

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2015 AT 8.00 PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Roberts; Butler; Wyld; Brooks; Cllr G. Cooke (KCC); Cllr G. Newton (MBC) part: Mrs T. Irving (Clerk); 2 members of the public – Mr Richard Young/Cllr G. McKay (part)

**1 APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Carmichael & Weeks – work commitment; PCSO Timon Gurr; 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: 02/02/15 to 02/03/15**  
No crimes reported and no anti-social behaviour calls received.

**5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**  
Environment Agency to be contacted regarding concerns raised in respect of the River Len.

The meeting reconvened.

**6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2015:** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**7 COUNCILLOR VACANCY:** Ongoing

**8 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: (Written Report)**

**8.1 Budget Update.** It has been the toughest year since 2010 to balance the books. Full council met on 12<sup>th</sup> February and approved the draft budget for 2015/2016. This will bring savings of £83.1m on top of £350m of savings already made by KCC over the last four years. The most significant savings have been achieved by further developing and transforming the way adult and children's services are delivered, investing in quality preventative services that avoid wherever possible expensive interventions such as taking children into care and supporting independence for adults, helping them to remain in their own homes. The Council agreed to a small increase of 1.99% for its portion of council tax which works out as an extra £18.96 a year for Band C property, the most common in Kent.

**8.2 Spring Clean.** I am in the process of organising the annual Parish Spring Clean for April/ May, utilising my Member Highway Fund. This can be tailored to your needs and provides a good general spruce up. It can focus on things like cleaning of street signs and telephone boxes, trimming back vegetation and litter picking. This year we had the idea of inviting the local community to get involved, increasing the amount of cleaning we can achieve together whilst building community spirit.

**8.3 Consultation on Library, Registration and Archive Service.** There is a Consultation running until 8<sup>th</sup> April which seeks your views on how KCC runs its Library, Registration and Archive service. We have looked at various delivery models and we believe that a charitable trust gives us greater flexibility and financial freedom; a model that is less susceptible than other options to possible future changes to council funding. This means better opportunities to improve services and give residents more input and influence over future decisions. No decision has been taken yet and your views will be vital to help council members make their final decision. The Consultation can be accessed at:

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/lraconsultation>

**8.4 The Care Act.** From April 2015, care and support in England is changing for the better. The Care Act will help to make care and support more consistent across the country and puts the wellbeing of individuals at the heart of health and social care services. 'Care and support' is the term used to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It can include help with things like getting out of bed, washing, dressing, getting to work, cooking meals, eating, seeing friends, caring for families and being part of the community. More information is available at: [www.kent.gov.uk/careact](http://www.kent.gov.uk/careact)

**8.5 Highways 'Find and Fix'.** Highway inspectors regularly check every road and pavement for potholes. Quieter routes are inspected less often than busier routes, so we encourage you to help us identify potholes. Once identified and reported we log the fault and schedule a repair. We aim to repair potholes within 28 days, or 2 hours if it is an emergency. Crews always aim to make permanent, first-time fixes by cutting out and removing damaged material, then replacing it with hot asphalt that is bonded to the freshly-cut surface and compacted to reduce the risk of failure. By focusing on permanent first-time fixes rather than 'temporary' repairs, and streamlined, online pothole reporting which gives crews 'live' information about faults, the average time taken to repair a non-emergency fault has been reduced to 14 days. Residents are asked to report potholes and other problems online, where details can be easily uploaded, locations pinpointed on an interactive map, and progress of the repair followed. In the event of an emergency, residents should call 03000 41 81 81.

**8.6 New Contact Details.** KCC has recently changed its telephone numbers from 01622 to 03000 numbers. My new office telephone number is 03000 415978.

#### Verbal Report

**8.7 Willington Street Phase II.** Work to commence on 2 April and be completed by 19 April 2015. Road signs will be available a day or two in advance to minimise disruption as much as possible. I will be happy to try and sort out any problems if they arise.

**8.8 Development.** I will be objecting to the sites that are currently on consultation draft as soon as they are issued for comment.

**8.9 Schools.** If residents have any problems with the allocations made yesterday, please request they contact me.

## **9 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.**

**9.1** H1 (10) Langley Park has been put back in the draft. I have called the proposal in to the committee, highlighting inconsistencies between H1(10), H1(7) White Horse Lane & H1(8) Church Road.

Residents will have a chance voice their opinion on the proposed developments once Regulation 19 is underway. **Previous objections will not be counted & residents will need to resubmit their views.**

I am currently investigating why Southern Water did not object to the proposals.

## 10 URGENT MATTERS.

- Cllr Cooke offered to investigate Cllr Cheesman's report that a section of Deringwood Drive - between the Mill and Bournemouth Close – is dropping down. He also agreed to look at pot holes that have appeared between the speed bumps on Mallards Way.
- Dog bins overflowing in Mallards
- Large pot hole on Deringwood Drive close to junction with Horton Downs.
- July's meeting will either be covered by someone else or recorded to allow minutes to be produced by the Clerk on her return from holiday.

## 11 FINANCE

### i) Items for payment:

<b>Balance of Current Account</b>	<b>£ 2,548.57</b>	<b>credit, after all cheques sent</b>
<b>Balance of Investment Account</b>	<b>£10,183.17</b>	<b>credit</b>
<b>To Whom Payable</b>		

SLCC	2/3 Contribution Clerk's Membership	99.32
Kenward Trust	Donation	100.00
DCA	Hall Hire	280.00
KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions) Feb	201.67
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Feb)	857.77
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (Feb)	243.00

### Cheques Received:

DCA	Litterpicking Contribution	125.00
Caxtons	“ “	364.00

**ii) Internal Audit Arrangement 2014/15:** It was unanimously agreed to continue using the services of Auditing Solutions. A small increase of £10 per whole day fee was noted. The clerk is required to deliver the books to E. Malling w/c 11 May.

**iii) KCC Pension Update:** Having considered the update from KCC, Cllr Wyld informed the meeting that his advice is to continue with the pension arrangements as they are.

**vi) Other Matters to report:** At OPC's Communication Meeting of 23 February, Cllr Cheesman and the Clerk agreed for the cost of 'Halt the Housing' campaign banners to be shared between OPC/DPC. Three banners to be purchased by each parish - cost to DPC will be £108.00 + VAT. Banners to be displayed on Community Centre fence, the Church & Cllr Cheesman's garden.

## 12 PLANNING (Inc LDF update).

See Item 9 for LDP update.

No new applications for Downswood, but it was noted that the Little Squerrys applications in Church Road for 2 x detached dwellings has been refused.

**13 SPRING CLEAN (11 April):** Hall booked. Equipment to be requested from MBC + request to DCA for rubbish to be left at the centre.

**14 OLYMPICNIC:** Event Application has been agreed by MBC & a quote has been requested from the Red Cross. Quotation for toilet/fire extinguisher hire to be requested. Cllr Roberts to liaise with John Leaf/Charles Tanswell.

Response from Memz Ices awaited.

Cllr Cheesman to check availability of tug of war rope with David Nuttall.

Latest situation re. additional gazebos to be checked with Cllr Weeks.

Apologies received from Clerk due to holiday.

**15 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS:**

The hall is not available on Sun 29 Nov between 3.30 and 6.30 pm as the panto will be taking place.

Dates for consideration; Sunday 22 November or Saturday 28 November (between 3.30 & 6.30 pm)?

*A conversation with the Booking Sec subsequent to the meeting confirmed availability for 22 Nov. The time would need to start & finish 30 mins earlier on 28 Nov. Another date for consideration is Sat 5 Dec (hall currently available all day).*

The social committee agreed to consider how to add a festive touch to the indoor lighting.

Richard Young's kind offer of a donation towards additional motifs to be investigated further.

Meeting planned for 12 March with Aylesford Electrical to discuss 2015 requirements.

**16 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:**

Cllr Cheesman & Clerk - OPC Communication Meeting of 23/02/16 (copy of notes circulated).

Cllr Cheesman & Clerk – KHS meeting on 27 February.

**17 DEFIBRILLATOR PROPOSALS:** Awaiting update from Cllr Weeks.

**18 CLERK'S REPORT.** Further fly tipping at the rear of the shops was reported & subsequently removed by Caxtons. Majority of the waste was found to belong to one particular flat tenant. Caxtons has emailed shop & flat tenants to remind them of their responsibilities. They will be sending a representative to meet with tenants in the next couple of days to reinforce the content of their email.

**19 COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None received.

**20 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- **Email from Atul/Rajen Kantaria re.** Pharmacy threat arrived too late to be circulated prior to meeting. Clerk to circulate to cllrs tomorrow.
- Letter received from **Kenward Trust** thanking the PC for their donation.
- **MBC. Parish Independent Remuneration Panel – Members Allowances.** Questionnaires should be returned no later than Friday 13 March.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 7 APRIL 2015 AT 8.00 PM**