

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Roberts; Carmichael; Butler; Brooks; Pearson; Cllr G. Newton – MBC (part); Cllr Cooke – KCC (part); PCSO Timon Gurr (part); Richard Young; Rajen Kantaria (part); Paul Eady; 5 Members of the Public.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Weeks (Personal Commitment); Cllr Newton for lateness (attending conflicting MBC meeting).

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

4 POLICE REPORT: 01/08/15 to 15/09/15
Theft from Motor Vehicle, Gorham Drive x 1.
No anti-social behaviour calls.

An incident that took place at Mallards Open Space has been identified as 'mistaken identity'.

PCSO Gurr mentioned that most of the youths that gather in the car park to the rear of the shops are 'normally very keen not to cause any trouble' & tend to use the area as a meeting place.

5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:
Grave concerns were raised regarding the recent closure of the Spires Medical Centre.
The subject of dog/horse fouling was also discussed,

The meeting was reconvened

6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2015:
Following amendment to Item 9 'Foxden Drive Play Area should be *agreed* by 01/0915' the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION: Mr Eady had expressed an interest in the vacancy and subsequently agreed to attend this evening's meeting. Following a brief session held in camera, Mr Eady was co-opted. Declaration of Acceptance of Office completed - remaining paperwork to follow.

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

Verbal report.

- Extremely pleased that it proved possible to keep the bus service going. The Willington Street works were completed early and the entrance to Deringwood Drive has been greatly improved. Some road marking have been reinstated; others will follow.
 - Reminder that 'You Decide' will be held on 3 October.
 - KCC is facing serious financial challenges and will, again, have to make huge savings over the next 4 years. Statutory duties will continue and it's still hoped that not too many front line services will be cut.
- Response to the question 'Will there will be library closures'? It is hoped not and there are plans to broaden the mobile service.

Item 21 from the agenda was brought forward as requested.

21 SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE CLOSURE: Cllr Cheesman apologised that she had not had a chance to write to the MP.

It was agreed that 'one of the most annoying things' is that DPC/residents were not informed of the closure. The Patient Participation Group were due to contact DPC, but had not done so. Appointments were not available at the surgery for a long time prior to closure. (Appointments were offered for Shepway or Grove Green Surgeries only). The KM mistakenly reported that appointments could not be made as things were going so well.

It is understood that the Downswood surgery is now being used for storage as it's deemed to be 'no longer suitable as a surgery'.

Concerns were reiterated; difficulty in changing to a new surgery if you do not live in the area, lack of public transport, hilly terrain, etc.

Cllr Cooke offered to speak to Helen Whately MP with a view to arranging a public meeting.

9 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Cllr Newton:

- The Parish Charter – as produced by John Perry & Sarah Robson – was approved tonight.
- Rumours about Regulation 18 being shielded in the North Loose Consultation are 'nonsense'.

10 SPEED SURVEY UPDATE: Information to be recirculated as the data was not received by all cllrs.

The results appear to strengthen the need for a Leeds/Langley relief road.

Following further reports of accidents in Mallards Way, Cllr Cooke agreed to inspect the road surface with the District Manager. It's possible that an anti-skid surface may be required?

11 URGENT MATTERS:

- Branch from an Ash tree is touching the bin at the Jubilee triangle.
- Bollard missing & needs replacing at Deringwood Drive/Willington St junction.
- Facebook ref to be made about horse manure being left behind on pavements.

12 FINANCE

i) Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £22,776.08 credit, after all cheques sent

Balance of Investment Account £10,183.17 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

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To Whom Payable

Aford Awards	Medals – Olympicnic	234.00
Simon Roberts	Wine x 3 Olympicnic	17.97
Earth Anchors	Replacment Slats for Picnic Tables	80.27
Martin Weeks	Reimburse Expenses: Printing Flyer	26.59
Spires Minimarket	Supplies for 2014 Christmas Ceremony	32.95
British Red Cross	Olympicnic	112.20
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (July)	848.10
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (July)	243.00
KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions) July	201.67
Zurich Municipal	Insurance (Replacement for Chq 2017 – lost in post)	237.02
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (Aug)	303.75
KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions) Aug	201.67
T. Irving	Clerk's Wages/Expenses (Aug)	869.83
KCC	Traffic Survey	528.34
Paul Waring	Roundabout Maintenance	96.84

Cheques Received:

Negative Cheque	Chq 1981(Gala Lights) replaced 1896 (2014/15)	616.80
Negative Cheque	Chq 2017 Stopped (lost in post)	237.02

ii) **Conclusion of Annual Return 2014/15:** A copy of the return was circulated to cllrs on receipt. Comment regarding the precept was noted.

iii) **Other Matters to report:** As agreed at July's meeting, the donation request from Kenward Trust was considered but declined as a donation was made in Feb 2015.

13 PLANNING:

- Joint DPC/OPC meeting with DHA to be arranged for 7.30 pm on 3 Nov (preceding DPC's meeting).
- CAARA request for update to be responded to by OPC.

14 TREE PLANTING UPDATE: OSC to undertake work prior to October's meeting.

15 OLYMPICNIC 2016: Date agreed as 16 July. Whilst as many local clubs as possible will be encouraged to have a stand, the ethos of a community day to be enjoyed without having to spend money will be continued.

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16 DEFIBRILLATOR PROPOSALS: Cllr Cheesman to check suitability of previously agreed requirements at defibrillator meeting in Staplehurst. DCA to be requested to confirm agreement to the proposal in writing.

It was unanimously agreed that DPC will pay for installation by an electrician and all running costs.

17 REMEMBRANCE DAY/WREATH DONATION: Cllr Brooks volunteered to collect and present the wreath at both the Church and the War Memorial on 8 Nov.

A donation of £45 for the wreath was unanimously agreed.

David Marchant has advised that this will be his last year organising the appeal. A volunteer is being sought to take over the role.

18 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS CEREMONY: 200 LED bulbs @ £2.90 each to be ordered and allocated for DPC's use. Suggestions from Aylesford Electrical to be invited for 'something special' in respect of Mr Young's offer to finance additional motif(s) for Church Road. It was agreed that DPC will finance the infrastructure.

19 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED: Cllr Cheesman and the Clerk attended the DCA AGM of 8 Sept. Main topics for discussion included; funding for decorating the entire centre and a review of hire fees (substantial increase likely, due to no increments since 2009). Provision of Wi-Fi to be considered (possibility of cost to be passed to those who wish to use it).

DPC's suggestion of the centre becoming carbon neutral was briefly discussed and will be fully considered at DCA 13 October meeting.

20 FOXDEN DRIVE/MALLARDS WAY PLAY AREAS: Details of the equipment to be provided by MBC has not been received, but installation will take place during 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively.

Resident of Longham Copse has requested 2ft to be cut from the top of the hedge adjacent to the play area. Request has been passed to the contractor as this will likely increase the original quotation. Details of additional contractor - as used by Cllr Roberts - to be passed to the Clerk for an alternative quote.

21 (see page 2)

22 SSSI: Officer from Natural England has agreed to attend a site meeting. Guidance on work that can be undertaken and suggestions for funding etc to be discussed. GeoConservation Group is much depleted - geology appears to have fallen out of favour – and it appears unlikely that the group will be able to help.

23 NEWSLETTER: Setting artwork & printing quotations were considered from KCS Printworks and Just 4 Design & Print. Some clarification required but - based on the proposals received - it was agreed that Just 4 Design & Print will be used to produce future copies of the NL in colour on 120 gsm paper. Cllr Carmichael to supply photo & information for 'Meet the Cllr' article in the next edition

24 DCA: CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT? (See also Item 19): Investigations to proceed, subject to approval by DCA on 13 Oct. If agreed, Cllrs Greenhead & Roberts to set up a working group with DCA reps.

25 COMMITTEE REPORTS: None received.

26 CORRESPONDENCE: KCC Parish & Town Seminar – 9 November 2015

- KALC Motion
- Letter Mr Dallas re Garden Competition
- KCC – Resurfacing Kent's Roads leaflets.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.00 pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 6 OCTOBER AT 8.00 PM