

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Roberts; Brooks; Eady; Mrs T Irving (Clerk); Richard Young.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Weeks – work commitment; Cllrs Butler & Pearson respective family commitments; Cllr G. Newton (MBC) for lateness due to attendance at a conflicting meeting; Cllr Cooke (KCC); PCSO Timon Gurr; Rajen Kantaria. Apologies received retrospectively from Cllr Carmichael – work commitment.

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations.

4 POLICE REPORT: 31/10/15 to 27/11/15.

Crimes reported x 1.

Pennine Way – Criminal Damage.

Anti-social behaviour calls.

1 call of youths throwing a bike onto Deringwood Drive. Attended by police patrol, but no youths were present at the scene when the patrol arrived.

5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

The meeting was reconvened

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

Following amendment to Item 17 to reflect that the Kent Messenger had published Cllr Cheesman's response to Dr Paul Hobday in the 30 October edition, the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

17 SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE: (Agenda item moved forward).

DPC was represented by Cllr Weeks at a meeting held at Dr Singh's Surgery in Northumberland Road on 27 November (also attended by Helen Whately MP, Cllr Gordon Newton & Dr Singh).

Dr Singh confirmed that he is in the process of initiating a consultation process and he will allow others who had attended the meeting to have sight of the consultation letter in advance of it being sent out.

Helen Whately is going to send a letter to Downswood residents confirming consultation details etc. (DPC's distribution service has been offered for this).

Dr Singh has undertaken that in the interim period he will offer a more considerate service for Downswood Patients who are struggling to attend surgery at either Shepway or Grove Green - this will include telephone consultations and home visits where appropriate.

Cllr Newton agreed to provide the surgery with a map to ensure they are clear of the roads which constitute Downswood

All available methods to be used to publicise the surgery consultation.
Downswood residents to be encouraged to make the surgery receptionist aware if they are struggling as a result of the location of the now available surgeries, and report back via the Clerk or Cllr Newton if they feel their needs are not being met.

Dr Singh estimated that approximately 400 to 500 residents are registered with his Downswood practice.

DPC to ensure the best possible service is available for residents.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Cooke):

Written Report provided – see Appendix 1.

8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Newton):

- MBC is looking for another site for the Sittingbourne Road Park and Ride.
- It is feared that the new Maidstone gyratory system will cause chaos next year when it is implemented.

9 URGENT MATTERS:

- MBC has been unable to source 9cm pot plants for the Jubilee triangle and has offered to supply all plants as plugs. It was agreed that the odds of plugs surviving the winter are not good. Therefore, if the search remains unsuccessful, consideration to be given to growing the plugs on prior to planting at the end of February/beginning of March, or delay and wait for larger plants to become available.
- Suggestions welcome as to how Downswood should celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday?

10 FINANCE

Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £17,839.84 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account £10,183.17 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

To Whom Payable

PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	240.00
R. Cheesman	Glowsticks (Christmas Ceremony)	9.90
EDF	Christmas 2014 Lighting	424.37
Martin Weeks	Expenses – Christmas Flyer Printing	53.99
Rumwood Nurseries	3 x Gift Vouchers (Garden Comp Prizes)	90.00
J. Noyce	Litter Picker's Wages (Nov)	280.15

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KCC	Clerk's Pension (Employer/Employee) Nov	201.67
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Nov)	852.71
L. Greenhead	Christmas Ceremony Flyer Delivery	75.00

Cheques Received:

Caxtons Commercial	Litterpicking Contribution	364.00
DCA	“ “	125.00

ii) **2016/17 Budget:** Following discussion of the draft budget proposals, it was unanimously agreed to maintain the precept for 2016/17 at £26,500.00

iii) **Other Matters to report:** None.

11 PLANNING:

New Applications:

Re. 15/509251/OUT – Outline application for a minimum of 250 residential dwellings with associated vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access, and associated works, including provision of public open space (All matters reserved for future consideration with the exception of access).

Comments required by MBC no later than 15 Dec.

15/509321/Full 17 Cheviot Gardens. ME15 8TE.

Demolition of existing garage, erection of two storey side extension with dormer windows.

The council do not wish to comment.

12 TREE PLANTING UPDATE: Cllr Cheesman to provide suggestions for wording of David Nuttall's tree/stone. The size of stone will be decided when the inscription has been agreed. It is hoped to have everything ready by May.

13 DEFIBRILLATOR: Order for 1 x Zoll AED Fully Automatic Defibrillator, 1 x Aivia 200 Outdoor/Indoor Cabinet c/w Alarm and Heating & Zoll Pedi-Padz II (paediatric) at a total cost of £1,704.00 has been raised.

Local ambulance service to be advised when the defibrillator has been installed.

14 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS CEREMONY:

Motifs have been erected in readiness for the switch-on. Further column update awaited from KHS.

It was agreed to ask Trevor Sturgess to officiate at the 2016 ceremony.

15 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:

KALC AGM 21 Nov & Meeting of 23 Nov - Attended by Cllr Cheesman. Various motions were agreed – inc the subscription rate of £0.58 per property – info to be circulated.

16) FOXDEN DRIVE/MALLARDS WAY PLAY AREAS/MALLARDS DUCK HOUSE: An order has been placed with Paul Waring to cut the Foxden Drive hedge.

MVCP to manufacture & install a duck house/raft on Mallards lake at a cost of £615 + VAT (quotation was subsequently reduced to £325 due to manufacture by volunteers). It is hoped that it will be installed prior to Christmas.

17) SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE: (see page 1).

18 SSSI: 2 Operatives from Amey – funded by Cllr Cooke’s Members’ Grant - will be joining a working party on site at 8 am on 12 Dec to assist with the clearance. Natural England has provided advice on how to treat plants to prevent regrowth.

19 DCA: CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT: Following a meeting at the Community Centre with John Everett, Diane Thompson, Cllrs Cheesman and Greenhead, it was agreed that quotes will be sought for insulation & LED lighting (funding contribution of £5,000 agreed in DPC’s 2016/17 budget).

20 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2016: Update not available from Cllr Butler.

21 COMMITTEE REPORTS: None received.

22 CORRESPONDENCE:

MBC. The public consultation for the Maidstone town centre Public Space Protection Order has commenced. It will run for 8 weeks until 25/01/16.

Various items circulated by email.

23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (necessity for January meeting)? It was agreed that the council will not meet in January, unless an urgent matter arises.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 2 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 8.00 PM
(See item 23).