

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllrs Weeks (Chairman); Greenhead; Cheesman; Alden-Morris; Rajaratnam; Fairhurst; Newton – part (DPC & MBC); Fincham; Mrs Irving – Clerk; Cllr Cooke (KCC); Mr Everett & Ms Thompson – DCA; 1 resident.

ACTION

APOLOGIES: Cllr Butler – family commitment & PCSO Turner.
Cllr Newton for lateness (attending a conflicting MBC meeting);
The apologies and reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

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

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received.

**3 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC:** There were no questions.

The meeting reconvened.

4 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING 4 DECEMBER 2018:
The minutes were signed by Cllr Weeks as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

5 CRIME REPORT: PCSO Turner contacted the Clerk stating that she has ‘...constantly been monitoring Foxden Drive Play Area and has not seen any youths...’ (See also Item 20.)

The following information was obtained from e-watch
Rhodewood Close. Burglary on 3 January around 6.09pm.
A residential property was broken into. Jewellery, computers and cash were stolen.

6 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT: Budget savings continue with some being generated by additional income i.e. The Young Persons Travel Card will increase from £290 to £350 annually.

Road and pot hole blitz continues.

The grant application forms for Speed Watch and a Traffic Survey have been signed off and are just waiting for an offer letter to be sent.

A meeting has been arranged with representatives from DPC/OPC and KCC Highway Officers for Monday 11 February at County Hall.

‘You Decide’ funding event will be held on Saturday 23 February between 9.30 am and 1 pm at the Downswood Community Centre.

ACTION

7 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Newton informed the Clerk that he is attending a Strategic Planning meeting this evening which will be discussing the action plan for 2019 to 2045.

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Christmas Ceremony. It was confirmed that the hall has been booked for Saturday, 7 December 2019 between 15.00 hrs and 17.30.

9 CCTV UPDATE: A meeting with NT Security which has resolved the remote access problem.

CCTV footage was viewed by PCSO Turner in relation to the Rhodewood Close burglary but it could not help on this occasion.

The CCTV was used to identify the person that had dumped a quantity of items at the bus stop.

10 CONSIDER COMMISSION OF AIR QUALITY SURVEY:

Following Cllr Fairhurst's investigations, it was agreed that there will be very little point in commissioning this survey as it would cost between £3,000 to £5,000 and would not show a measurable difference for a new development. Therefore it was **RESOLVED** that this will not be pursued.

11 PROGRESSION OF KCC TRAFFIC SURVEY:

As soon as the funding is officially approved, a survey will be commissioned and a sub-committee will be organised.

MW/TI**12 FINANCE:**

i. Items for payment.

Balance of Current Account £6,800.01 credit, after all cheques sent

Balance of Investment Account £10,445.02 credit

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------|
| Earth Anchors | Slats for Picnic Tables | 236.82 |
| Age UK Bexley | Bat/Owl Boxes etc | 499.78 |
| KCC Re Kent Pension Fund | Employer/Employee Pension –December | 275.75 |
| T Irving | Clerk's Salary/Expenses December | 930.31 |
| J Noyce | Litter Picking December | 281.88 |
| HMRC | PAYE | 187.90 |
| DCA | Hall Hire | 354.40 |
| Aylesford Electrical | Removal of Festive Lighting | 778.50 |
| KCC | Load Testing of Columns for Festive Lighting | 1,848.00 |
| M. Weeks | Expenses (Padlock x 2) | 34.80 |

Approval of the above payments was **RESOLVED**

Cheques received:

| | | |
|---------|----------|-------|
| N S & I | Interest | 75.20 |
|---------|----------|-------|

ACTION

ii) Donation Request: Otham with Langley PCC.

Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £200 in Accordance with S137. Clerk to convey the council's decision that the grant is specifically for use at Otham Church. **RESOLVED.**

TI

The CAB donation request will be considered at March's meeting.

iii Purchase of additional defibrillator pads. Due to concerns that pads need to be available at all times, it was unanimously agreed to order 2 pads – 1 adult, 1 paediatric - as spares. **RESOLVED**

TI

Iv Other Matters to report: The S137 Expenditure limit for 2019/20 has been confirmed as £8.12

13 STANDING ORDERS: Work is nearly complete on adapting the Model Standing Orders for DPC. Several variants for the non-legally binding options were discussed and agreed. A draft document will be circulated to all members for comment as soon as it is complete.

TI

Discussion of the above highlighted the need for a Press/Media Policy.

ALL

14 PLANNING:

i Report re Planning Applications:

18/506436 TPO – 9 Kings Acre.

Reduce T1 Ash by 6m to a height of 14m and width to 4m. Oak reduce by 7m to a height of 16m and width 3.5m. T3 Oak reduce by 7m to a height of 16m and a width of 6m. All trees are situated on a steep bank over the house.

Cllr Newton confirmed to the meeting that he is aware of the trees and is satisfied that the requested work is necessary.

15/506452 – 15 Reinden Grove

Erection of single storey front and side extension.

Insufficient comments received to enable a response to the application.

Meetings to discuss MBC's Local Plan Review will be held on 13 March in Lenham (to be attended by Cllrs Weeks, Fairhurst, Greenhead & Alden-Morris) and 21 March in Yalding (to be attended by Cllr Newton).

**MW/AF/
WG/KA-M
GN**

As the Local Plan has been approved by the Government Inspector, it is very highly unlikely that the Church Road development can be stopped. However, **the council will continue to strongly voice their objections to the proposal.**

The Chairmen of DPC/OPC, Cllr Newton and the Clerk met with DHA and Bellway to discuss the Church Road development.

Whilst MBC stipulated that there should be no access onto Wooley Road, emergency access only could be a possibility if a removable bollard was installed.

ACTION

Bellway has agreed to reduce the development by 14 and will be providing a car park for the Church.

The installation of chicanes and widening the Church Road/Deringwood Drive junction are also being investigated.

15 MALLARDS WAY: Covered Shelter Proposal. Deferred to March meeting.

MW

It was noted that MBC has purchased a handrail for the slide and it is awaiting installation.

16 NEWSLETTER: To be finalised when more information is available for Speedwatch/traffic survey/Church Rd planning application

MW

17 DATES FOR APM – 7 May (to tie in with the elections on 2 May. Apologies received from Cllr Cheesman) **& AGM – 4 June.**

18 OLYMPICNIC: A date of 20 July was agreed. It was agreed that hot food will not be provided and people will again be encouraged to bring picnics.

Cllr Weeks to request the usual assistance from Charles and MPE.

MW

Clerk to liaise with MBC and arrange first aid cover, Memz Ices and toilets hire.

TI

Offer of help from Mr Young was gratefully accepted.

Councillors are requested to keep the date free to ensure there is plenty of help available on the day.

19 SPRING CLEAN: It was suggested that an attempt to clear items from the River Len would be a worthwhile project, as there are no real litter 'hot spots' in Downswood.

A date of Saturday 23 March was agreed. Unfortunately the event will not be suitable for children to attend.

Waders to be sourced.

20 FOXDEN DRIVE PLAY AREA: Concerns were discussed regarding the recent unsubstantiated allegation made on Facebook, which was subsequently printed in the press.

Separate inspections carried out by PCSO Turner and Cllr Newton both found nothing of concern in the play area.

Clerk to contact the newspaper pointing out that the article was incorrect and asking that in future they should contact the Clerk or Chairman of DPC for

comment.

21 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME: Item held in camera at the request of the Chairman.

The nominations were previously considered, resulting in two candidates being put forward to receive the award. In addition to the certificate, it was agreed that a plaque will also be presented.

22 RECEIVE DCA UPDATES: An alternative group is being sought to replace the After School Club, which closed in December.

Cllr Newton was thanked for all his help with the loft storage project, which it is hoped will start in the next few weeks.

A replacement boiler has been installed.

A bid of £1,500 will be made at Cllr Cooke's 'You Decide' event on 23 Feb.

Future events: Quiz night – 16 March, Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Sunday, and the annual Fete will be held on 1 June. Help is requested for ALL of these events.

23 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED: See Item 14.

24 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Replacement slats for the picnic tables are in storage and it is hoped that they will be fitted on 23 March (Spring Clean).

25 CORRESPONDENCE: Various correspondence circulated by email.

It is hoped that Cllr Butler will be able to attend the KALC Area Committee meeting as Cllr Cheesman has a prior commitment. Cllr Butler to be requested to raise the Chairman's concerns regarding the timing of training events and why no response has been received to his original enquiry.

TI/AMB

22 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA & OTHER BUSINESS:

(For reference only - no decisions made.)

- **CAB** – Donation request.
- **DCA** - Fete

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.55 pm.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING (5 March 2019):
Please contact the Clerk if you have items that you would like to be considered for the agenda.