vouchers for 3 "Highly Commended" – 14 Monkdown, 20 Church Rd and 19 Reinden Grv. With permission of winners, photos of gardens will be published on both DPC and Rumwood's websites. Action: Cllr. Cheesman/Clerk.

18 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED: KALC Attended by Cllr Cheesman. Minutes had been circulated. Due to MBC's technical difficulties, it was advised Parish Councils request a 'read receipt' for emails to MBC.

19 DCA FETE: DCA Fete was a successful event. Money taken at DPC stalls was passed to DCA. The winner of best dressed stall was queried as information was not found on DCA's website.

20 SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE CLOSURE?: Cllr Newton & Cllr Cheesman had attended a meeting with local resident Mrs Burrett, GP Dr Singh and Mr Broadwick of Patient Participation Group. Despite lengthy discussion it seems Spires Medical Centre, owned by Dr Singh, is to close, although DPC has yet to receive official notification. Destination of \$106 money set aside for Downswood Surgery to be investigated, as well as GP practices in Maidstone town (attainable via bus) willing to register patients from Downswood. Additional action: to write to MP (copying to Jeremy Hunt).

Essential small pharmacy status of Spires Pharmacy has been extended temporarily. Rajen Kantaria to attend a further meeting. Date to be confirmed.

21 SSSI: Further communication is awaited from Natural England before any remedial work can be sanctioned.

22 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Open Spaces: Cllr. Greenhead reported that the Jubilee Stone area needs to be managed. Cllr. Newton advised that any proposed management by DPC must be passed by Jason Taylor, Parks and Open Spaces Manager; included in the Nature Reserve, this should have minimal intervention. An OS working party had successfully cleared Foxden bank of nettles etc to enable the whips planted earlier, a greater chance of survival.

23 CORRESPONDENCE: Letter of thanks from Heart of Kent Hospice for donation of £250.00 was read.

KCC Parish Update regarding 'Shop Safe. Stay Safe' scheme; Kent Learning Disability Award Scheme and Free Guided Bike Rides had been circulated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 15 SEPTEMBER AT 8.00 PM