

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 5 JANUARY 2021 AT 8.00 PM**

Cllrs Weeks (Chairman); Fairhurst; Butler; Alden-Morris; Brooks; Newton; Rajalingam; Cllr Cooke (KCC); Mrs Irving – Clerk.

- 1 APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Cheesman & Fincham due to misunderstanding (email received cancelling meeting).
- 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:** None received.

- 5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETINGS 1 & 8 DECEMBER 2020:**
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and will be signed by Councillor Weeks at his earliest opportunity.

MW

- 6 CRIME REPORT:** Obtained from e-watch.co
Cotswold Gardens Tuesday 29/12/20 between 11.20 pm and 11.35 pm.
Somebody painted graffiti on fence.

It was noted that a lot of graffiti has appeared in the parish in various places.
A request to be put on social media asking that new graffiti is reported.
All requested to keep an eye on the situation.

AF
ALL

- 7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** (Submitted by email – see Appendix A)
KCC has faced various issues trying to get to grips with Tier 4.
An asymptomatic testing service is available in Detling, with another one opening soon at County Hall.

Over 300 meals were funded for residents in Maidstone SE over the Christmas period.

Whilst it is not clear in what format the elections will go ahead this year, Cllr Cooke confirmed that he will be standing as KCC's Conservative candidate.

KCC has provided new 'road closed' signs but these are the same as previously supplied (smaller versions are not available). Therefore Cllr Weeks will go ahead and purchase the previously agreed lightweight signs.

MW

- 8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** One of the biggest problems is the flooding in Mallard Way. Cllr Newton noted that the road was passable with care at 5.30 pm this evening. However it is still raining and the adjacent field is flooded.

Some residents are dumping waste in the parish.

It was noted that approx. 10/11 bags collected by the litter picker are still awaiting collection outside the shed. Clerk to make enquiries and ask if that contact be made if there is a problem with collection, as this will enable the bags to be stored in the shed and avoid foxes ripping them open

TI

- 9 REPORT FROM DCA REPRESENTATIVE: Report not available.** Cllr Weeks advised that the centre is currently closed.

- 10 FINANCE:** Acceptance of the previously circulated report was proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded by Cllr Rajalingam and unanimously agreed.

Balance of Current Account: £21,261.42 credit, after all cheques sent

Balance of Investment Account: £10,528.58 credit

Cheques sent:

PCC of Otham with Langley	Choir Donation	150.00
M. Weeks	Expenses	31.38
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Salary - Dec	380.80
Mrs T Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses - Dec	1,000.14
KCC Re. Kent Pension Fund	Employer/Employee Pension Contribution - Dec	349.25
Aylesford Electrical	Removal of Festive Lighting	802.04
Royce Skelton	Repair Fencing – Murrain Drive*	600.00

*Following damage to the council's fence – as reported by a resident of Murrain Drive - repairs have been carried out in a timely fashion.

- i. Budget 2021/22:** A date for the Finance Committee to be arranged soon; possibly next Tuesday. Cllr Fairhurst to confirm a date to the committee.
- ii Review DPC/OPC Split of Expenses:** The Electoral Role shows 1,703 Downswood residents and 719 Otham residents. Number of properties to be advised.
- iii Other Matters to Report:** Heart of Kent Hospice donation request to be included on February's agenda.

AF

TI

It was agreed that Cllr Weeks will sign up for an annual Zoom subscription at a reduced rate, rather than the current monthly subscription.

MW

11 PLANNING: New applications and Updates on Existing Applications:

It was agreed that DPC will not be submitting comments for MBC's Local Plan Consultation as there is currently nothing to cause harm to the parish. It was noted that KCC has submitted a detailed response.

New Applications:

20/506090 FULL - 17 Kings Acre

Conversion & a single storey rear extension to the existing garage to create an annex together with landscaping and enlarged parking area.

Permitted Applications:

20/505210/FULL – 7 Ravens Dane Close

Pending Applications:

20/505413/FULL - 23 Longham Copse

20/503323 – Mallard Way

12 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: Vulnerable people are now being encouraged to isolate again. This was the point that DPC previously offered support.

It was confirmed that DPC phone line is still available for residents to make contact & that MBC has the details. Previous letter to be republished and circulated to encourage residents to offer help to their neighbours.

MW

KCC has a 24/7 phone line for people in critical need. Cllr Cooke to provide Cllr Fairhurst & Clerk with the details to allow the info to be shared via Facebook and the website.

**GC/AF/
TI**

Schools are providing food parcels for anyone in need and TV & online lessons are available free of charge.

13 REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION: The competition did not go ahead as no nominations were received. Additionally, following talks with the Church, it was felt that the competition was unfair to those that might be financially challenged.

14 URGENT CORRESPONDENCE: Cllr Newton advised the meeting that he has received correspondence regarding interest in purchasing the Reinden Grove Play Area.

15 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA & ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Heart of Kent Hospice request for a donation (February agenda)
- Table tennis table quotation received from Lappsett. Further quotes awaited.
- Thank you letter received from PCC of Otham with Langley Treasurer re the donation to the Choir.
- Open Spaces/Wild Flowers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08 pm

Please contact the Clerk if you have any items that you wish to be considered for future agendas.

The next meeting will be held at 8 pm on Tuesday, 2 February 2021