

**MINUTES – DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 8PM  
IN THE DOWNSWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllrs Weeks (Chairman); Greenhead (Vice-chairman); Alden-Morris (taking minutes); Butler; Cheeseman; Fincham; Cllr Cooke (KCC); PCSO Turner; Mr Everett & Ms Thompson (DCA).

**Action**

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mrs Irving (holiday); Cllr Newton (work commitment); Cllr Rajaratnam (holiday).

The apologies and reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

It was noted that Councillor Fairhurst has requested leave of absence whilst moving home and changing jobs. This was agreed but hoped that Councillor Fairhurst would continue to work with Open Spaces and Planning.

- 2. NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS** Cllr Weeks stated that he will be recording the meeting.

- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS** None received

- 4. ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** No members of the public were present.

- 5. APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2 JULY 2019** These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and subsequently signed by Cllr Weeks.

- 6. CRIME REPORT** PCSO Turner stated that it has been quiet since the commercial burglary reported in July's meeting.

The Orchard Spot reported a jet wash has been stolen.

As has been observed on social media, the gates to Mallards Park were stolen.

PCSO Turner said that she has had some calls regarding antisocial behaviour over the summer months and has been called in particular to Mallards Park to deal with youths bathing in the river and causing an inconvenience to the houses behind.

PCSO Turner also reported that following the commercial burglaries at the Spires shops she has been given a temporary CCTV camera observing the car park. She cannot say how long it will be there.

Cllr Greenhead requested that PCSO Turner check the CCTV footage, as there has been a road accident in that location. Cllr Weeks confirmed that he has already provided CCTV footage from the DPC cameras to the relevant insurance company.

- 7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** Cllr Cooke stated that it has been very quiet over the summer months. He has not progressed with the issue of the 20mph zone as wanted confirmation that we were still in favour of this measure. If DPC are still in favour he can look into us being involved in a pilot scheme for a 20mph zone. Cllr Weeks confirmed that we had agreed that we wished to progress this in the meeting of 2 July 2019 and re-read the section of the minutes.

Cllr Cooke confirmed that he had simply wanted to confirm this before investigating the matter further.

In other developments, Cllr Cooke confirmed that Kent County Council is spending £60m on road maintenance over the coming period, which is more than double what has been spent in previous periods. This work is concentrated on resurfacing as a preventative measure.

Cllr Butler enquired as to if there is a 20mph zone how this is policed; if a person is driving at, say, 26mph would there be any enforcement action?

Cllr Cooke said as with all matters of road safety it has to be to an extent self-policing. Cllr Cooke said that the police could prosecute if the law states that the limit on that road is 20mph.

Cllr Weeks drew attention to the public meeting where some dissatisfaction was expressed about the speed on Downswood roads. Our speed survey has indicated that largely vehicles are under 30mph, which would strongly indicate that there is support for reducing the limit on Downswood's roads to below that speed.

At the public meeting in December, local support was expressed for a volunteer speed watch in Downswood. Cllr Cooke said that he has done a great deal of work with lorry watch in Parkwood.

- 8. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** Cllr Newton not present at meeting.

9. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES** Cllr Weeks stated that CCTV has proven useful in recent weeks. We are still awaiting confirmation from the provider of a further training day.

10. **FINANCE**

**Monthly Financial Statement – September 2019**

**Balance of Current Account: £24,327.13 credit, after all cheques sent**

**Balance of Investment Account: £10,445.02 credit**

**Cheques sent:**

MPE FC	Donation	200.00
Kenward Trust	Donation	200.00
KCC	Work at Mallards (carried out during 2017)	396.00
DCA	Waste Bin (2 months)	86.66
HMRC	PAYE	200.44
Paul Waring	Roundabout Maintenance	74.76
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Salary – July	369.45
T Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses July	965.52
KCC	Employer/Employee Pension – July	282.08
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Salary – August	295.56
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses August	980.90
KCC	Employer/Employee Pension – August	282.08
M. Weeks	Expenses	101.97
	<b>Total payments:</b>	<b>4,435.42</b>

**Cheques received:**

<b>From Whom Rec'd</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Caxtons	Litter Picking Contribution	500.00
	<b>Total income:</b>	<b>500.00</b>

Approval of the above payments was **RESOLVED**

TI

- (i) **Consideration of donation for Swan Sanctuary and Folly Wildlife Rescue** Cllr Weeks enquired if we had received a specific request for a donation, Cllr Alden-Morris confirmed that it was just derived from email correspondence that as these places had been of great assistance with the injured swan, that it would be an appropriate

measure. Cllr Cheeseman suggested £100 for each. Cllr Weeks observed that this would leave the charity fund somewhat depleted for the remainder of the year. Cllr Cheeseman proposed £50 for each during this financial year with an agenda item to be tabled in the next financial year to match this donation. Cllr Butler seconded this proposal. **RESOLVED** in accordance with LGA S137.

- (ii) **Other matters to report** Cllr Weeks observed that as the Olympic picnic had been postponed there were additional costs for reprinting of leaflets and payment to Cllr Butler to deliver.

TI

- 11. LITTER PICKING** Cllr Weeks confirmed that after a meeting with MBC the new arrangements have been confirmed. Waste collected by litter pickers, both paid and volunteer, cannot go into the commercial bin behind the community centre. Must go into the green bags provided. Had the situation persisted as it was DCA would have been liable for a fine. Litter picker is happy that he is not going to be obliged to sort the waste. The arrangement as agreed with MBC is that green sacks will be placed in the salt bin until a Friday morning when it will be left by the shed for collection. Council have requested that no collected street waste is placed on a street bin or in a domestic bin. Cllr Weeks has spoken to Cllr Newton to confirm this requirement.

Cllr Weeks stated that Cllr Newton had suggested that additional litter picking volunteers may be required. Councillors were in agreement that the bulk of the waste appears to be generated by the Spires shops. It was suggested that DPC correspond with the lessees of the shops to remind them of their obligations to keep the waste emanating from their premises cleared.

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- 12. PLANNING** Cllr Weeks asked Cllr Greenhead to confirm that he has not had a response to his letter to the Secretary of State requesting an Environmental Impact Assessment. Cllr Greenhead confirmed so. Cllr Cooke suggested that we might write to the local MP to request her involvement in speeding this process. It was recommended that Cllr Newton attempt to speak to Rob Jarman at MBC to confirm the current position with regard to the proposed development, as there was a concern that the developers may be taking advantage of the additional time to meet with members.

TI / GN

- 13. TRAFFIC SURVEY RESULTS / SPEED WATCH** Cllr Cooke suggested that the results be included in an article, possibly in the newsletter. Cllr Weeks observed that the residents are more engaged with social media, but that there will be a newsletter probably before Christmas.

With reference to the suggested volunteer speed watch; Cllr Weeks has looked into the costings for obtaining training for certain key

volunteers as we have some funding in this regard from KCC. Loose Parish Council have offered to loan DPC their equipment. Cllr Cooke said that he would be interested in volunteering. Cllr Weeks said that only one person on each volunteer team requires to be trained. Cllr Cooke recommended that six people be trained. Cllr Weeks confirmed that the budget would not allow that and that he would recommend four people. Cllr Cooke suggested that he may be able to assist in that regard.

- 14. GARDEN COMPETITION RESULTS** Cllr Weeks observed that as different judges have been used this year they used different judging criteria. This has resulted in different gardens winning than have in previous years and was felt to be a positive. Cllr Weeks said that the winners have been invited to attend the October DPC meeting to collect their prizes.

Cllr Weeks said that there had been a suggestion that in this regard it might be helpful to have a competition for spring gardens next year, again to allow different gardens to be showcased. Councillors were in agreement and it was felt that if the gardens were judged in May, for instance, that prizes could be given out at the Downswood Fete or the Olympicnic. We will publicise this in October in order to encourage residents to plant their spring bulbs.

- 15. OLYMPICNIC** Richard has sent his apologies, and although he can prepare, someone else will need to use the equipment on the day. As far as the white lines required are concerned, MPE have not replaced the equipment stolen earlier this year. They are paying an outside person to paint their white lines and Cllr Weeks has arranged for the Olympicnic lines to be marked out at the same time. Cllr Weeks said that we had offered a contribution of £25 in this regard.

TI

Councillors are requested to meet at the Community Centre at 9am on Saturday to set up at Mallards. Cllr Weeks confirmed that he has secured additional volunteers.

- 16. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS / SEMINARS ATTENDED** None.
- 17. COMMITTEE REPORTS** None. Cllr Weeks observed that we will need to schedule meetings of both open spaces and Downswood Diggers.
- 18. RECEIVE DCA UPDATES** JE reported that decking has been repaired. Kitchen boiler required some maintenance. JE observed that he is still in need of regular groups, preferably daily, to replace the after school club. There is an AGM on Tuesday. There is a concert of the police brass band on 22/09. There is a quiz night on 21/09 for which there are still tables available. The annual Halloween party is also popular.

**19. CORRESPONDENCE** Cllr Weeks has not received any. Cllr Cheeseman drew attention to the literature she had received regarding outdoor table tennis equipment. Cllr Weeks said this would be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

**TI**

**20. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS** Cllr Greenwood observed that the alleyway at Cotswold is overgrown and in need of attention. Cllr Cheeseman noted that the pedestrianised stretch of Spot Lane between Deringwood Drive and Church Road has become overgrown again.

**ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING ON 1 OCTOBER 2019** : Table Tennis equipment

**Please contact the Clerk if you have items that you wish to be considered for the agenda.**