



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors Margo Payne (MP), Richard Almond (RA), Liam Anderson (LI), Stephanie Bovell (SB), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Ian Miller (Vice Chair) (IM), Glyn Thomas (GT), Colin Yates (CY), and also Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk and Martha Vickers (MV) West Berkshire Councillor, plus three members of the public.

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

82 **Apologies** There were none.

83 **Declarations of interest** There were none

84 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2025, were approved. (P – IM, S – CY).

85 **Clerk's Report including matters arising**

- The Lottery grant has now been received for the table tennis table. Kelly Rice is waiting to hear back from the local farmer who offered to help install the table.
- We are waiting on David Willetts to find out if English Heritage are able to store our beacon at Donnington Castle.
- GD has still not received a reply from Paul Bacchus at WBC after requesting a copy of the Ardent report on WBC Clay Hill Newbury flood alleviation scheme study report June 2025. Paula Saunderson to send copy to GD.
- GD has emailed Stuart Gourley for an update on the Spout Ditch repair, now WBC has received a quote for the work. SG has told Martha that WBC are considering organising a residents meeting on site. There are two types of river repairs, engineered or Nature based management/solutions using natural vegetation. Some of the willow trees WBC are intending to remove could be used for this. ARK are experts at this and have done this sort of work in the upper Lambourn and Pang rivers. MV to find out from Paul Hendry when the trees are due to be removed, and GD to speak to ARK about the Spout Ditch repair.
- Members of St Mary's Church have had a meeting with WBC librarians to decide whether to host a Pop-Up library or a Community Bookshelf. GD to find out which option they have chosen.
- WBC has approved both of our requests for changes in speed limits, on the B4009 by the cemetery and Oxford Road north to the Donnington Valley Hotel.
- GD officially requested a Governance Review by WBC to increase the number of councillors in the parish. WBC said this may be combined with the review required for the creation of the new unitary council.
- Fete working group meeting – date agreed as 12 January in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.
- Several members of the public got in touch last week concerning the overflowing dog bins along Love Lane. The contractor failed to empty them the week before, but this has now been done.

86 **Questions from members of the public** There were none.

87 District Councillors Report

MV reported that she had met the owner of the land for the shop in Donnington Heights, and met up with one of the prospective shop owners, and was impressed with his research and vision. On 11 December he had had an updated email from the land agent, who was still in discussion with BDW – DWH's commercial arm, and advised him that no decision will be made until there is clarity on the site. The owner told MV there are two people interested in the site. MP also emailed the land agent, and had a generic email saying that no decision has yet been made.

MV contacted planning about DWH's misleading advert for their contribution to the school which is still on display. The planning application from DWH to avoid giving funding and land for the school should come to WBC planning committee in January.

88 Finance

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

New Litter Picker	Litter picking November	108.99
Clerk	Salary for November	1,184.07
Groundsman	October and November	132.00
Petrol for mower		44.00
Cleaner	November	42.90
Volker Highways	Replacement lanterns for two lampposts	925.80
WBC	RoSPA inspections x 4	268.22
TFM	emptying bins	274.13
TFM	grass cutting at Owen Road	78.50
HMRC	PAYE/NIC for November	207.02
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	4.25
SSE	Electricity for streetlights November	213.28*
British Gas	Pavilion electricity	73.60*
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk November	<u>183.35*</u>
		<u>£3,740.11</u>
Total payments authorised for October (excluding Direct Debits*)		<u>£3,265.63</u>

- b. Review of the council's investments: CCLA interest rate today was 3.84% for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.
- c. The bank reconciliation for November 2025 was approved (P - IM, S - RS).
- d. Next year's draft budget was considered. GD to add funding for gazebos and weights for the marquee.

89 Planning

Decision - 25/02448/TPC Willow tree Riverside Park (East) Hutton Close in poor condition, plan to coppice. Noted.

90 Road Safety in the Parish

- Report on Community Speed Watch
The Chief Constable thanked the parish council via the local police, as we are one of the most active CSW teams in the district. However, the wet weather has prevented sessions recently. GD to chase the supplier for the new camera.
- Report on site visit 11th December to consider traffic calming measures for junction Love Lane and Oxford Road.

MP, MV, GT PB and IM met Neil Stacey from WBC Highways Department. He accepted traffic lights would be the best solution, but they would cost at least a quarter of a million pounds, so it is not feasible. A pedestrian crossing with lights, sacrificing some of our hedgerow, was discussed but Neil explained that the criteria for this sort of crossing wasn't met and it wasn't a suitable solution. A raised cushion 'table' like the one in Park Way, would mean additional 'tables' would also be needed as one alone could be dangerous due to the speed and quantity of traffic at this location. Additional tables would add to the expense. Chicanes are not suitable due to high volume of traffic on this road, and traffic jams would result. Neil recommended the most cost-effective solution would be to install illuminated signs for a hazard or dangerous crossing. This is relatively inexpensive - £4 - £7k, and there is already another sign in place with electricity which reduces the cost. 'Slow' has been painted on the road already, but the extra promised signage has not yet been installed. The Parish Council may be asked to contribute towards the cost of the illuminated sign.

91 **Members Reports and Questions**

SB mentioned that the underpass between Shaw Valley and Donnington Heights is unlit, but we don't know who is responsible for this – WBC or the developers. MV to find out who is responsible for this. GT mentioned that many of the lights in the underpass close to Shaw Social Club are not working.

GT mentioned how icy the bridge gets between Dene Way and Shaw Recreation Ground. Salt cannot be used here due to the river below, so an improved non-slip surface would be a better option. The bridge belongs to WBC.

MC said the light by the 'tooth' bridge is still not working. GD to report it. GD to remind WBC to cut back hedges and grass on Shaw Hill and B4009 by Lampacres, as this has still not been done despite MC reporting it to WBC on several occasions.

RA has asked Remus about the letting of the allotments which are now their responsibility and about the situation with the footpath to Oxford Road.

92 **To exclude members of the public due to the personal nature of the item to be discussed.** (P – GT, S - PB).

93 **To review Salaries for the Parish Clerk and litter picker, and the rates of pay for the groundsman and cleaner.**

The proposed pay increases were approved. (P - IM, S - CY)

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 21.01 pm