



Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday, 7 May 2025 at 7.30pm at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall.

Present

Margo Payne (Chair), Paul Bryant, Mary Carter, Glyn Thomas, and Ian Miller (Vice Chair).

In attendance: Parish Clerk Gillian Durrant, plus 16 members of the public.

- 1 Apologies: Anni Gruner, Richard Almond, Colin Yates and Sylvia Knight.
- 2 Approval of Minutes for meeting on 1 May 2024. These were approved and signed. (Proposed by Ian Miller and seconded by Glyn Thomas).
- 3 Parish Council Chair's Report
Councillor Margo Payne gave a summary of the past year, see appendix 1.
- 4 Announcement of the winner of the Bill Graham Community Champion Award
Kelly Rice was announced as the winner for her voluntary work running the toy library for Owen Road Field, fundraising for the installation of a defibrillator for Kingsley Close Estate, and working on enhancing Owen Road Field with the Parish Council. Other nominees were highly commended: Tim Lewis for volunteering for Community Speed Watch, Tracy Martin and Sue Radbourne for litter picking in Kingsley Close, and Richard and Denise Huntley for their work on the Donnington Village Fete.
- 5 Presentation from the trustees of the Village Hall about the planned expansion and refurbishment:
Sylvia Giles chair of the Village Hall Committee and Mary Carter, trustee, explained that the village hall has been at the heart of the community for over 110 years, hirers include the parish school, WI and until recently the gardening club, however recently the committee have been unable to keep up with demand for space by hirers so have decided to create a second smaller hall with additional storage for regular hirers, improved kitchen facilities and a small meeting space/office. Greenham Trust and the Parish Council will be providing some funds but the rest must be raised by the Village Hall Charity. At the back of the hall slips were provided for comments and feedback, but there will be an update in the next parish newsletter and further consultation. Volunteers are needed for help with the project and fundraising.
- 6 Shaw-cum-Donnington Relief in Need Charity Report from the chairperson Stuart Stephens – find out how grants have been spent to help local people in 2024/25.

Stuart thanked the parish council for the funds raised at the fete last year. The charity receives interest payments from historic investments. The charity helps local people in need. This year for example they helped a widow who had no idea how to manage her bills after her husband died, and a family struggling with debt was helped with winter coats for their children. Requests come from third parties such as the Food Bank or local schools. The charity gives out small grants in the region of several hundred pounds, and is looking for another trustee if anyone would like to volunteer.
- 7 West Berkshire Ward Members Reports – events affecting the Parish
Ian Miller read out the report from West Berkshire Ward Councillor Martha Vickers. See Appendix 2
- 8 Open Forum Discussions – There was a question about where the new bus stops will be. Councillor Glyn Thomas advised there will be a pair at the end of Bastion Street, but there is no room on Love Lane apart from a pair by Donnington Park. Along the new estate on Garrison Meadows and Bastion Street it is still 'Hail and Ride', no decision has yet been made about bus stops here. Apparently the two

bus stops in Oxford Road have been taped over – the Parish Council did not know about this and assume it is a temporary measure.

There being no other business the formal meeting closed at 8.08pm and refreshments were served.

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