

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2020 AT 8.00 PM**

Cllrs Weeks (Chairman); Fairhurst; Cheesman (part with limited connection) Butler; Brooks; Mrs Irving – Clerk.

- 1 **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Rajalingam & Fincham (Computer/Internet issues).
- 2 **NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO RECORD ANY ITEMS.** The Clerk.
- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS:** None received.
- 4 **ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Not necessary as none were present.
- 5 **APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING 3 NOVEMBER 2020:**
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and will be signed by Councillor Weeks at his earliest convenience. **MW**

- 6 **CRIME REPORT:** PCSO Kirsty Greaves has advised that; ‘...the Kent Police website has been updated and as such there is now an easier way of you gaining details of crimes that have been occurring within the parishes.
<https://e-watch.co/viewArea.php?Area=1>
This will allow PCSOs more time to be out on area for longer.’

‘I will still be doing positive work within the areas and can let you know if there is anything of note surrounding operations planned, whether there is any ASB that I am tackling or any crime series that I am aware of and results etc as and when so that maintain the same level of partnership working. Please continue to feed information to me and I will do the same for you.’

1 crime to report:

On Saturday 7th of November between 8:42am and 10:42am in Deringwood Drive. Somebody stole both number plates from an Audi A1 parked in the road

- 7 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** See Appendix 1
- 8 **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** Not available.
- 9 **FESTIVE LIGHTING/CAROLS - 5 DECEMBER 2020:** Due to current tier 3 Covid restrictions, it was agreed that the plans for carol singing will not go ahead. As a gesture of goodwill and support, it was agreed that the previously resolved donation for the choir will be honoured.

Reverend Pavey has agreed to judge the Christmas Lighting competition. The closing date for entries will be Thursday, 17 Dec. Judging will be carried out on 18 Dec, with Amazon vouchers awarded to the 2 winning residents on 19 Dec.

Aylesford Electrical to be informed that whilst a time for the switch-on is no

longer important, a suggested time is 4.30 pm.

TI

Not all columns will be able to hold motives this year - KCC Highways had advised that some columns had failed load testing. However, after investigation it has been established that newly installed columns had not actually ever been tested. As no load test had been completed they could still not be used but would be included in scheduled load testing next year.

- 10 REPORT FROM DCA REPRESENTATIVE:** Due to Government COVID restrictions we are only allowed to hire out to childrens groups & Under 18 sports activities which at the present time are; Willow Rise Pre-School, Tippee & Twinkletoes After School Club,

Kent Karate & Kidz Kung Fu (who have chosen not to return).

We have applied to MBC for another hospitality grant - fingers crossed.

Minor repairs & renewals are taking place, other than that nothing.

Thanks to Martin (PC Chairman) who helped put the lights on the tree outside the main entrance.

- 11 WILDFLOWER PLANTING:** It was agreed that it is too late to start planting this year. The soil will need to be dug over, rotavated and prepared. This will commence in September 2021, with the planting taking place in 2022.

Open Spaces hope to meet in Jan/Feb '21 to establish areas for planting and determine which wildflowers/bulbs will be used.

Clerk to apply for £2,000 from the Cllr Cooke's Member's Funding. This will be used for landscaping and visual enhancement of the area and will include a bench.

TI

Cllr Weeks stated that he has agreed for DPC to sponsor the Downswood Fairies in the sum of £16 towards bulbs for the parish.

Open Spaces to meet w/c 7 Dec to agree the committee's budget proposals.

OSC

12 FINANCE:

12i Items for Payment:

Balance of Current Account: £24,575.03 credit, after all cheques sent

Balance of Investment Account: £10,528.58 credit

Cheques sent:

K. Alden-Morris	Pumpkin Trail Expenses	36.99
M. Weeks	Expenses	61.73
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Salary - Nov	332.16
Mrs T Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses - November	961.19

KCC Re. Kent Pension Fund	Employer/Employee Pension Contribution - Nov	349.25
Aylesford Electrical	Installation of Festive Lighting/Permit	2,602.92
Paul Waring	Hedge cutting – Foxden Drive	630.00
T. Irving	Expenses: ICO Renewal (GDPR)	40.00
TI		
	Expenses – re ICO Renewal (GDPR/Data Protect)	40.00

Cheques Received:

MBC	PSS	148.50
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12ii Budget 2021/22/Precept

Following a protracted discussion, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the precept will be set at £34,000. **RESOLVED.**

At this point it was agreed to adjourn the meeting until next Tuesday, 8 December when the remaining agenda items will be addressed.

Before the meeting closed, Cllr Weeks made a very brief statement about the Planning Inquiry.

14 Update re Church Road Inquiry:

The Inquiry lasted 6 days and has now closed. Nothing more can be done. Cllr Weeks has no idea which way the decision will go.

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm and will reconvene at 8pm on Tuesday 8 December.



Dec 20 Parish
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