

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2019 AT 8.00 PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllrs Greenhead (Vice-Chairman); Cheesman; Butler; Alden-Morris; Rajaratnam; Fairhurst; Mrs Irving – Clerk; Cllr Cooke (KCC); Cllr McKay (MB Cllr & resident) part; Mr Everett & Ms Thompson (DCA & residents); 2 member of the public.

Councillor Greenhead chaired the meeting.

- 1 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Weeks (personal commitment); Cllrs Newton & Fincham (unwell); PCSO Zoe Turner.

The apologies and reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

- 2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.** Cllr Greenhead 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.** Questions regarding the Church Road Planning application were raised and addressed.

The meeting reconvened.

- 5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING 5 NOVEMBER 2019:**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and subsequently signed by Cllr Greenhead.

- 6 CRIME REPORT:**

PCSO Zoe Turner previously advised the Clerk that there are no crimes to note.

- 7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

- 'You Decide' has been cancelled due to the forthcoming election.
- Bicknor Wood signage. Cllr Cooke will continue to request that the remaining signage is removed.

- 8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Not available

- 9 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

- CCTV (Update re training). Not available
- Salt Bins. Cllr Fairhurst advised that he will check the bins on his roads and report back
- Spires Shops. Following a second letter to tenants, a response has been received from Unit 1, stating that they regularly tidy the front and back of their unit.

AF

It was agreed that these particular tenants do, in fact, keep their area tidy. Monitoring of area to continue with findings reported to January's meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Cheesman, seconded by Cllr Rajaratnam and unanimously agreed that, due to the additional work required, if there are no signs of improvement a £500 increase per annum will be introduced to Caxtons litter picking contribution. **RESOLVED**

WG

**10 FINANCE:****i. Items for Payment**

**Balance of Current Account: £19,647.55 credit, after all cheques sent**  
**Balance of Investment Account: £10,445.02 credit**

**From Whom Rec'd**

T. Ellis	Expenses (Planning Committee)	19.99
R B Legion	Donation – Wreath*	50.00
Otham/Langley Church	Donation – Choir*	100.00
EDF Energy	Electric for Festive Lights 2018	83.37
KCC Re Kent Pension Fund	Employer/Employee Pension Cont	282.08
Mrs T Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses Nov	957.45
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Salary – Nov	295.56
ICO	Data Protection Annual Charge	40.00

Approval of the above was proposed by Cllr Fairhurst, seconded by Cllr Alden-Morris and unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

**ii 2020/21 Budget Proposals:** The draft proposal was discussed.

KALC Membership contributions to be increased in accordance with information provided by the rep. Wage increases to be budgeted at 3%.

Cost of table tennis for Mallards to be confirmed

2<sup>nd</sup> Draft to be recirculated prior to January's meeting.

OS  
TI**iii Other matters to report. S137 Expenditure:** Limit for 2020/21 has been confirmed as £8.32**11 CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND LIGHTS:** Leaflets advertising the event have been delivered. Mr Everett, Ms Thompson and Cllr Butler were thanked for their help with this. Event has also been advertised on the website, social media and notice boards.

Cllr Butler offered to purchase sweets, if required. Cllr Greenhead to check and confirm.

A-MB/  
WB

Loan of snow machine kindly offered by the DCA.

Mr Brearley regrets he will be unable to play the organ due to another booking. An alternative is currently being sought.

Clerk to provide Cllr Fairhurst with AE contact details as he will MC on the day.

TI/AF

**12 PLANNING** (New Applications and updates on existing applications)

- Update re Church Road Outline Planning Application

In a note, Cllr Weeks expressed his thanks to; ‘..... members of the planning sub-committee for their help here, especially Tony Ellis who had spent hours researching and advising but especially for his continued assistance and expertise in preparing our objections and response to the outline application’.

It was noted that recommendations made by Bellway Homes for an alteration re Deringwood Drive/Church Road is considered unsafe.

**New Applications****19/505910/FULL - 34 Murrain Drive**

Erection of a rear conservatory

The council does not wish to comment

**13 SPEEDWATCH:** Deferred until 7 January 2020 meeting.

MW

**14 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN/FOOTPATH EXTENSION:**

**Item 1.** Gateway Features – KHS has agreed to fund the suggested locations.

**Item 2.** Request for 20 mph speed limit has been declined due to the survey showing that traffic is above the 28 mph threshold required to be considered. It is hoped that Item 1 will help provide a positive, calming effect

**Item 3.** Footway extension leading to PROW – KHS is looking at the request for them to fund this action.

**Item 4.** Corner Protection – Map supplied to KHS requesting protection for Murrain Drive and Gorham Drive. Investigations being carried out by KHS.

**15 REMEMBRANCE DAY UPDATE:** Cllr Fincham requested that the Clerk pass on his thanks to Cllr Cheesman for guiding him through the protocol on the day. The War Memorial service was particularly well attended and Cllr Fincham stated that he will be happy to represent the parish in the future.**16 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:**

**JPG Meeting** 19 November - attended by Cllr Cheesman. Minutes circulated. Nothing can be done until March 2020 with regard to the next Local Plan Review.

**KCC Highways Seminar** 28 November – attended by the Clerk.

It was stated that the Leeds/Langley bypass is still being evaluated but as Highways does not have the money to finance the system, this would have to be put to the Government. It would require a very large amount of housing to justify this, making land around the route very vulnerable for development.

Key points to slow growth are considered to be water supply and air quality.

The Highways Engineer has agreed to investigate why the column on The Orchard Spot roundabout has been out of commission for so long.

**KALC AGM 30 November** - attended by Cllr Cheesman.

It was noted that it will be necessary to increase subs to fund a new Learning & Development Officer. This will initially be for a trial 2 or 3 year period (increase on Band D property level raised from 58p to 66p)

**17 COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None available.

**18 RECEIVE DCA UPDATES:** Nothing to report. However, Cllr Cheesman stated that a comment had been made to her saying how magnificent the hall is and the management is 'spot on'.

**19 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Verge on Redsells Close to be checked. It was reported that overgrown vegetation is obstructing the footpath. **WG**
- Maidstone KALC. The scheme whereby parishes can request additional air quality diffusion tubes to be deployed will continue next year. Urgent confirmation of numbers required.
- The chairman has been received complaints from residents regarding parking at Mallards during football matches.

Clerk requested to write to MPE asking that the club tries to monitor and control parking more effectively. PCSO Turner to be requested to have a visible presence at matches, when time allows. **TI/MPE/PCSO**

Large stones to be considered for the verge by the new fence to prevent cars being parked there. Perhaps the first 50 metres of the grass verge by the roundabout could be left long for wildlife?

- News verbally received from Cllr Richard Ash (BPC) that Bearsted/Boxley PCs are hoping to encourage neighbouring PCs to join their informal transport group.

**20 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA & ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Please contact the Clerk if you have items that you wish to be considered for future agendas.

**21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 7 January 2020**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm