

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 4 JULY 2017 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Weeks; Pearson; Fairhurst; Butler; Cllr Gordon Newton (MBC); John Everett (DCA); 2 Members of the Public.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Carmichael (tendered resignation); Cllr Brookes & Cllr Fincham (received retrospectively – work commitment); Cllr Cooke (KCC), Teresa Irving (Clerk).

The apologies and the reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

4 ADJOURNMENTS FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were no questions.

The meeting was reconvened.

5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING 6 JUNE 2017: The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6 POLICE REPORT:

Crime for the period 01/06/17 to 28/06/17:

Theft from motor vehicle. Car parts stolen from a Peugeot van. 25/06/2017 to 26/06/2017. Grampian Way

Attempted Burglary – Damage to garage door 25/06/2017.

Horton Downs

Cllr Cheesman noted that she and the Chairman of Otham Parish Council have been trying to arrange an appointment with the supervisor of the PCSO for Otham and Downswood. Cllr Newton suggested she contact Mick Gardner as that person's supervisor. Cllr Cheesman is wanting to make a face to face meeting to express concerns that the new area covers Downswood, Otham and Parkwood and that resources will be focused on Parkwood. Cllr Newton said that the police have been focused on trying to apprehend a group of youths who have been setting fires in the area.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None received.

8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

- Cllr Newton has called in the decision with regard to land north of Bicknor Wood. Has requested that access to Gore Court Road is closed to prevent "rat running". Cllr Cheesman said that Kent Highways have already raised objections.

- Cllr Cheesman pointed out that when plans for land on Church Road were first mooted, access was going to be via Woolley Road, but that this seems to have been scrapped and now access is via Church Road.
- Cllr Cooke has pointed out that Kent Highways have been doing traffic surveys on Willington Street. Cllr Newton pointed out that surveys carried out regarding land north of Bicknor Wood were shown to be inaccurate.
- Cllr Cheesman asked if Cllr Newton is aware how Otham came to be designated as an urban area. Cllr Newton said that he would submit a FOI request as he has received no response to that question.
- Cllr Newton is now elected Chair of the Democracy Committee at MBC. This committee is particularly focused on decisions made around the land at Woodcut Farm.
- Cllr Newton is concerned about the situation with refuse at the back of Babo's restaurant. Prior to the meeting he took Councillors around to show vats of fat and various other detritus.

9 MEDICAL CENTRE / PHARMACY: Neither Cllr Cooke nor Helen Whately MP could attend meeting with Atul Kantaria at the pharmacy. Meeting was attended by Cllrs Cheesman, Fairhurst and Weeks.

Following a report of the meeting, it was observed that that the suggestions made by councillors regarding potential income generation in the future, have not been taken on board.

It was therefore suggested that the Clerk should write to Atul advising that it is with regret that the council are unable to support the pharmacy's application for funding, unless he is prepared to invest himself.

If confirmation is received in the affirmative, the council will be pleased to attend a further meeting.

10 ARRIVA/BUS SURVEY: Cllr Weeks said that the Parish Clerk had agreed to look at the survey once complete, but that due to holiday commitments this would not be for a few weeks.

11 URGENT MATTERS:

- Cllr Weeks has put some equipment away into the new Parish Council shed. Said it is already becoming cluttered and requested Parish Council fund shelving units. Estimated a cost at around £60. Cllr Fairhurst proposed and Cllr Greenhead seconded. Motion passed.
- Cllr Butler said that she had noticed cars parked around Downswood that had been left for some time with a silver sheet covering the back seat. Wondered if this was worth investigating. Cllr Newton said it would be advisable in the first instance to confirm that the cars are taxed and insured.
- Cllr Fairhurst observed that after raising the matter at the last meeting the situation with the Orchard Spot having late night fireworks had apparently been resolved. We have received an email that only three more firework parties have been

booked for the future and from that point on they would take no more bookings. Cllr Newton said the Orchard Spot had been served with an enforcement notice from MBC.

- Cllr Cheesman said that she had noticed gaps in the hedging along Deringwood Drive. Wondered if Open Spaces could make a plan to fill in such gaps. Cllr Greenhead said that we have some saplings available.

- Cllr Greenhead raised the issue of somebody scattering a bag of children's clothes along the path alongside Murrain Drive.

- Cllr Newton raised the issue of fly tipping. He has observed green waste discarded on old Spot Lane. He has spoken to MBC and they will be more proactive in the future with enforcement notices. Grass cuttings have been discarded on Old Spot Lane, which he believed to have been from one of the properties on Bournemouth Drive.

- **Christmas lights.** Cllr Cheesman said the new hedging will have an impact on the Christmas Lights Ceremony.

In view of the suggestion to decorate the pagoda, Cllr Cheesman suggested prices be sought at Peeks of Bournemouth. Measurements were taken and an assessment of 6' by 12' considered suitable. Proposed as an agenda item for Sept meeting.

12 MAP/DISPLAY BOARD: No funding appears to be forthcoming from KCC so it would appear to be an issue for the Parish Council to fund. Cllr Greenhead will research options and costings.

13 FINANCE:

i. Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £21,038.95 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account £10,321.18 credit

Cheques sent:

To whom payable	Details	Amount
Zurich Municipal	Insurance Renewal	£260.20
Involve	Donation	£200.00
M. Weeks	Expenses (Olympic Poster/Bark/Shed/Padlock/Box)	£134.95
Peeks of Bournemouth	Novelties for Fete	£22.19
MBC	Mallards reinstatement	£100.00
KCC Re. Kent Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension (Employer & Employee's Costs June)	£270.35
The Stone Shop	Memorial to David Nuttall	£180.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary / Expenses (June)	£886.61
HMRC	PAYE	£216.03
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (June)	£270.00
Aford Awards	Medals – Olympic picnic	£324.00

Cheques Received

From whom received	Details	Amount
DCA	Reimbursement for purchase of shed	£1,251.67
DCA	Litter picking contribution	£137.50

ii) **Other matters to report:** None in the absence of the Clerk.

14 MALLARDS WAY OPEN SPACE – PROPOSED REVETMENT WORK

Cllr Weeks attended a meeting with the Clerk, Alan Frith (MBC) and Derek Whitehead from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership. Agreed with approximately £330 contribution from the Parish Council to carry out work with gabions to match those existing. Four signs will be provided to advise visitors not to feed the wild fowl with bread. These will not be arriving until September. Cllr Weeks proposed £400 for these works. Seconded by Cllr Butler and passed.

15 PLANNING:

Cllr Greenhead has decided to step down as Chair of the Planning Committee in favour of Cllr Fairhurst. Cllr Fairhurst is happy with that arrangement.

New Applications

17/505049 - 13 Bournewood Close

Erection of a two storey side extension.

No comment

17/503221 – 43 Pennine Way

Demolition of garage and construction of 2 storey extension.

No comment

16 GARDEN COMPETITION:

All roads submitted except for Rhodewood and King's Acre. Cllr Greenhead suggested one property on King's Acre for judges to look at.

Cllr Greenhead has suggested an informal "prettiest road" competition next year. Concerns were raised as to whether this would unfairly prejudice less affluent roads or smaller roads. Decided to be something to consider at a later date.

Usual prizes were proposed of vouchers at £50, £25 and £15. Proposed by Cllr Butler and seconded by Cllr Greenhead.

17 OLYMPICNIC / DAVID NUTTALL MEMORIAL UPDATE:

Cllr Cheesman passed on the thanks of the Parish Council to Cllr Newton for his assistance with the memorial stone. Cllrs Newton and Greenhead will arrange to install the stone shortly before the unveiling.

Cllr Cheesman has sent details of the memorial unveiling to the church for inclusion in the newsletter and the parish notices.

Reverend Steve Hughes will say a few words at the unveiling. Cllr Cheesman asked if Cllr Newton would be available to attend.

Re. the Olympicnic Cllr Cheesman asked if Cllr Greenhead has been in contact with John Leaf to confirm his availability to paint in the white lines and to provide the barbecue. Ice cream vendor has also confirmed attendance.

Cllr Weeks said Alan Frith has confirmed the grass will be cut on the Thursday before.

Toilet delivery has been confirmed. They will be collected on the afternoon of 15 July.

Red Cross have confirmed their attendance. Cllr Cheesman asked for and received confirmation that there are three gazebos.

Cllr Cheesman said that at least three men would be required to collect the tug of war rope from the barn. Cllr Greenhead and Edward Cheesman will organise.

Cllr Weeks confirmed he will bring the gazebos and tables. Assistants to meet at 9am for setting up.

Cllr Greenhead asked if details of the Olympic picnic are on the website. Cllr Weeks asked if there is anything on the noticeboard. John Everett will give flyers to Linden Lea and Willow Rise.

Cllrs in attendance will be Cheesman, Greenhead, Weeks, Butler and former Cllr Carmichael. Richard Young will also assist on the day and loan sports equipment. Charles Tanswell will MC the event. Cllr Greenhead will post on the Facebook page to ask for volunteers.

John Everett asked if the Parish Council required loan of racing sacks for the Olympic picnic.

18 DCA Update:

Still having difficulty obtaining a full quotation for conversion of the roof space at the community centre.

Community centre concerned at the current proposal that the childcare providers at the community centre may be closing over the next month.

19 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:

All reported under previous subject headings.

20 COMMITTEE REPORTS: none

21 CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Cllr Carmichael tendering resignation due to relocation out of the parish.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 5 September at 8.00 pm

THESE MINUTES PREPARED BY COUNCILLOR PEARSON IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CLERK.