



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

Present

Councillors Margo Payne (MP) (Chair), Richard Almond (RA), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Ian Miller (Vice Chair) (IM), Colin Yates (CY), Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk and two members of the public.

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

210 **Apologies** Councillors Anni Gruner and Glyn Thomas (GT).

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

212 Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024, were approved, (P – MC, S – IM).

213 Matters arising

- The heritage event held at Shaw Church and Donnington Castle was a success. Councillors MP, RA and PB agreed to be in a working group to organise the proposed Civil War re-enactment event for next summer.
- RA has set up his new email address. GD to add the .gov.uk email addresses to the newsletter and website.
- MP met with the Trinity headteacher Charlotte Wilson, to discuss traffic issues outside the school. Charlotte said the school has asked parents to be more considerate when dropping off and collecting students but not all parents have heeded this. MP will now speak with WBC Councillor Martha Vickers to see if there is another way for traffic to enter and exit Church Lane in the busy times.
- The donated bench: the donor now needs to approve the wording on the plaque, then the order will be complete.
- The newsletter was delivered to all residents.

214 Correspondence

- A member of the public emailed about the need to upgrade streetlights in Owen Road and Kingsley Close. GD to ensure costings for replacing the concrete lampposts in the parish are included in the upcoming budget.
- A pet cat has been shot dead by an air rifle in Shaw Valley and reported to the police. A 'Have Your Say' meeting has been arranged for 23 September at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Three councillors are attending.

215 Finance

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

July

Litter picker

Litter picking July

83.00

Clerk	Salary for July (net)	1,131.51
Clerk	Items for pavilion	6.60
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	504.00
James Snelling	Grounds maintenance July	231.00
James Snelling	Petrol	27.76
Cleaner	July	27.80
Ostrich Print	Welcome booklets	165.00
SSE	Electricity for lampposts (June)	381.58
SSE	Electricity for pavilion April to July	551.17
HMRC	PAYE/NIC for July	130.94
Tactical Facilities Management	Bin emptying July	214.36
Tactical Facilities Management	Mowing Owen Road Field	72.00
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk July	170.19*
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying for July	46.82*
		<u>£3,743.73</u>

Total payments authorised for July (excluding Direct Debits and Invoices already paid*) **£3,526.72**

August

Litter picker	Litter picking August	83.00
Clerk	Salary for August (net)	1,131.51
Clerk	Dropbox subscription	95.88
James Snelling	Grounds maintenance August	107.25
Cleaner	July	27.80
Mark Ulry	Mower repair x 3	500.00
CCB	Subscription	42.00
HMRC	PAYE/NIC for August	130.74
Tactical Facilities Management	Bin emptying August	188.82
Tactical Facilities Management	Mowing Owen Road Field	144.00
Ava Recreation	installing new playground surfacing	25,626.78
Callum Eley	Installing replacement lanterns	2,923.26*
SSE (DD)	Electricity for lampposts (July and August)	457.25*
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk August	170.19*
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying for August	46.82*
		<u>£31,678.30</u>

Total payments authorised for August (excluding Direct Debits and Invoices already paid*) **£28,080.78**

The large number of repairs to the mower were discussed and it was agreed that IM would look into the possibility of replacing the mower. GD to pass onto to IM the contact details for the groundsman.

b. Review of the council's investments: CCLA interest rate today was 4.98% for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

c. The external auditors report on the accounts for 2023/24 was received. There were no issues to report.

216 Planning

a. Applications

1. 24/01755/FUL Land South of Twistle Cottage, Long Lane. Change of use, rebuild of stables. Objection on grounds of change to residential use, and unclear plans (P – PB, S – CY).

b. Decision

1. 24/01684/NONMAT Meadowcroft, Castle Lane. Reduction in size & scope of existing application. Refused.

b. Councillors discussed the suggested revision to West Berkshire Council's Local Plan, adding over 800 new homes to the parish from 2034. The Council submitted a response by the deadline to the examiner, and several councillors will be attending the hearing at WBC's council offices on 2 October. GD to organise a rota of councillors to attend on the day.

217 **District Councillors Report**

A written report from Councillors Martha Vickers was considered and Councillors noted that a number of issues have been progressed, and others are still outstanding such as the transfer of the school land. RA would like to know why WBC is still not happy with the condition of the land.

218 **Road Safety in the Parish**

- IM reported there had been two sessions of Community Speed Watch, one on Oxford Road and another on Long Lane by Lamp Acres. There were fewer speeding motorists on Oxford Road, and only half the usual traffic on Long Lane, but still a high number of speeding motorists, especially in electric cars.

MC said that WBC officer Cheryl Evans is progressing a briefing note for the WBC Executive on the speeding on the B4009 that crosses three parishes. The issue will then be raised with Thames Valley Police, who claim to support parishes with speeding issues, but have not been deploying the mobile speed cameras in the Thames Valley for over a year now. MP agreed to bring this up at the next Independent Advisory Group TVP West Berkshire meeting she attends.

- Next steps for the campaign for a crossing by The Castle Pub. GT will attend the next Full Council meeting at WBC where Cllr Martha Vickers will present the petition, and letters of support from the schools in Love Lane.

219 **Amenities**

- a. The resurfacing of the playground at Donnington Recreation Ground is complete.
- b. Councillors agreed to proceed with obtaining a quote to install a disabled accessible toilet in the pavilion and to apply for a members bid for part of the cost. GD to chase the carpenter for the quote. It was agreed that the cost of the repairs to the rear of the pavilion (approximately £800, plus volunteer labour) should be included.
- c. IM and PB will arrange the Autumn maintenance check of the pavilion.
- d. It was agreed that GD would order 40 more beech trees to be planted in November/December to replace the dead ones in the Recreation Ground.
- e. The lanterns in the Church Road car park have been replaced.

220 **Grass cutting in the churchyard and the open space opposite the churchyard on Church Road**

RA reported that the churchyard had at last had the second cut in August, and another is due in October. Council Tax payers have been charged for seven cuts this year, so GD agreed to write to WBC to ask that the balance be refunded in next year's Special Expense for Council Tax payers.

221 **To set a date for an Autumn litter pick**

October 12th was agreed for the litter pick. GD to check with the church that the car park is available before ordering the equipment from WBC. IM will collect the litter picks etc and leave them with MP for the day.

222 **To discuss items for the Autumn newsletter**

It was agreed to ask the primary school if they would like to add anything to the newsletter, MP to contact them. MC will provide a list of the activities at the Village Hall. There will be an item about the new bust service too.

223 **Members reports and questions**

RA has completed a training course on visual inspections of play equipment and recommends that we replace the toddler swings, as the last RoSPA report noted they were quite worn, and they have deteriorated over the summer, councillors agreed.

RA mentioned that DWH had now landscaped the allotment plots but that they appear to be very small. RA also mentioned that the local WI branch would like to donate a tree in the memory of Gill Lutterloch in the Recreation Ground. GD suggested it could go along the hedge line, and a flowering cherry would be ideal. RA to pass this onto the WI.

PB mentioned that he had cleared some rubbish from the trash screen in the Spout Ditch by the bridge in Shaw Recreation Ground. The next day the river level in the ditch had dropped by a foot, showing how important it is to keep this trash screen cleared, though it is not certain whose responsibility it is, possibly the Environment Agency, or the riparian owner, WBC.

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 21.28pm

DRAFT