

**MINUTES – DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Persons present: Councillors R Cheesman, A-M Butler, J Tournay, P Fincham, J Cottis, Teresa Irving – Parish Clerk/RFO, MB Cllr V Springett, 4 Members of the public were also present.

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman, Cllr Roz Cheesman

Cllr Cheesman gave a fire safety address.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Wingett – Holiday.
2. **NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO RECORD ANY ITEMS:** The Clerk for the purpose of minuting.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS:** None.
4. **PARISH BY-ELECTION:** Finance of the By-Election – including consideration of Poll Cards – and all matters related.
The Borough has advised that the estimated cost to the parish for an election will be in the region of £8,000 to £10,000. If poll cards are required, there will be an additional cost of £1.50 per elector.

After a lengthy discussion, followed by a vote (4 in favour, 2 against), it was **RESOLVED** that poll cards will not be required. However, a newsletter will be distributed to all residents with details of the forthcoming election and general news. **ACTION: All**

In order to meet the cost of the election(s), various cuts to the 2025/26 budget will be required. In addition, it was proposed, seconded & unanimously agreed to rescind the previously submitted £40,000 precept request and replace with a £45,000 request (unanimously agreed) **RESOLVED.**

5. **CHRISTMAS EVENT 2025:** Consider Proposal from The Orchard for Sunday 30.11.25. Lighting/Motifs and Entertainment Requirements.

Following confirmation that the Community Centre is not available for the annual Christmas Ceremony on the first Saturday of December, and due to the unsuitability of the Sundays offered, it was unanimously agreed to accept The Orchard's offer of a free venue with a buffet and refreshments provided at £550 **RESOLVED.**

Entertainment to be booked for the event: Lord Geoffrey (Balloon Modeller), Emma Mcleish (Face Painter) and Greenfields Choir. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Butler to approach Madginford School Choir. **ACTION: Cllr Butler**

More information required before Cllr Fincham's suggestion to host an evening event can be considered. **ACTON: Cllr Fincham**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.31 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 4 March 2024 at 8.00 pm