

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Butler; Fincham; Pearson (from Item 5); Mrs T Irving – Clerk, PCSO Money (part); John Everett & Diane Thompson (residents and DCA Management).
Part attended by; Cllr Gary Cooke (KCC); Richard Young.

The meeting was initially chaired by vice chairman, Cllr Greenhead, until Cllr Cheesman arrived during Item 1.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Cheesman (lateness due to work commitments); Cllr Brooks (work commitment); Cllr Weeks (conflicting appointment); Cllr Newton (attending conflicting meeting).

5 POLICE REPORT: (Item moved forward to accommodate PCSO Money)
PCSO Money introduced himself and apologised that he was unable to stay as he was currently carrying out ASB duties in Maidstone.

2 Crimes have been reported since 4 October 2016.

- Theft from a van in Murrain Drive
- Criminal damage in Ravens Dane Close

In addition to the above, play equipment in Mallards Way has been vandalised.

A report of drug dealing in the area is being checked.

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Pearson – Item 12 (47 Longham Copse).

4 COUNCILLOR VACANCY/CO-OPTION: Ongoing.

6 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: No questions.

The meeting reconvened

7 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 OCTOBER: The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

8 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

A written report was subsequently provided – see Appendix 1.

-34-

Verbal Report. Some items from the attached written report were discussed. In addition, Cllr Cooke stated that he is working closely with Helen Whately in respect of **broadband issues** and “the good news is that the gaps should be filled in”.

Spires Medical Centre – talks continue. KCC will be campaigning on the Spires Pharmacy front.

Local Plan. KCC is formally objecting to the Local Plan as they consider MBC has not consulted properly with residents.

20 DCA: PROPOSALS FOR THE CENTRE (Item brought forward):

Cllr Greenhead volunteered and was formally accepted as DPC’s representative for the group.

Energy efficiency leads have been followed up but no information has come back.

Double glazing is currently being considered.

Plans are in the process of being drawn up for a new storage area. If upstairs storage space is agreed, it could release space for storage downstairs.

Alternatively, an area behind the bins has been identified for a possible DPC/DCA shed/wooden garage, but the ground would have to be built up to overcome the 10’ drop.

The DCA has made a ruling there can be no more big fireworks at the centre. Exceptions may be made for small ‘floor type fireworks’ for children’s parties.

Mixed hedging to be considered in the dip area on Deringwood Drive as it would stop children from going down there. Cllr Cooke offered to sponsor some of the planting from his Community Grant, if it will mitigate the noise problem.

9 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR’S REPORT: Not available.

10 URGENT MATTERS: SSSI footpath. No response from PROW officer to emails. Cllr Cooke offered to assist with funding, subject to cost.

11 FINANCE:

i. Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £16, 595.23 credit, after all cheques sent

Balance of Investment Account £10,259.54 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

To Whom Payable	Details	Amount
RBL	Wreath	45.00
J. Noyce	Litter Picker Wages (Oct)	259.20
T. Irving	Clerk’s Salary & Expenses (Oct)	889.57
KCC re Kent Pension Fund	Pension (Employer & Employee Contributions Oct)	216.52
M. Weeks	Expenses (Plant Hire & Printing Xmas Flyer)	95.81
Cheques received:		
MBC	PSS (2nd Installment)	314.50

- ii) **Suggestions for 2017/18 Budget:** OSC budget proposal in the sum of £7,500 has been received.
- iii) **Other matters to report:** Declaration of compliance has been made to the Pension Regulator.

12 PLANNING:

The **Local Plan hearing** continues at Maidstone Town Hall.

New Applications.

16/507016 – 47 Longham Copse

Demolition of existing pre-cast concrete garage and construction of single storey side extension providing new kitchen and garage/store.

No objections were raised by the council.

Decision Awaited

16/503665/FULL – 85 Murrain Drive

Land North of Gore Court Road/widening of Gore Court Road

As already stated, MBC's Heritage Culture & Leisure Committee were requested by Parks & Open Spaces to declare part of the Senacre Open Space & Playing Field surplus to requirements in order that the Developer could widen Gore Court Road in order to access the site North of Bicknor Wood.

The HCL Committee voted to reject the application by MBC. However, within one week Fay Gooch, (Ind) John Perry (Con) Diana Lewins (Lib/Dem) called in the HCL Decision to The Policy & Resources Committee to get the decision reversed.

On 26 October 2016, the P & R Committee voted to declare the land surplus to requirement.

In response, KC Cllr Cooke stated '.....the land up to one metre from the edge of the road would form part of the highway for which the highway authority would have responsibility. It will be for KCC to decide what happens to that land forming part of the highway.'

13 DAVID NUTTALL MEMORIAL UPDATE: Quotation awaited.

14 EMERGENCY PLAN: For discussion at December's meeting.

15 REMEMBRANCE DAY: Cllr Pearson's offer to present DPC's wreath at the Church and the War Memorial was agreed with thanks.

16 CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND LIGHTS: Cllr Greenhead has updated the flyer and it has been sent for printing.

The Social Committee has agreed purchases for the ceremony.
Date for installation of lights awaited from Aylesford Electrical.

17 WEBSITE – Ongoing /NEWSLETTER UPDATE: Will be complete and ready for printing in the next couple of days.

18 PEDESTRIANISED OLD CHURCH ROAD/SPOT LANE UPDATE –

Working party to meet by the Church at 10 am on 26 Nov.
Clerk to request KCC or MBC to collect the waste.

Cllr Fincham to make enquiries at Maidstone Prison if bat/butterfly/bug boxes can be made & supplied to DPC.

19 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED: Apologies to be sent for KALC AGM as representative(s) are not available.

20 DCA: PROPOSALS FOR THE CENTE (SEE P2).

21 COMMITTEE REPORTS: N/A

22 CORRESPONDENCE:

Various items circulated by email.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 6 DECEMBER AT 8.00 PM