



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present**

Ian Miller (Vice-Chair), Richard Almond (RA), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Glyn Thomas (GT), WB Councillor Martha Vickers (MV), Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk, and one member of the public.

**Note:** P – proposed, S = seconded (All decisions unanimous unless otherwise indicated)

105 **Apologies** Councillors Margo Payne (MP), Anni Gruner (AG), and Colin Yates (CY).

106 **Declarations of interest** there were none.

107 **Approval of minutes**

Subject to a change to minute 93 from 'Chelsea and Westminster' to 'Kensington and Chelsea', the minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2023 were approved, (P – MC, S – RA).

108 **Matters arising**

- GT advised that he and other volunteers have performed a count of pedestrians and motorists outside the Castle Pub in the morning rush hour, with a view to gauging the need for a crossing. Results have been circulated. This will be repeated when the weather is warmer at school home time, and later in the year.
- Action plan – no response yet from ARK. GD has contacted several lighting companies with regard to low level lighting for the footway lighting at Shaw Hill, but with no luck so far.
- Two new benches have been ordered to commemorate the Gardening Club and Bill Graham. RA and GT have volunteered to help install them.
- WBC's legal team have been chased by MV regarding the persistent flooding in Long Lane.
- GD responded to WBC's consultation and objected to the removal of the two WBC litter bins in the parish.
- Suggestions for locations of the smaller trees from Greenham Trust include Kingsley Close, The Chase, and the recreation ground by the cherry tree hedge. GD to check the labels on the trees to see what we have.
- GD investigated grants for the new 'noise cameras', but none are available- these were only for the trial in 2022.
- GD has commissioned the Parish Council Website company to design a new website. GD to send links of website design to councillors. DW and PB to ask Dr Paul Sievers, a local photography enthusiast, for pictures of parish.
- GD sent MV the latest newsletter from the PCC about the police fund which could possibly be used for footpath lighting.
- GD wrote to MV requesting her support for a change of speed limit between Newbury and Long Lane from 50mph to 40mph, MV has submitted the request to the speed limit review board.
- Playground repairs still awaited as some parts have not yet arrived. Hopefully will be done next week.

## 109 Correspondence

- Email received from Love Lane resident about graffiti on the wall of Shaw House; reported to WBC and police
- Email received from Shop Lane resident about the deterioration of the road surface; reported to WBC

## 110 Finance

a. The following payments were approved (P – MC, S – GT), IM and GT will authorise the payments.

Litter picker	Litter picking December	75.49
Clerk	Salary for December	961.40
Clerk	Laminator and pouches	25.98
Clerk	Printer ink	27.96
Cleaner	cleaning pavilion for December	13.00
WBC	RoSPA reports	63.53
SLCC	Training course	78.00
Parish Council Websites	deposit for new website	314.58
SSE	Electricity for lampposts (1.11-30.11.23)	433.96
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	52.40
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk December	140.21
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying for November	<u>49.51</u>
		<b><u>£2,236.02</u></b>

Total payments authorised for November (excluding Direct Debits and Invoices already paid\*)

**£2,046.30**

b. Councillors approved the draft 2024/25 budget. (P – PB S – GT)

c. Councillors approved the precept for 2024/25 of £57,700 (P – RA, S – MC)

## 111 District Councillors' Reports

MV reported that WBC portfolio holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel, Denise Gaines has asked Cllr Tony Vickers (WBC Executive member for Planning and Community Engagement) for a report on the history of the planning of Donnington Heights and Shaw Valley estates, to look at the best way forward, also involving the developers. In particular they will look into the conditions regarding the ANPR camera for Bastion Street, and the promised bus, because it appears that the developers have overridden the agreed planning conditions on a number of occasions. Denise Gaines is going to have a look at the path around Vodafone at dusk to see the need for lighting. In the meantime WBC Councillor Antony Amirtharaj is writing to ask the owners of the Vodafone site whether the public can access the lit private path within the site. DW also reminded MV and Councillors of WBC's commitment to build the new school at the recent meeting.

## 112 Planning

Applications

1. 23/02927/HOUSE Mead House, Donnington. Loft conversion in barn for residential annexe. No objection (P – PB, S – RA).
2. 24/00011/TPC 7 Sherrard Mead. Removal of 3 trees in conservation area. No objection (P – PB, S – RA).

## 113 Update on Community Speed Watch

GD advised that the CSW signs for the village gateways have not yet been ordered, but today GT has measured the gateways to determine the size sign that we need to buy.

A new volunteer from Long Lane is undergoing training to help with CSW. There haven't been any sessions since Christmas due to bad weather and ill-health of volunteers.

**114 Amenities**

Donnington Recreation Ground:

i) Update on improvements to the pavilion. PB presented an inspection spreadsheet for twice annual check-ups which all approved. GT will contact the primary school to find out when they are next due to have their kitchen equipment at the village hall PAT tested, to see if we can take the items from the pavilion to be done at the same time. GD will soon be meeting the carpenter with a view to getting quotes for a replacement kitchen, benches and new cupboards for the use of the football and cricket teams.

ii) Update on the proposed improvements to the North Western corner of the recreation ground. Two contractors have responded and the second quote is awaited, but still no sign of a third contractor responding.

iii) To consider purchasing a new dog bin and litter bin. Councillors approved the purchase of two bins, at approximately £200 each plus VAT (P – MC, S – IM).

Update on levelling of Owen Road Field:

Work is due to start on 5 February. RA offered to deliver flyers to all Kingsley Close residents to advise them of the work, and GD will place signs on both pedestrian entrances to the field. Work should take 2 to 3 weeks. GD to confirm arrangements with the contractors for security and access of the site.

**115 Arrangements for the Spring Litter Pick on 16 March**

Litter pickers, bags etc are available to be collected from WBC offices in Market Street on 14 March. IM offered to collect these at 11am that day, and agreed to co-ordinate the litter pick. GD to confirm with The Greek Table that the litter pick can be organised from Castle Pub car park between 10am and 12pm. GD to create a poster to put on noticeboards, the website and Facebook pages.

**116 To consider a speaker/activity for the Annual Parish Meeting on 1 May.**

MV to ask someone from WBC to come and talk about the environment/River Lambourn. We can ask for volunteers for CSW at the meeting, and possibly include a petition for a crossing at the Castle Pub. All agreed Road Safety could be considered for next year's APM.

**117 Members reports and questions**

There were none.

**118 Exclusion of the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed**

This was agreed (P – IM, S – GT),

**119 To select an internal auditor**

The three quotes were considered, and councillors agreed to accept the quote from Rachel Brown (P – MC, S – PB).

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 9.00pm