

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2020 AT 8.00 PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllrs Weeks (Chairman); Fairhurst; Cheesman; Rajaratnam; Mrs Irving – Clerk; Cllr Cooke (KCC); Mr Everett & Ms Thompson (DCA & residents).

- 1 APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Butler, Alden-Morris, Fincham – holiday, Cllr Newton – work commitment, Cllr Brooks – shielding.
- 2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.** The Clerk stated that she would be recording the meeting.
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS:** None received.
- 4 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** No questions were raised.

The meeting reconvened.

**5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING 7 JULY 2020:**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were duly signed by Councillor Weeks.

**6 PLANNING (New Applications and updates on existing applications)**

- **Update re. Church Road Outline Planning Application**

Policy & Resources upheld the Planning Committee's decision to refuse both the Outline and the Full applications. The applications will now be decided by an Inspector at an Inquiry. The date for the Inquiry has been set for 10.00 am on 24 November 2020 and is expected to last for 5 days (although the Inspector has reserved 6 sitting days – 24 to 26 Nov & 1-3 Dec).

Cllr Weeks confirmed that the statement of case is available and will be submitted tomorrow.

The matter of possible costs being awarded against DPC was discussed as it is stated that '.....one party to an appeal may have to pay another party's costs'. The Planning Chairman believes that only MBC will be liable for costs and stated 'there is no risk to us for costs'.

It was confirmed that the PC is comfortable having the support of residents and will move forward with the Rule 6(6) status.

CPRE are now involved as a Rule 6(6) party at the request of OPC and CAARA. They have withdrawn from Rule 6(6) to assist CPRE with the fight. However, both OPC & CAARA intend to speak at the Inquiry.

Either Cllrs Weeks or Fairhurst intend to represent Downswood although, ideally, they would both like to speak. Clerk to check if this is possible

AF/MW  
TI

Brendan Wright will be representing KCC Highways at the Inquiry.

### **New Applications**

20/503074/FULL – 2 Foxden Drive

Conversion of detached garage into a habitable space. Alterations to fenestration.

- **Update re. FOI Request**

The Chairman confirmed that he will have the requested information available to submit to 'Bellway' by the end of August. It will be submitted in paper format, not electronically.

MW

Cllr Newton is not part of the Planning Committee or the Sub-Committee\* and therefore his involvement has been as Ward Member in his MBC capacity. (\*Cllr Newton was appointed to the Sub-Committee but initially stood back to avoid possible pre-determination. Health issues then meant he was unable to attend meetings).

A member of the public has made enquiries regarding a flagpole that has been erected in Longham Copse. Cllr Fairhurst advised the meeting that no permission is required for a flagpole if it is under 4.6 metres. However, permission is required to fly certain types of flag (most of the common flags are permitted).

The PC has no powers in this regard and it is regarded as a private matter between residents.

**7 COMMUNITY PICNIC:** It was agreed that arrangements for a bouncy castle cannot go ahead.

Groups to be no larger than 10 and name/contact details to be taken from 1 member of each party to allow track and trace.

The event will not have sporting activities, but a treasure hunt with prizes was agreed.

A budget of £500 was **RESOLVED** for the event in its entirety.

First aid kit and sanitising products to be made available. Water will not be provided this year.

Clerk to request key to the main gate from MBC.

TI

Risk assessment to be updated to include current risks.

TI/MW

**8 URGENT CORRESPONDENCE:**

- In response to concerns regarding the amount of litter left at Mallards Way Park, it was **RESOLVED** that 2 x vinyl banners 5' x 2' stating 'Please take your litter home' should be purchased for the fence by the play area and Spot Lane entrance.

MW/TI

MBC confirmed that if they are able to deploy more bins they will do but they are already collecting about twice as much per week than their previous normal.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will request the litter picker to extend his route to include Mallards Park for 1 hour on both a Monday and Friday. If this is not possible, it was agreed that a second litter picker will be employed specifically for that area.

TI

- A Longham Copse resident was very concerned that trees are being cut down in the field adjacent to her property. It was confirmed by the Clerk that this was part of a request that was submitted by Savills and approved by MBC to remove diseased trees.
- The request by Cllr Cheesman to borrow 3 x PC gazebos for an event was agreed.

**9 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA & ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Wild flower verges.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28 pm**