



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 7.30pm

Present

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

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

The meeting commenced with a minutes silence for Gill Lutterloch and Jeff Beck

179 **Apologies** Councillor Colin Yates (CY)

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

181 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2024, were approved, (P – IM, S – GT).

182 **Matters arising**

- The application for matched funding on The Good Exchange is still to be finalised.
- Two councillors are yet to set up new email addresses. RA will look into this.
- Cold Ash Parish Councillors have offered to meet with us to discuss the pros and cons of doing a Neighbourhood Plan. RA and GD to meet with them, a date is to be arranged.
- Larger dog bin for Love Lane now installed.
- The overflowing bin at Donnington Castle has been removed. Thanks to Kelly Rice for removing the excess litter and dog waste, the rest was done by English Heritage.
- The grass is growing at Owen Road field.
- Stickers for dog bins have been affixed to all our bins – thank you Glyn
- D-day beacon lighting went well on 6th June.
- MP's meeting with the Trinity headteacher to discuss traffic issues outside the school, was postponed due to Covid, but will be re-arranged.
- GD yet to meet with member of the public re the donated bench.
- Newbury Tennis Club confirmed their planning application was to replace 4 existing floodlights with more directional LED ones.
- Enerveo have been out to examine the lamppost by the Hartley Arms and have temporarily replaced the lantern whilst awaiting a replacement for a faulty photocell.
- Quotes for replacement play surfacing are still awaited.
- The cutting of the Churchyard grass has started today.

183 **Correspondence**

- A local resident has seen a large rat in the Trinity School car park. PB said it was a wild area and this is a natural occurrence, MP said that rats have also been seen in the churchyard, and young people often eat under the lychgate and she will mention this in discussion with Trinity School's headteacher.

184 Finance

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

Litter picker	Litter picking May	83.00
Clerk	Salary for May (net)	1,131.51
Clerk	First aid kit	21.42
Clerk	sandbags	8.99
Clerk	Moneysoft payroll software annual fee	103.20
Clerk	Kitchen rolls for pavilion	4.50
Clerk	New dog bin and fixings	305.94
Clerk	Safety tape	14.84
Clerk	banner for fete	97.60
WBC	RoSPA report	65.51*
James Snelling	Grounds maintenance May	313.50
James Snelling	Petrol	55.69
Cleaner	April and May	48.65
Margo Payne	Jeyes Fluid cleaning the pavilion	13.00
Glyn Thomas	gift for dog show judge	20.00
Jon Keel	new benches in pavilion	1650.00
Village Hall	booking for village fete meeting in May	21.20
Crescent Signs Ltd	Stickers for bins	93.60
SSE	Electricity for lampposts (April)	381.58
SSE (DD)	Electricity for pavilion	741.87*
HMRC	PAYE/NIC for May	130.74
Tactical Facilities Management	Bin emptying May	172.04
Tactical Facilities Management	Installing new dog bin	90.00
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk May	170.19*
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying for May	48.74*
		<u>£5,721.37</u>

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

£4,695.06

b. Review of the council's investments: CCLA interest rate today was 5.19% for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

c. To review the council's expenditure of CIL money. This is being spent quite quickly now, and there is a balance of about £50,000 unallocated, with playground surfacing and identity signage still to be quantified. Possible additional items are the crossing by the Castle Pub and a contribution to lighting on the Vodafone footpath.

d. The new NALC model Financial Regulations were approved (P – AG, S – RA)

e. Amended Standing Orders were approved. (P - RA, S - AG)

f. A direct debit of £35 p.a. to the Information Commissioners Office was approved. (P - MC, S - IM)

185 Planning

a. Applications

1. 24/01084TPW Castle School to remove a sycamore tree. No objection. (P – GT, S - IM)

2. 24/00960FULMAJ Clarke House & Faraday House, The Connection. Interior and exterior alterations. No objection. (P – GT, S - IM)

3. 24/01114/FUL Messenger House, Pear Tree Lane. Demolition and rebuild of house. No objection (P GT, – S - IM)

b. Decision

1. 23/02927/HOUSE Mead House, Castle Lane, conversion of barn to annexe. Approved.

186 To discuss options for retaining the Castle Pub car park next to the recreation ground for community use.

MP and GD met with the publican on Monday, and listened to the reasons for the closure of the car park. In the main these are related to inconsiderate parking and use of the car park, particularly at night. The publican explained that the car park was not needed for his business, as the other car park is adequate, so he has effectively been paying to provide a facility for the community.

He explained that he would be prepared to reopen the carpark for short term parking by park users if the parish council contributed to the cost and the maintenance. The parish council had provided and emptied the litter bin in the car park for many months, but in addition to this he asked that the parish council pay for litter picking the car park, strimming the grass verge and paying £50 per week.

After a discussion it was agreed to enter into a twelve-month agreement with the publican to enable the public to access the car park, which will help prevent parking and congestion on neighbouring roads. All agreed the carpark is a valuable community asset.

Councillors agreed this in principal and a document acceptable to the publican and the council will be drawn up for signature. (P – IM, S - GT). PB abstained.

187 District Councillors Report

MV reported that the transfer of land for the school building is now with planning and it will be an Enforcement issue. MV has contacted Peter Walker of WBC regarding the hedges in Long Lane, which have not been removed by the farmer. There is still an issue in Long Lane with mud on the road, coming from one of the farms, and this is also still with Planning Enforcement.

Councillor Nigel Foot is the new portfolio holder for countryside. RA asked when DWH are going to start building the new car parking area on Bastion Street, adjacent to the ANPR camera that is due to be installed. This should be in place by September. MV to enquire.

PB mentioned that the Flood Forum has asked WBC for a schematic of the drainage on the DWH and TW sites, and this is still awaited. GT is leading a 'walk over' this coming Friday morning with Richard Hancock of the Environment Agency.

188 Road Safety in the Parish

Community Speed Watch update: IM reported that there have been two CSW sessions by the cemetery on the B4009, and they have caught 10% of motorists doing more than 36mph in a 30mph zone, including drivers of several loaded articulated lorries.

One SID has been moved and the other has been turned around.

GT has organised the third session of collecting data for the potential crossing by the Castle Pub. GT has received email support from all the local schools and Castle Pub for the crossing. All agreed to set up a petition for the crossing on the WBC website.

189 Amenities

Donnington Recreation Ground:

- i) Pavilion improvements: New benches have been installed in the changing rooms. GD is still sourcing quotes to remove the concrete at the rear, and to install concrete or drains at the front.
- ii) The hedge along the Oxford Road has filled out, so it is no longer seen as a danger to children and dogs and the fencing will not therefore be needed. This will be reviewed in the late Autumn.

190 **Newsletter**

Fete to be added, then proof read and printed and circulated in next week or two.

191 **Members reports and questions**

GT reported his frustration regarding the WBC 'report a fault' re grass cutting – which has been reduced from 7 to 5 cuts a year. The local WBC parks have been cut but the edges around the footpaths have not been strimmed, and the paths are now dangerous due to stinging nettles. Additionally, sight lines on verges are overgrown and dangerous. MC has also reported overgrown verges and the grass at Lamp Acres. The obstruction of sight lines for motorists and pedestrians makes it dangerous to pull out or cross over the road. GD has reported the overgrown Shaw Hill footpath on several occasions. MV will report all of this to Paul Hendry's superior Kofi Adou-Gyamfi and report back.

192 **Exclusion of members of the public due to the contractually sensitive nature of the item to be discussed.** This was agreed. (P-RA, S-IM)

193 **To decide which quote to accept for new streetlights on Shaw Hill.**

It was agreed to accept the quote for £17,238 plus VAT from Volker Highways, for four new streetlights, with lanterns which project further out over the footpath, and have a wider spread of light. This will also have the benefit of replacing some of our old-style concrete lampposts, which need to be replaced in the coming years with metal posts. (P, PB - S, GT)

It was agreed to accept a quote for a three-year fixed contract for electricity for streetlights with SSE. (P - MP, S - MC).

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 10.00pm