



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 7.30pm

### **Present**

Councillors Margo Payne (Chair) (MP), Liam Anderson (LA), Stephanie Bovell (SB), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Ian Miller (Vice Chair) (IM), and Glyn Thomas (GT), also Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk and Martha Vickers (MV) West Berkshire Councillor, plus one member of the public.

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

94 **Apologies** Councillors Richard Almond (RA) and Colin Yates (CY),

95 **Declarations of interest** There were none

96 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2025, were approved. (P – GT, S – IM).

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

- A local farmer has agreed to help with the installation of the table tennis table, but the contractor is yet to advise us of the date.
- We are waiting on David Willetts to find out if English Heritage are able to store our beacon at Donnington Castle. DW will ask on February 4<sup>th</sup> when EH come for a meeting.
- Paula Saunderson has forwarded a copy of the Ardent report on WBC Clay Hill Newbury flood alleviation scheme study report June 2025 to GD as agreed. GD to forward to councillors.
- The first fête working group took place on 12 January. The group would like a steer from the PC regarding whether or not to organise a beer tent for the fête. Councillors were happy for this, on condition that there is no covenant banning the sale of alcohol in the recreation ground.
- GD is waiting on costings of WBC's Spout Ditch repair, which have been promised by the end of January. GD is also waiting to hear back from Action for River Kennet who are experts in natural river repairs – they are looking into this and have said they will respond. GT to host a site meeting once we hear back from both.
- St Mary's Church PCC have agreed to go with WBC's offer of a pop-up library and final costings are awaited as these depend on the number of times in the year the pop-up library will be open. Hopefully it will begin on 23 February subject to agreeing the SLA – see item at end of meeting.
- The lamppost by the 'tooth' bridge has been repaired, and all lights on the adjacent underpass have been repaired.
- The grass verge on Shaw Hill has been cut at last.
- Remus are to start advertising the allotments for rent.

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

99 **District Councillors Report**

MV reported that the planning application for the appeal will only come to a full district planning committee if the planning officers do not recommend it is rejected. Planning officers are still discussing the issue of the new school with relevant officers in the Education department etc. The landowner of the site for the convenience store has still not accepted any offers to buy the site. Cllr Stuart Gourley is getting nowhere with the new owners of Vodafone regarding the public use of the central path through the site, so he is now looking again at the public footpaths around the edge, to see if there is a way to light the path and make it usable for bicycles as well as pedestrians. WBC Members Bids may be used for this.

Pedestrianisation – consultation responses will be finalised by April.

#### 100 **To consider options for the future of the Relief in Need Charity**

MC explained the history of the local charity and a number of options the trustees are considering for the future. All agreed they would like to see the charity continue, and would try and help find new trustees.

#### 101 **Finance**

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

New Litter Picker	Litter picking December	108.99
Clerk	Salary for December	1,184.07
Clerk	Salt for grit bins	151.94
Cleaner	December	28.60
SLCC	Annual membership	200.00
TFM	emptying bins	286.89
TFM	grass cutting at Owen Road	78.50
HMRC	PAYE/NIC for December	207.02
Castle Water	Water for pavilion (net of credit)	0.92*
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	4.25*
SSE	Electricity for streetlights December	234.27*
British Gas	Pavilion electricity	130.71*
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk December	<u>183.35*</u>
		<b><u>£2,799.51</u></b>
Total payments authorised for December (excluding Direct Debits*)		<b><u>£2,246.01</u></b>

- b. Review of the council's investments: CCLA interest rate today was 3.69% for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.
- c. The bank reconciliation for December 2025 was approved (P - IM, S - MC).
- d. Next year's draft budget was considered. It was agreed to add a donation of £1,500 to the Shaw-cum-Donnington Relief in Need charity, to be used as capital, and to add £1,630 from reserves for two replacement noticeboards in Long Lane, and £7,500 more from amenities reserve towards new monkey bars in Donnington Recreation Ground (P - MP, S - IM).
- e. The precept for 2026/27 was agreed as £65,200 (P - GT, S - LA).

#### 102 **Planning**

##### a. Applications

25/02952/COND – Snelsmore Common – SSEN to install or replace electric line above ground. No comment (P - MC, S - SB).

##### b. Decisions

25/02115/REG3 – Castle School, variation of condition re car parking – approved

25/02406/HOUSE – 101 Kingsley Close, erection of garden room - approved

103 **Road Safety in the Parish**

- Report on Community Speed Watch

The new Speed Watch automatic camera will be delivered on 27 January and training will be given. No Speed Watch sessions have been held since the last meeting due to awful weather. MP advised that a resident has volunteered to join Speed Watch.

104 **Assets: RoSPA - quarterly inspection for Donnington Recreation playground**

A number of minor repairs are required. RA has contacted ARD on two matters and Discovery Timber Play on the matter of pressure washing the 'castle'.

105 **To consider the format of the Annual Parish Meeting on May 6th including the arrangements for the Bill Graham Community Champion award e.g. prize, criteria, publicity**

It was agreed to keep the same criteria and application process as last year, as well as the same certificates and voucher for the winner. Councillors are to consider ideas for the guest speaker.

106 **To set the date for the Spring litter pick**

It was agreed to hold the litter pick on Saturday 14 March.

107 **To approve the Service Level Agreement with West Berkshire Council for a 'Pop-Up' library at the Myrtle Café.**

The Service Level Agreement has not yet been received. In order not to hold up the opening of the 'pop up' library, all agreed that the SLA can be approved so long as there are no unexpected clauses.

108 **Members Reports and Questions**

MC asked when the next speed limit review meeting will be held – MV to find out.

SB mentioned Remus are putting 3 dog bins in soon – two by the playpark and one on Bastion Street.

GT said the WBC litter bin that was at the bottom of the steps by the 'tooth bridge' is still missing.

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 21.11 pm