

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2015 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Greenhead; Butler; Brooks; Pearson; Eady; Cllr G. Newton – MBC (part); Cllr Cooke – KCC (part); 5 Members of the public (Richard Young, Mr & Mrs Self, John Cottis; Barbara Padbury).

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Roberts (Work Commitment), Weeks (Not in Locality); PCSO Timon Gurr (Not on Duty); Rajen Kantaria.
Apologies received retrospectively from Cllr Carmichael (Work Commitment).

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Cheesman – Item 18 Spires Medical Centre (patient).

4 POLICE REPORT: 15/09/15 to 03/10/15

Criminal Damage, Redsells Close
Theft from Motor Vehicle, Gorham Drive

No anti-social behaviour calls

18) SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE CLOSURE (Agenda item brought forward at the request of members of the public): Public meeting of 1 October was well attended. Helen Whatley MP has discussed the matter with NHS SE England and is concerned that a consultation did not take place prior to closure.

It is recognised that Downswood needs to have a surgery.

A follow up meeting will be held in November - not open to members of the public - with the aim of achieving a positive conclusion.

Who determined the surgery is inadequate/carried out the inspection?

5 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Mainly concerning the Spires Medical Closure.

The meeting was reconvened

6 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2015: Following amendment to Item 12 (Finance) KCC (August Payment) amended from '21.67' to '201.67' & Balance of Current Account subsequently amended from '£22,956.08' to £22,776.08' the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Cooke): Written Report provided – see Appendix 1)

Verbal report.

- Pleased to be assisting with the Spires Medical Centre investigation.
- 'You Decide' event of 3 October went extremely well and will now be an annual event. Funding for this year is now complete.
- Still battling for an Integrated Transport Strategy.
- Confirmed that any new planning applications for the area will be refused on Highways grounds.
- DPC/OPC/KCC traffic surveys all point to the need for a Leeds/Langley relief road.

8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Newton):

- Currently checking the NPPF for applicable planning comments.
- Numerous meetings attended.
- New adventure playground for adults is planned for Mote Park. In addition, MBC is carrying out a review whether to take back the restaurant & run it as a café and education centre.

9 SPEED SURVEY UPDATE: The survey demonstrates that the road infrastructure is operating at full capacity.

Letter to be sent to KCC stating DPC observations as follows: The road network is overstretched and KCC should not be supporting further development.

10 URGENT MATTERS:

- Branch from an Ash tree is touching the bin at the Jubilee triangle.
- Bin overflowing at the top of Church Road.

Cllr Cooke confirmed that he will be carrying out an inspection of Mallards Way road surface (old and new) with the Area Manager.

11 FINANCE

Items for payment:

Balance of Current Account £21,341.05 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account £10,183.17 credit

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

To Whom Payable

| | | |
|-----------|--|--------|
| KCC | Clerk's Pension (Employer & Employee) Sept | 201.67 |
| T. Irving | Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Sept) | 858.49 |
| J. Noyce | Litter Picker's Wages (Sept) | 243.00 |
| R.B.I | Donation - Wreath | 45.00 |
| HMRC | PAYE | 86.87 |

Cheques Received: None

ii) **Suggestions for 2016/17 Budget:** Installation of steps at junction of KM80/KM86 (£800), Duck House (£700), Bat Boxes x 5 (£75), Memorial Stone (£500), Hedges (£450), Grass Cutting (£300), Motif for Deringwood Drive (£?).

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

12 PLANNING – Local Plan: Draft response to be prepared by Cllr Greenhead.

13 TREE PLANTING UPDATE: Cllr Weeks' proposal to purchase a Cyprus Oak & stake, soil & soil improver for approximately £70 was agreed. October 17 at 10am was suggested for planting.
Small Oaks (4) have been transplanted.

14 DEFIBRILLATOR PROPOSALS: Location as suggested by DCA (wall to LH side of door) was agreed. Further discussion re locked/unlocked cabinet resulted in agreement to house the defibrillator in an unlocked cabinet.
DCA to be requested to nominate a member of staff to carry out the required checks (info to be provided by First Rescue).

15 CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS CEREMONY:

- Choir donation – A unanimous decision of £100.

Mr Young was thanked for his 'fantastic and very generous offer of £500 to fund two motifs'. The motifs have been selected by Mr Young and will be installed on two columns in Church Road.

Due to the new low cost of purchasing motifs & free storage, it was unanimously agreed to rescind the previous decision to hire motifs.

16 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:

Spires Medical Centre meeting attended by Cllrs Cheesman, Greenhead & Clerk (see Item 18).

Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Police Chief Constable & Kent Presentation on Defibrillators - Cllr Cheesman on 23.09.15.

KALC – 30.09.15. Cllr Cheeman - minutes will be available soon.

17 PLAY AREAS: Exact details of equipment is not known, but Cllr Newton confirmed the equipment will be provided for Foxden in 2015/16 and Mallards 2016/17. **FOXDEN DRIVE HEDGE:** Ambilly Tree Surgeons has been requested to provide an additional quote.

Steven Waring has advised there will be an extra cost of £172 to trim 2ft off the top. Further to the offer by a Longham Copse resident to contribute towards the additional work, £100 was suggested.

18 SPIRES MEDICAL CENTRE CLOSURE (see page 1)

19 SSSI: At a site meeting attended by Cllrs Cheesman, Greenhead and the Clerk, the officer from Natural England suggested there may be funding available for an interpretation panel. NE will be requesting KCC to make part of the footpath safer.

It was confirmed that majority of the trees can be cut down and then treated with chemicals to stop regrowth.

Assistance to be requested from KCC during the Autumn Clean.

20 NEWSLETTER: Cllr Butler to submit an article on the Christmas lights.

Articles also requested from Cllrs Newton and Cooke.

21 CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT?: A ball park figure of £5,300 has been suggested for solar panels, with a geothermal pump costing between £27,000 to £40,000.

Cllr Greenhead to provide information at DCA meeting of 13 November.

22 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Open Spaces Committee – notes circulated.

23 CORRESPONDENCE:

Various emails circulated as received.

Rajen Kantaria. Convenience Store happy to assist with supplies for the Christmas ceremony on a sale or return basis. Shop tenants have no objection to the light fittings. 'These are always welcome decorations and enhance the street scene'.

Landscaping has been carried out in the front garden, with a low level fence to stop people climbing over the middle section.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.40 pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 3 NOVEMBER AT 8.00 PM