



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors Margo Payne (MP) (Chair) Richard Almond (RA), Liam Anderson (LA), Stephanie Bovell (SB), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Ian Miller (Vice-chair) (IM), Glyn Thomas (GT) and also Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk, plus two members of the public.

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

137 **Apologies** Colin Yates (CY) and WBC Councillor Martha Vickers (MV) gave apologies.

138 **Declarations of interest** GT declared an interest in item 146 as a resident affected by the flooding of the River Lambourn.

139 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026, were approved. (P – GT, S – IM).

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

- We are still waiting for the Service Level Agreement for the pop-up library to be signed by WBC.
- RA reported that we are still awaiting Discovery Timber Play re pressure washing the 'castle', and there is a bolt that still needs fixing too.
- Regarding the proposed Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for Oxford Road IM reported that the VAS training event was successful, Matthew Clayton, a WBC technician, was there too and WBC have chosen a contractor for supplying future devices across the district. The chosen device has changeable messages and is controllable centrally too. The cost is approximately £4,300 for a mains installed device, and WBC are open to Parish Councils contributing to this. GD to contact Cheryl to find out the next steps.
- MC will provide data from the B4009 SID to show that speeding in the 50mph zone is still an issue.
- APM draft agenda has been circulated. Community Champion Award has been advertised on Facebook and put on the website.
- GD responded to the Government consultation on local government reorganisation.
- GD researched the disposal of Ash Dieback trees – they do not have to be removed and destroyed. The Environment Agency do encourage landowners to leave fallen trees in rivers, unless it is affecting the flow of the river.
- MP to provide the report on the Legionella and Asbestos training. GD to commission a management survey for potential asbestos in the pavilion. GD has written to Donnington Cricket Club to advise them of the risk of Legionella when using the showers for the first time in the season.
- The padlock on the old pavilion had been broken off, and reported by a member of the public on Monday morning. This was replaced the following day.

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

142 District Councillors Report

Martha Vickers (MV) gave her apologies as she is away.

The gates on the footpath around Vodafone have been removed. Antony Amirtharaj has called in the planning application for the chalet bungalow at Donnington Park, should it be recommended for approval by WBC planning officers.

GD to email the WBC executive member for planning to ask when the school planning application will be determined.

143 Finance

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

Litter Picker	Litter picking March	108.99
Clerk	Salary for March	1,184.07
	Laptop and software	395.74
	Replacement padlocks for rec	56.99
Cleaner	March	42.90
Traffic Technology	Moving SIDs	180.00
Plank Brother	Hedge Cutting	650.00
Village Hall	Meetings for 2026/7	460.80
TFM	emptying bins	289.68
TFM	grass cutting at Owen Road	78.50
HMRC	PAYE/NIC for March	207.02
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	4.25
SSE	Electricity for streetlights March	176.49*
British Gas	Pavilion electricity	116.15*
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk March	<u>183.35*</u>
		<u>£4,264.93</u>
	Total payments authorised for March (excluding Direct Debits*)	<u>£3,784.69</u>

It was also agreed to pay the initial amount to Village Hall from CIL - £15,000

- b. Review of the council's investments: CCLA interest rate today was 3.66% for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.
- c. The bank reconciliation for March 2026 was approved (P - IM, S - RA).
- d. The reserves were reviewed.

144 Planning

Decisions

25/02103/LBC Rose Cottage, replacement wooden window frames. Approved.

145 Road Safety in the Parish

MC and IM are still having issues with the new speed camera and Matthew Clayton from WBC came to help with the camera, which was useful. The device does not work as it was sold, because it has to have a laptop to work, not a phone or tablet. They are getting used to the length of time it takes for the camera to record and re-arm ready for the next vehicle, so those very close together are not usually 'caught' by the camera. Additionally, the image cannot be seen in real time, as this feature isn't working at all. Yesterday they recorded 120 vehicles and no infringements; motorists were braking on sight of the speed camera. Another issue is that the data doesn't automatically populate the CSW software for Thames Valley Police.

GD to write to Westcotec to complain about the failings of the equipment and training. IM to provide facts for the complaint.

146 Report back on the site meeting at the River Lambourn regarding the breach between the River Lambourn and the Spout Ditch

The site visit between Paul Bacchus and Jon Winstanley from WBC, Charlotte Hitchmough of ARK, Paula Saunderson and GT, RA, MP, IM, LA, PB and GD from the parish council took place on Friday 10 April. Paul Bacchus produced a document explaining the history of the river and the flood plain advised us that WBC have no intention to spend money to fix the breach, which they state was repaired in 2019 with gabion baskets and had failed again by 2024. Paul Bacchus explained that the lower part of the gardens of Dene Way are recognised as flood plain, and they believe that the river will continue to flood in this area in times of exceptional rainfall.

Following the meeting GT took Charlotte from ARK to see his garden and those of his neighbours. Charlotte will speak to her colleagues regarding a possible nature-based solution. GT to report back to the Council after emailing Charlotte.

147 To arrange the maintenance check of the pavilion

It was agreed that PB and RA would perform the six-month maintenance check.

148 To agree the wording of the Parish Community Survey

The working group have produced a draft survey to go out with the summer newsletter in June. Subject to several minor alterations, the councillors were happy with the wording. GD to create a survey on Microsoft Forms for the website, and to have the paper copy printed to go out with the newsletter, containing a QR code linking to the survey on the website.

149 Members Reports and Questions

MC mentioned a survey of parish pavements – and it was agreed that all councillors would check the pavements in their area. MC also mentioned there had been a sponsored walk to Thatcham to raise funds for the village hall, and there is an appetite for more walks in the parish, perhaps around the parish boundary. GD to find out if an updated parish map can be obtained from WBC. RA has visited the allotments but only a couple of them have begun to be cultivated. SB reported that the dog bin by Vodafone at Shaw Valley was overflowing again. Remus still hasn't labelled their bins.

GT reported the bus route will not be going around the DH estate because the roads were not built to be wide enough to accommodate the buses, though there may be an additional bus stop outside the convenience store. New timetables will be delivered shortly. GT also asked if there had been any news from WBC Highways on improving the signage for the new estates from the A339 – GD to remind Gareth Dowding.

PB mentioned that there is still a concrete lamppost, East of the A339 bridge on the northern footpath, in amongst the trees. GD to investigate.

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 21.05pm