

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2015 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Roberts; Butler; Weeks; Carmichael; Mrs T. Irving (Clerk); Cllr G. Newton – MBC (part); Rajen Kantaria (part); PCSO Timmon Gurr (part); 1 member of the public – Mr Richard Young.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Brooks – Conflicting appointment; Cllr Cooke (KCC).

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

4 POLICE REPORT: 03/03/15 to 07/04/15

Crimes reported x 5.

Grampian Way – Criminal damage

Longham Copse – Criminal damage

Mallards Way – Burglary dwelling with intent to steal

Ravens Dane Close – Theft from motor vehicle

Longham Copse - Concerned in production of a controlled drug. This relates to the property where the fire took place and there is an on-going investigation into its use as a hydroponics factory.

Cllr Weeks reported that 4 or 5 car wing mirrors had been snapped off from vehicles that had been parked overnight. PCSO Gurr to make further enquiries.

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

The meeting was reconvened

6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2015:

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7 ELECTIONS – 7 MAY. PC Nomination papers have been submitted to MBC. Following the decision by Cllr Wyld not to stand for re-election, there are likely to be two vacancies.

8 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: (Written Report)

1. **Spring Clean.** You will have now received an email from Allison Allan, the local Community Engagement Officer. This email set out a suggested date in April for the Spring Clean in your Parish that I am providing using my Member Highway Fund.

2. **Fostering.** KCC is looking for more people to foster a child. Information on who can do this and how to do this is available at: www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/adoption-and-fostering

We are particularly looking for foster parents in North and West Kent. We are looking to train people with the skills to foster siblings, older children and disabled children. It does not matter whether you are single, married or in a civil partnership, or have children of your own or not, everyone is encouraged to step forward.

We are looking for people with: energy and enthusiasm, patience, good communication skills, the time to care for a child (from regular weekends to full time).

The next local events to find out more and meet other foster carers are: 22 April 2015, 7pm- Sandyacres sports and social centre, Sandyhurst Lane, Ashford, TN25 4NT 20 May 2015, 7pm- Teynham village hall, Belle Friday Close, Teynham, ME9 9TU

3. **£5 million investment for businesses and communities in rural Kent.**

The money, available this summer, comes from the LEADER program, which delivers funding from the EU and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). This means that our farming, forestry and other rural businesses, and our rural communities, will be able to get funds for new, small scale projects that will contribute significantly to local job creation, rural economic growth and environmental protection.

Funding under LEADER is available to rural businesses, farmers, foresters, growers, landowners, environmental organisations, cultural, heritage and community providers. It can also be utilised by voluntary and charitable organisations to develop projects that will assist, strengthen and develop the local economy and deliver jobs, growth and community benefits in rural Kent. More information is available at: <http://www.kentruralnetwork.org.uk/leader>

9 **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.**

- Cllr Newton informed the meeting that a swan from Mallards had been taken to the Swan Sanctuary, where it unfortunately died of botulism.
- Regulation 19 has been delayed by the elections and it is not expected to be ready until late 2015, early 2016. Halt the Housing banners to be left at current locations for the foreseeable future.
- MBC are returning to the committee system, rather than the current cabinet system.

10 **URGENT MATTERS.**

- Cllr Weeks advised that whilst the newsletter has been delayed due to an injury sustained on his hand, he envisages it will be finished in the next couple of days.

- Jubilee Stone requires weeding and more plants (primroses, buddleia, snow drops, blue bells & violets were suggested). It was agreed that an assessment will be made at the Spring Clean.
- Lights in steps of alleyway between Deringwood Drive & Ravensdane Close are still unlit. Clerk to chase & enquire about edge of steps being highlighted with paint.
- It was agreed to change DPC's Annual Meeting from 12 May to 19 May, commencing at 7.30 pm.

11 FINANCE

i) Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £ 869.45 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account £10,183.17 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

To Whom Payable

Lisa & Bill Greenhead	Website Charges	44.00
J. Middleton	3 x Banners	120.40
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (March)	303.75
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (March)	906.55
KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer + Employee Contributions)	201.67
HMRC	PAYE	102.75

Cheques Received: None

ii) Annual Membership Renewals:

KALC – It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to continue with membership at a cost of £547.50 + VAT.

CPRE – (Cost TBC) - It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to continue with membership on the proviso that it remains less than £50.

iii) Other Matters to report: None.

12 PLANNING: Roxhill Developments – proposal for J8 M20

Documentation passed to Cllr Greenhead for consideration. Cllr Greenhead to draft a response for circulation prior to sending to Roxhill.

Cllr Cheesman to feature in a video that will be put together by Cllr Greenhead for Facebook/website re housing issues.

13 SPRING CLEAN (11 April): DCA has confirmed the collected rubbish can be left by the bins in the car park.

Suggestions for KCC's Spring Clean – taking place on 13 & 14 April – include: Weeding & cleaning (old leaves and dogs mess) the following alley ways, Cotswold Gardens to Mallards Way, Ravens Dane to Deringwood Drive, Monkdown to Gorham Drive & Foxden Drive to Longham Copse.

Lights & painting of edge of the Ravens Dane steps to be mentioned in the hope the crew can assist.

Cut back overhanging vegetation from the following footpaths: Old Spot Lane/Old Church Lane & footpath adjacent to the SSS. Removal of various items from Old Church Lane i.e. broken branches and old fencing etc.

Cleaning Street Signs

6 Litter picking sticks to be requested for retention by DPC.

14 OLYMPICNIC: John Leaf has confirmed to Cllr Roberts that MPE will assist in the usual capacity. Cllr Roberts plans to discuss with Charles Tanswell soon. David Nuttall has given permission for the tug of war rope to be used. Menz ices has confirmed they will be happy to attend. Quotation from the Red Cross (in the sum of £93.50 + VAT) & Four Jays (2 x toilet/fire extinguisher hire - in the sum of £200 + VAT) were discussed. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to accept both quotations.

15 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS:

Two dates - Sunday 22 November & Saturday 5 December (between 3.30 & 6.30 pm) – were discussed. It was unanimously agreed to request the hall for 5 December, with the ceremony taking place between 5.30 pm and 6.30 pm.

Cllr Weeks volunteered to provide an artificial Christmas tree.

16 GARDEN COMPETITION: Cllr Weeks offered to enquire if a representative from the Potted Garden will be prepared to judge the competition (ideally during late June/early July). It was agreed that prizes will remain at: £50 x 1st £25 x 2nd & £15 x 3rd place.

17 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:

Cllr Cheesman & Clerk – Attended meeting on 27.02.15 at County Hall. Assurances were sought & given by KCC officers that objections will be raised when planning application H1(8) is submitted.

Cllr Butler – MBC Members' Remuneration meeting on 19.03.15 at MBC when Cllr expenses were discussed. DPC confirmed they will continue to discuss payment of expenses on an ad-hoc basis as they arise.

Cllr Cheesman – Parish Conference on 21.03.15.

Cllr Weeks – Business Disaster Breakfast Workshop on 25.03.15.

18 DEFIBRILLATOR PROPOSALS: Supply by KALC to be considered. Running costs/power connection to be checked.

19 DCA FETE: To be held on Saturday 6 June. Clerk to request usual stalls for DPC. Cllr Weeks to check gazebo situation and advise. It was unanimously agreed to donate all proceeds to the DCA, without deductions to cover expenses.

20 SPIRES PHARMACY: Letter/petition regarding possible reduction in NHS funding was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the NHS Area Local Team to request funding is not withdrawn, as it could put this important community facility at risk.

21 CLERK'S REPORT: No further items to report.

22 COMMITTEE REPORTS: None received.

22 CORRESPONDENCE:

Waste Disposal at The Spires – It is hoped that the new bin provided by Babo's & kept inside their unit will help reduce litter being discarded and blown around outside. Rajen Kantaria reported that any rubbish left outside on the courtyard is being swept up by Babo's staff before closing or after opening times.

Various correspondence circulated by email as received.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 5 MAY 2015 AT 8.00 PM
(Apologies received from Cllr Carmichael due to work commitments).

The meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, commencing at 7.30 pm.