

**MINUTES - DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 8.00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllrs Weeks (Chairman); Cheesman; Butler; Alden-Morris; Rajaratnam; Newton (MB & DP Cllr); Fincham; Fairhurst; Mrs Irving – Clerk; Mr Everett & Ms Thompson (DCA); Mr Terry Armstrong – CSTV Trust & resident; 1 member of the public.

- 1 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Greenhead (work commitment); PCSO Zoe Turner.

The apologies and reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

- 2 NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.** Cllr Week stated that he will be recording the meeting.

- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS:** None received.

- 4 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.** No questions raised.

The meeting reconvened.

- 5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING 1 OCTOBER 2019:**

Following agreement to the Clerk's request that the balance of the current account be amended to read '24,265.61', the minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and subsequently signed by Cllr Weeks.

- 6 CRIME REPORT:**

Report provided by PCSO Zoe Turner.

Crimes of note:

- 14.10.19 Longham Copse. Criminal damage to a dwelling, smashed a window of the communal area. Crime investigated and offender is being dealt with.
- 18.10.19 Deringwood Parade. Babos fish bar – Vegetable oil stolen. Crime being investigated.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Report of vehicles on Murrain Drive parking on pavements and pedestrians are having to use the road. Also emergency service vehicles unable to get through due to cars double parking.

In addition to the above, Cllr Weeks reported the following to PCSO Turner: An incident took place in Murrain Drive when someone knocked on a door pretending to be a Police Officer and asked for details about a neighbour.

Note to be put on Facebook that identification should always be requested from unfamiliar callers i.e. a warrant card.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Not available.

8 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

- Cllr Newton commented that a potential development was discussed at the recent Policy and Resources meeting but he was unable to discuss the matter further.

**MW/AF/
WG**

- Regular flytipping of vegetation is taking place in several areas in Downswood. MBC has been informed but nothing appears to be happening. Item to be added to Facebook stating that brown bins are available from MBC for garden waste at a cost of £35/year.

**ALL (EXC
RR/RC)**

9 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- **CCTV.** No News regarding training.
- **Salt Bins.** Cllrs Rajaratnam and Cheesman confirmed that bins on their routes are full. Remaining cllrs to check situation and report back
- **Spires Shops.** No response received to the Clerk's letter.

Cllrs reported that the front of the shops are a mess and another letter should be sent to the shop tenants, with a copy to Caxtons, stating that despite our previous letter further deterioration has been noted. Co-operation will be appreciated, especially regarding dropped cigarette butts in the rear car park, otherwise the litter picking contribution may have to be reviewed.

TI

10 FINANCE:

i. Items for Payment

Balance of Current Account: £21,476.00 credit, after all cheques sent
Balance of Investment Account: £10, 445.02 credit

Cheques sent:

M. Weeks	Expenses	85.05
St John	First Aid - Olympicpicnic	115.20
Paul Waring	Maintenance of Roundabout	74.76
Jim Noyce	Litter Picker's Salary - Oct	369.45
T Irving	Clerk's Salary/Expenses - Oct	971.77
KCC Re Kent Pension Fund	Employer/Employee Pension Cont' - Oct	282.08
KCC	Highways Licence for Festive Lighting	28.00

From Whom Rec'd

Spires Medical Centre	Litter Picking Contribution	120.00
MBC	PSS Grant	185.50

Approval of the above was **RESOLVED**

- ii **2020/21 Budget Proposals:** Gateway Features, Corner Protection*, Extended Footway*, Community Shelter, Table Tennis Equipment.
*It is considered that this should be at KCC's expense.

TI

Clerk to request the footway extension is carried out ASAP due to the danger to pedestrians.

- lii **RBL Wreath Donation:** A donation of £50 was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed in accordance with LGA S137. **RESOLVED**
- iv **St. Nicholas Church Choir Donation:** A donation of £100 was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed in accordance with LGA S137. **RESOLVED**
- v **Other matters to report.** None.

TI

- 11 **CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND LIGHTS:** It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Mr Brearley to play the organ (fee of £45 is available).
Cllr Butler agreed to be in charge of refreshments.
Cllr Weeks requested that as many councillors as possible do all they can to help.
Apologies for the event received from Cllr Weeks.

A-MB

12 **PLANNING (New Applications and updates on existing applications):**

- Update re Church Road Outline Planning Application.
- Cllr Weeks stated that he would have liked more support from councillors at the planning committee meeting of 24 October. The chairman of the committee refused delegated authority from officers, with a decision deferred until further information is available. It was confirmed that Downswood and Otham PCs will be included in the consultation process.

DPC Planning Committee meeting to be held next week.

As soon as MBC planning committee members are known they will be lobbied with the objections that have already been made, together with the address made by Cllr Weeks. Date/time will be arranged for them to view the site.

MW

Push to continue for an EIA as it is believed that the site could be geologically unsound for housing.

- 13 **SPEEDWATCH:** Nothing to report as Cllr Weeks missed a call from the Speedwatch team and has not had an opportunity to connect with them as he has been busy with the Church Rd application.

MW

- 14 **COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVE:** Mr Terry Armstrong briefed the council regarding his proposal to open a centre for youths, using the old medical centre as the base.

Concerns were expressed with regards to bringing youths into Downswood.

Mr Armstrong was wished good luck with his proposal and invited to return when more information is available.

- 15 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN/FOOTPATH EXTENSION:** (See Item 10ii)
Cllr Weeks has requested double yellow lines 'corner protection' for Murrain Drive/Gorham Drive.

Remaining items deferred to December's meeting when costings will be available.

- 16 REMEMBRANCE DAY:** Cllr Fincham to present the wreath/represent DPC at St Nicholas Church and Otham War Memorial. **PF**

17 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED:

- Cllr Newton attended an MBC meeting at which a biodiversity plan is being produced. This will include houses/structures and it is particularly focusing on nature aspects.
There is a facility to have wild flowers on Downswood (site on the bank at Mallards, below the play equipment has already been suggested).

- 18 COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None available.

19 RECEIVE DCA UPDATES:

The Halloween Party raised £372.

MBC's collection of litter picking waste is not working. It has failed to be collected on several occasion and requires further thought.

A physic evening will be held at the centre on 8 February 2020.

20 CORRESPONDENCE:

- KCC Budget Consultation – Response not required from DPC.
- KALC AGM 30 November - Cllr Cheesman to attend.
- KALC Area Committee meeting to be attended by Cllr Butler.

**RC
A-MB**

- 21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 3 December 2019** (apologies received from Cllr Weeks). **NECESSITY FOR JANUARY 2020 MEETING:** It was agreed that in view of possible developments for the Church Road application, a meeting for **Tuesday, 7 January 2020** will be 'pencilled in'.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.34 pm

Please contact the Clerk if you have items that you wish to be considered for future agendas.