

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2015 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Roberts; Butler; Carmichael; Weeks; Brooks; Mrs T. Irving (Clerk); Cllr G. Newton – MBC (part); Cllr Cooke (KCC). Mr Richard Young; Kate Pearson; PCSO Timon Gurr (part).

1 APOLOGIES: Rajen Kantaria.

2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS – Not applicable.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

4 POLICE REPORT: 05/05/15 to 02/06/15

Crime Report Figures x1

Attempt Burglary Dwelling with intent to steal, Foxden Drive x 1

Anti-Social Behaviour

No calls

5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:
None.

The meeting was reconvened

6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 MAY 2015:
Following amendment to the attendance list – addition of Cllr Brooks - the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION: Kate Pearson, a resident of 11 years, expressed an interest in the vacancy and was invited to give a brief resume. For the purpose of full disclosure, Kate informed members that she is a member of the Green Party. Kate was thanked, but reminded that the PC is non-political. Following a short discussion held in closed session, Kate was co-opted to the council. Declaration of Acceptance of Office completed, additional paperwork to follow.

8 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: (Written Report)
Kent Sport Small Grants Fund. This fund has been set up to encourage and increase participation in sport and physical activity. Grants available will range from £50-£500 and are available to formally constituted not-for-profit or statutory organisations providing sports opportunities, for example sports clubs, voluntary organisations, schools and local authorities.

The funding can go into:-

- Coaching Costs
- Facility hire
- Equipment
- Transport
- Marketing and publicity
- Events
- Shared Team Kit
- Qualifications (as long as they are part of a larger project)

Deadline Date: 1st November

For any questions, advice or support with an application, please contact Sophie Ward Funding and Partnerships Manager on Sophie.ward@kent.gov.uk or 03000 417225. <http://www.kentfa.com/news/2015/may/kent-sport-small-grants-fund>

County Division Boundaries The Local Government Boundary Commission is carrying out an electoral review of Kent County Council to deliver electoral equality for voters in local elections. The aim of the review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors. At present, some councillors represent many more or fewer electors than other elected members elsewhere in the county which means the value of your vote varies depending on where you live in Kent. The review aims to ensure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters and that division boundaries reflect the interests and identities of local communities. The present proposals do not suggest any changes in the Maidstone South East area. The consultation closes on 6th July. <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Registration for the Kent Test (11+). Registration for the Kent Test (11+) for parents who would like their children to start at a Kent Grammar School in September 2016 opens on Monday, June 1. Parents have until Wednesday July 1 to register their children for the tests, which will take place after the summer break. To register online, log on to www.kent.gov.uk/ola. Alternatively a paper copy of the test registration form can be picked up from primary schools or sent to you by post on request – call 03000 41 21 21 or email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk

Verbal report.

£450 Million has been saved over the last few years, now between 50 and 55 million will need to be saved over the next few years.

Parishes in more rural areas are meeting informally to develop/deliver a Leeds/Langley relief road, which I strongly support. I believe there is a real prospect of it happening.

9 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.

Cllr Newton was congratulated by DPC on his re-election.

He has been voted in as the chair of Heritage, Culture and Leisure, with Cllr Richard Ash as vice chair.

The Waterside Park enquiry has just finished. A good defence was put forward at the enquiry. MBC do not support the application.

A formal application has not yet been received from Roxhill Developments.

10 URGENT MATTERS.

- Road markings have virtually disappeared from all the side roads. Cllr Cooke to investigate.
- Cllr Weeks confirmed he currently has 4 new gazebos. Clerk to check all expenses have been claimed/reimbursed.
- A car left the road in Mallards Way today and entered the lake. Fortunately no one was hurt and the Downswood resident has offered to pay for the damaged fencing.

11 FINANCE

i) Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £24,184.49 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account £10,183.17 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

To Whom Payable

CPRE	Membership 2015/16	36.00
Auditing Solutions	Annual Audit	216.00
Spires Minimarket	Spring Clean Supplies	13.18
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (May)	243.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (May)	997.68
KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions)	201.67
Peeks of B'mouth	Fete Novelties	92.75
R. Cheesman	“ “	6.00

Cheques Received:

Nil

ii) **Internal Audit Report 2014/15 (Auditing Solutions):** Report dated 18/05/2015 was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The council is pleased to note from the Overall Conclusion that 'Our review has highlighted no significant matters'.

iii) **Donation requests: Bearsted Parish Council – Playscheme.** A donation of £125 was proposed, seconded & unanimously agreed in accordance with LGA S137.

Heart of Kent Hospice. A donation of £250 was proposed, seconded & unanimously agreed in accordance with LGA S137.

iv) **Insurance renewal:** Quotations from Aon & Zurich Insurance were considered. A proposal to continue with cover from Zurich at a premium of £237.02 was seconded and unanimously agreed.

v) **Other Matters to report:** Nil.

12 PLANNING: Roxhill Developments – proposal for J8 M20

Roxhill's response (dated 6/05/15) to Cllr Greenhead's letter has been circulated to members by email.

15/502651/TPO - 38 Foxden Drive Downswood Kent ME15 8TQ

TPO application to prune to about six feet one Ash and one Horse

Chestnut tree. Information obtained from MBC Officer was circulated by Cllr Greenhead.

13 TREE PLANTING: It was agreed to replace the trees that had been planted & subsequently died at the rear of Murrain Drive Open Space, with possibly an Ash tree? Proposals to dedicate the tree to David Nuttall to be discussed further at the next Open Spaces meeting.

14 OLYMPICNIC: Cllr Cheesman confirmed that Vivien Nuttall has donated the tug of war rope for use by the community (to be overseen by DPC).

The Clerk's proposal for 'Health MOT Roadshow' to attend the event was agreed. Cllr Greenhead to add info to poster & Cllr Weeks to liaise with printer.

Cllr Roberts will be placing an order for medals.

Clerk to contact KHS to request no parking cones for Mallards Way. Also to request MBC to cut the grass prior to the event.

15 DEFIBRILLATOR PROPOSALS: A site visit is being arranged with a supplier who will be exhibiting at the Clerks Conference. Photos of the building to be forwarded to the supplier, as requested. Representative from the DCA + Cllr Greenhead & Clerk to attend site meeting. Equipment should not be visually intrusive on the building.

16 GARDEN COMPETITION: Rumwood Nursery has agreed to judge the competition and sell garden vouchers to the PC at a discounted cost. As the vouchers will be presented at the Christmas Ceremony, expiry dates will need to be taken into account.

Councillors are requested to provide their gardens shortlist in the next couple of weeks.

Hanging baskets to be considered for next year's competition.

17 PARISH CHARTER: Cllr Butler has submitted the council's views to MBC. No further news at present.

18 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:

Cllr Cheesman attended the Police Forum on 21 May – minutes circulated.

19 DCA FETE: Novelties have been purchased & equipment checked.
It was agreed to commence setting up DPC's stall at 11.00 am.
Cllr Butler to provide silver bunting for the stall to mark the 25 year anniversary.

20 SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE CLOSURE: Cllr Cheesman telephoned the surgery and was told 'no one is there at the moment. Nothing is showing on the screen & I am unable to book an appointment'.
Clerk to make contact with Patient Participation Group as, despite stating in their letter to a Downswood resident they have contacted the PC, they have not been in touch to discuss the closure.

SPIRES PHARMACY UPDATE: Cllr Newton reported that the meeting he attended with Atul Kantaria was very positive & he is hopeful that the pharmacy will maintain the subsidy they currently receive. The pharmacy was advised to 'get a prescriber and offer blood/diabetes checks'.

21 COMMITTEE REPORTS: None received.

22 CORRESPONDENCE:

Various correspondence circulated by email as received.

Electoral Review of Kent. For more info visit: www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

It was reported that 'My Hermes' is now available from the Spires Minimarket – further info available from the store.

CLERK'S REPORT: No further matters to report.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 7 JULY AT 8.00 PM

(Apologies received from the Clerk. Offer by Cllr Butler to take notes from the meeting gratefully received).