



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 20 November 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), Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk, and one member of the public.

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

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

241 **Declarations of interest** There were none.

242 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2024, were approved, (P – AG, S – IM).

243 **Matters arising**

- The donated bench has been installed.
- IM has had no success with meeting up with the groundsman to discuss whether or not we need to replace the lawn mower, he will try and meet up with him in the spring when grass cutting recommences.
- The WI have purchased a 6ft flowering cherry to add to the hedge, and Gill Lutterloch's husband has asked permission to scatter Gill's ashes around the tree, councillors were happy with this. The WI will supply some stakes for the new tree.
- The basket swing has been raised, and wooden rungs on the play castle were replaced free of charge by Discovery Timber Play. GD purchased spray for the build-up of algae on the play equipment.
- GD and GT will be meeting up on Friday to review locations and sizes of parish signs.
- The parish plan action plan review has been published on the website.
- Village Fete working group are meeting on 28 November at village hall.
- Parish Council Christmas meal has been arranged; councillors attending to pay deposits to GD.
- Shaw Valley estate management company Fexco Property Services, has no plans at the moment to install bins, but say they haven't yet fully taken over the landscaped areas. The same company is due to take over the communal areas of Donnington Heights, but this hasn't happened yet. GD to ask Shaw Valley residents if they want dog bins, and if so, where they would like them located, via their Facebook page.

- Churchyard mowing: the Church is happy to accept that they have the equivalent of six grass cuts this year. GD to tell WBC that the special expense should be reduced next year by the cost of the seventh cut that was not delivered.

244 **Questions from members of the public (on items on the agenda)** There were none.

245 **Correspondence**

A member of the public on Love Lane has complained that the light from a new lamppost is shining directly into their house. GT to contact WBC about it.

246 **Finance**

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

September

Litter picker	Litter picking October	83.00
Clerk	Salary for October (net)	1,315.10
Clerk	Spray and Leave for playground	21.99
Clerk	B&Q drill bit	6.58
Clerk	Newbury Tools breaker and wheelbarrow hire	47.94
Cleaner	October	55.60
Ian Welch	Shingle and rubble removal for pavilion	228.00
WB Heritage Forum	Grant	50.00
WBC	Library Contribution	1,800.00
David Willetts	Grant for Heritage Open Day 2024	386.35
NWN Over 80s Parcel Fund	Donation	200.00*
Gallagher	insurance for lawnmower	234.63
SLCC	Membership 2025	190.00
HMRC	PAYE/NIC for October	139.11
Tactical Facilities Mgmt	Bin emptying October and November	247.90
Tactical Facilities Mgmt	Mowing Owen Road Field October and November	144.00
Tactical Facilities Mgmt	Replacement bin Owen Road	102.00
SSE	Electricity in pavilion July to October	121.50
Castle Water	Water for pavilion	8.04*
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk October	170.19*
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying for October	47.30*
		<u>£5,664.27</u>

Total payments authorised for October (excluding Direct Debits and Invoices already paid*) **£5,173.70**

b. Review of the council's investments: CCLA interest rate today was 4.78% for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

c. Councillors considered ideas for the 2025/26 budget:

MC requested the cost of an ASWC unit to replace our existing speedwatch camera be included, for £4,000 plus VAT. This would enable speedwatch sessions to take place with just two volunteers.

247 Planning

a. Decisions

1. 24/01030/REG3 – Castle School – new single storey building and car parking. Approved.

248 District Councillors Report

MV prepared a report with an update on various issues that has been circulated to Councillors. MV has met with Cheryl Evans and the headteacher of Trinity School regarding the traffic issues outside the school.

249 Road Safety in the Parish

Since the dry weather there have been several Community Speed Watch (CSW) sessions. Motorist behaviour on Oxford Road has generally improved, with only two or three exceeding 36mph, previously 10 – 15% were exceeding this limit, during the CSW sessions. Results were worse near Lamp Acres/Shaw Cemetery. Roadworks further along Long Lane reduced the excess speeders, but now there are more speeding motorists, including HGVs and a car without an MOT. There is a frustration that there is no feedback on results from Thames Valley Police.

The SIDs are due to be moved this week, though one is not charging at the moment. Evidence shows that the SIDs do still slow down the majority of motorists as they pass.

GT chased WB Councillor Stuart Gourley re the crossing at the Castle Pub, and officers are looking at options for a crossing and will respond by the end of the month.

250 Amenities

a. GD explained that because Speen Parish Council were also applying for a members bid our application was now only for £5,000, not £10,000. However, we are also eligible for a WBC Parish Plan grant, so an application for a further £5,000 has been submitted.

b. GD confirmed that the pavilion rear wall repairs had been carried out by volunteers on 7 and 8 November. She thanked Mark Prime, Margo and John Payne, Mary and David Carter, PB and GT for their hard work.

c. A neighbour of the Donnington Recreation Ground has written about a large overhanging tree in her garden, and a potential safety problem with the fence between the properties. It was agreed that a group of councillors will go for a site visit next week to work out what can be done.

d. A broken litter bin at Owen Road field has been replaced with a second-hand bin.

251 To receive a report from GT regarding the erosion of the riverbank by the Spout Ditch by Dene Way

GT explained that the bank that separates the River Lambourn and the Spout Ditch (that runs along the edge of the gardens on the South side of Dene Way) has been breached. The riparian owner is West Berkshire Council, and an officer has advised GT that the preferred method of repair is too expensive and their budget will not cover the cost, which is in the order of tens of thousands. The repair would be to place gabion baskets of rubble into the breach.

Last winter and spring the excess rain resulted in about 20 properties having their gardens flooded for four months. The force of the River Lambourn meeting the small stream in the Spout Ditch has the effect of forcing the water to flow in the opposite direction.

PB suggested getting the WBC ward councillors involved, and asking a question at WBC Executive. RA offered to write the question and present it to WBC on behalf of the residents. MP said the parish council can support this. GT will write to WBC Ward Councillors Martha and Antony and then contact his neighbours and find out how many are affected. MP also suggested contacting NWN and BBC South Today to put pressure on WBC to repair the breach.

252 To consider articles for the winter newsletter

MC may be able to provide an article about the Village Hall refurbishment. MP will ask the primary school if they have anything to be added. GT requested that the new bus route timetable be mentioned in the newsletter, possibly in MP's letter to residents.

253 Members reports and questions

GT advised that Oxford Buses are providing a leaflet about the new bus service to go out with our newsletter, and he will be going on a site visit to discuss possible new bus stops on Bastion Street, Garrison Meadows and Love Lane.

RA and PB met with individuals from the Marquis of Winchester Regiment/The Battlefield Trust. A Civil War demonstration on the weekend of 27/28 September 2025 is being planned and will take place mainly on Donnington Recreation Ground. The reenactment will involve 50 fighters on each side and 50 demonstrating the living history exhibition. There will be a site visit in January to work out where the battlefield will be located – probably on the sloping part of the recreation ground, with tents on two sides and the living history exhibition running on Saturday and Sunday. Participants will arrive from Friday afternoon and leave on Monday morning. Willie Hartley Russell has offered his field for the motorhomes etc of the participants. It can go ahead whatever the weather. Organisers have been made aware of visitor and traffic capacity limitations.

RA confirmed that the footpath would stay open and that there wouldn't be a charge for pedestrian entry to the recreation ground. There will be some loud explosions, and MP said the nearby residents should receive advance notification of this. The car parking for the public hasn't yet been resolved.

GD reminded everyone that the PC owns the recreation ground, and if councillors are not satisfied that all conditions of hire are met (including risk assessment, public liability insurance, car parking and stewarding of traffic, protection of the cricket pitch etc) then another location will need to be found for the event.

PB attended the district parish conference and there was a talk given by Cllr Jeff Brooks about service delivery options for parish councils.

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 21.45