



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors Margo Payne (MP) (Chair), Richard Almond (RA), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Anni Gruner (AG), Ian Miller (IM), Glyn Thomas (GT), WB Councillor Martha Vickers (MV), Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk, and 3 members of the public.

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

120 **Apologies** Councillor Colin Yates (CU)

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

122 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024 were approved, (P – RA, S – GT).

123 **Matters arising**

- WBC's legal team have been chased again by MV regarding the persistent flooding in Long Lane.
- GD has circulated the species of tree we have been given in addition to the oak: three cherries, three crab apples and three birches. Suggestions for locations of these include Kingsley Close, The Chase, and the recreation ground by the cherry tree hedge. GD to ask John Gurr at WBC if some of these can be planted in Kingsley Close.
- GD has forwarded a number of excellent local photographs by Paul Seivers to the website design company. Councillors were very complimentary about the new website, in its Beta form, and will pass on any comments for amendments etc by Monday next week.
- GD and MC will be attending the speed limit review panel meeting regarding the request for a speed limit reduction by Shaw Cemetery and on Oxford Road north of Donnington Village. They will mention the subsequent request for a reduction of the speed limit on the B4009 from Newbury to Long Lane from 50mph to 40mph, because if the location of the 30mph speed limit is moved further North, the signage will need to be changed if this additional alteration is eventually approved.
- GD is liaising with the council's litter picker regarding the ordering of two new litter bins for the recreation ground.
- Speaker for the APM on 1 May: MV will remind the guest speaker from WBC who she suggested comes to talk about the environment/River Lambourn.
- GD advised the new auditor of her appointment and completed a comprehensive questionnaire about the council.
- David Willetts reported progress with English Heritage (EH) and the proposed new information panels at Donnington Castle, which will explain the whole history of the castle rather than just the period during the Civil War. The artwork for the panels should be completed by May. The Civil War re-enactment event has also been discussed with EH for 2025. This year's Heritage Open Day will have a series of short events during the preceding week and a heritage trail

through the parish, and will include aspects of the CAMP report. A request for grant funding to contribute towards these activities will be included in the next agenda.

124 Correspondence

- Email received from Love Lane resident about graffiti on the wall of Shaw House which had still not been removed. Post meeting note, at least one of the tags has now been removed.
- Long Lane resident concerned about the new hedge planted from Grange Farm to the North, which will obstruct sight lines when exiting from Grange Farm Road and impinge upon the waiting area for the bus stop in a few years' time. The services box will be inaccessible once the hedge grows. MP to email photos to MV to pursue with WBC, as it may have been planted on WBC land.

125 Finance

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

Litter picker	Litter picking January	75.49
Clerk	Salary for January	961.40
Clerk	Bouncy Castle deposit	30.00
Clerk	Ionus for email and website	196.15
Groundsman	grass cutting January	77.50
Cleaner	cleaning pavilion for January	26.00
SCD Primary School	PAT testing	25.00
NBB Furniture	2 new benches	1008.00
Paul Bryant	2 Light bulbs for lampposts	9.72
Sign Wizzard	4 CSW signs	277.41
Mario Plumbing Ltd	replacement of faulty shower	444.00 *
ARD Playgrounds Ltd	Repairs and replacements to play equipment	2,259.96
SSE (DD)	Pavilion electricity Oct - Jan	328.90
SSE	Electricity for lampposts (December)	14.42
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	52.40
Tactical Facilities Management	Bin emptying January	202.80
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk January	140.21
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying for January	<u>46.82</u>
		<u>£6,176.18</u>

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

£5,216.25

b. The recommendations from the Investment Advisory Group regarding the ongoing investment of Council funds were considered and approved, the Council's excess funds will remain in the CCLA Deposit Fund (P – IM, S – GT).

c. To revised Investment Strategy was approved (P – PB, S – IM).

d. The withdrawal of £20,000 from the CCLA Deposit Fund, for part payment of the levelling of Owen Road Field was approved (P – GT, S – IM).

126 District Councillors' Reports

MV is still progressing with organisation of a meeting with developers. WBC's chief planning officer has heard back from DWH, and has a catch up with them on 28 February, and MV has asked if she can attend. They are still chasing Taylor Wimpey. Councillor Denise Gaines, the portfolio holder, and the two ward members have visited the path around Vodafone to look at the need for lighting, and a letter has gone to the landowner to see if residents can use the lit path within the Vodafone site. GD to ask WBC how much CIL relates to the new development and how it is planned to be spent by WBC.

MV advised that the number 5 bus service for the parish has been cancelled and replaced with an 'on demand' service, but few parishioners seem to know about this. Donnington Almshouse residents said they didn't know about the changes, and WBC transport officers have offered to come and talk to them about how to book the new on demand service.

127 **Planning**

Applications

1. 24/00074/CERTP Donnington Fields, various external renovations. No comment
2. 23/00397/OUTMAJ – Bath Road, Speen, neighbouring parish, variation to conditions for 93 house estate. No comment, not our parish.

128 **Road Safety in the Parish - Update on Community Speed Watch (CSW)**

IM reported that there had been two CSW sessions since the last meeting – 5 out of 100 drivers were excessively speeding on Oxford Road, and the second session this week at Shaw cemetery saw 30 vehicles out of 160 travelling south speeding excessively. A new volunteer has come forward, and he will hopefully join at the session in early March. GD advised that the CSW signs for the village gateways have arrived and need to be installed.

The new SID has been installed on the B4009 near to Shaw Cemetery.

GD will remind WBC Highways for the signage they have promised. MV will ask Highways officers for the policy regarding 'identity signage' in the district, as officers have advised the parish council that these are not permitted.

129 **Amenities**

Donnington Recreation Ground:

- i) Update on the proposed improvements to the North Western corner of the recreation ground. IM reported that he has had one quote, one company pulled out and two never quoted. Now he has approached another builder who has given two alternative quotes, which are for a different composite reinforced fabric which is very strong, recycled, and made in the UK. The quotes will be considered at the next meeting.
- ii) All but one of the playground repairs have now been carried out, the final one is dependent on a part not yet received. GD explained that the play equipment specialist she had met recommended new surfacing under some of the play equipment, as the existing surfaces in most instances were quite worn. GD to get some quotes for this. GT to forward details of the company that provided the mulch style surfacing under the new play castle.
- iii) A quote has been received for adding guttering to the front of the pavilion, as the lack of a gutter has created a large area of mud in front of the building. There is a risk of the guttering being damaged by vandals, as had happened many years ago, but councillors agreed it was worth trying again. As the cost will exceed this year's maintenance budget the Council voted to approve the expenditure up to £500 (P – MC, S – AG). GD will speak to the contractors about amending their quote in light of the soakaway to the side of the pavilion that had been installed when the pavilion was built, according to a local resident. Councillors to investigate this.
- iv) Councillors agreed to locate the two new benches – in the area near to the playground, close to the Coronation bench.

Update on levelling of Owen Road Field

The work commenced last week, and should be finished by the end of next week or soon after. Wild seed will need to be purchased by the council and scattered on the new banks around the field.

130 Review the Governance and Management Risk Assessment

Subject to several amendments, the Risk Assessment was approved (P – IM, S – RA).

131 To discuss the content of the Easter newsletter

MP will produce a letter from the Chair, and additional items will include, the two new benches, levelling of Owen Road Field, CSW, Spring Litter Pick report, new website, Annual Parish Meeting, D-Day beacon, and Donnington Fete. Councillors to consider a new Council banner, and decide at the which banner they prefer to use in the future.

132 Report back from meeting with Rupert Kelton of Action on River Kennet

GD and GT met up with Rupert Kelton of ARK last week and walked with him along the River Lambourn through Shaw Park either side of the subway. Rupert will discuss some options for environmental improvements and community action days with his colleague Anna. Councillors discussed the principle of some funding for such work.

133 Members reports and questions

MC asked for a review of the emergency plan for the next meeting. GT mentioned the PAT testing is taking place next Wednesday. The second survey of pedestrians at the Castle Pub crossing is planned for this Friday afternoon, weather permitting.

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 9.47pm