



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 18 March 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 seven members of the public.

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

123 **Apologies** Colin Yates (CY). WBC Councillor Martha Vickers (MV) also gave apologies.

124 **Declarations of interest** There were none

125 **Approval of minutes**

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

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

- The table tennis table has been installed at Owen Road Field, just in time for the good weather!
- GD and John Payne visited Donnington Castle to see if the beacon could be stored there. Unfortunately the entrance is too small for the beacon to fit through even when not assembled. It was agreed to store it in pieces in the old pavilion for now, and the wooden framework was stored there today, the beacon basket will be moved shortly.
- WBC have convened a site meeting by the Spout Ditch on 10 April. The Environment Agency and ARK have also been invited.
- The Service Level Agreement for the pop-up library has been agreed and signed by St Mary's Church and the Parish Council, we are just waiting on WBC.
- RA reported that we are still awaiting Discovery Timber Play re pressure washing the 'castle'.
- The most badly pot-holed section of Shop Lane has been resurfaced.
- The Spring newsletter has been delivered.
- The hedges around the recreation ground have been cut.
- A resident has complained that her labrador escaped onto the Oxford Road from the recreation ground.
- Cheryl Evans of WBC Highways has not yet been in touch regarding the VAS for Oxford Road
- GD LA and MC met to discuss the residents survey and some preliminary questions have been drafted.
- The dead beech saplings in the recreation ground have been replaced
- The Spring litter pick was a success – over 25 bags of rubbish collected, around 17 volunteers too. We also received over 70 likes to the photos on Facebook! MC found glass on the bridleway by Owen Road garages, and a large lorry tyre on Owen Road Field. Van tyres cost £15 to deposit at the tip – help needed to remove the tyre and take to the tip.
- The extended 30mph limits on Long Lane and Oxford Road have been implemented by WBC. It appears that the 30mph roundel and road narrowing markings have not been painted on the

new Long Lane speed limit. Additionally our Community Speed Watch sign was removed. GD to email WBC Highways department about this.

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

128 **District Councillors Report**

Martha Vickers (MV) gave her apologies due to illness.

MV mentioned in an email that it wouldn't be possible to progress with lighting on the Vodafone footpath in time for this year's members bids, and that the PC should go ahead with another scheme. The meeting with Elaine Cox from WBC did go ahead, and it was thought that the barriers to one of the paths could be removed to allow for cyclists and pushchairs etc, but they would need a 'no motorbikes' sign at either end. Elaine wondered if the PC had CIL money for this and for solar lighting. All of this though would need the landowners permission. GD explained that the PC had very little CIL money left unallocated.

MV emailed about a meeting between WBC staff and DWH re the footpath to Oxford Road recently. Apparently DWH remain keen to provide a footpath; however, "due to the challenging site topography post-landslip, they are looking to put forward an application for a combination of footpath and steps. Further discussion will therefore be required with our highways team, who maintain a preference for a fully combined cycleway and footpath and have indicated they would recommend refusal if a suitable cycle route cannot be provided." MC suggested stairs with a built-in slope for people to push bicycles and pushchairs up the hill, as seen in Europe. GD to suggest this to MV. IM mentioned that he didn't recall a cycle path being stipulated in the original planning application, just a footpath.

Regarding our request that the Speed Limit Review Panel reduce part of the speed limit in Long Lane from 50 to 40mph, Gareth Dowding of WBC Highways emailed MV to say: "This request has been around for years with the last time being back in February 2024 when we were looking at the extension of the 30 speed limit by the cemetery and at the time we explained to the Parish Council that changing the speed limit along the B4009 to address concerns they had about cars driving through flood water along the B4009 was not a reason to look at a reduction. This is still the case especially as there isn't a speeding issue along here or an accident problem (last accident was caused by flood water back in 2023 and has/is being addressed separately). Subsequent reviewing of the road before/during and just in advance of the new extension being installed hasn't shown any additional justification for a reduction either. During the review of the extension of the 30 pass the cemetery it was very clearly stated by the Police, who enforce speed limits, that the current arrangements were acceptable, and nothing has changed since then." MC has SID data proving that there are a substantial number of motorists exceeding the 50mph limit, and does not recall the PC citing the flooding as the reason for the request for the speed limit to be reduced. MC to forward the data to GD for WBC's consideration.

MV has asked WBC planners for an update on the new school planning application but has not yet heard back.

Regarding making Oxford Road safer for pedestrians MV received an email from Neil Stacey saying David Wildish and his team will continue to work on the feasibility of safety measures by the pub/crossroads and will make contact with the pub's tenants as we suggested. Regarding the vehicle activated signs, he suggested engaging with the recent initiative that Cheryl Evans has recently been in touch about. Neil also said he was leaving WBC shortly. IM is attending Cheryl Evans meeting, and will be making a presentation about our use of SIDs at that meeting.

129 **Finance**

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

Litter Picker	Litter picking February	108.99
Clerk	Salary for February	1,184.07
	Bouncy Castle Deposit	35.00
	Printing Spring Newsletter	207.60
Cleaner	February	14.30
ScD Primary School	Donation for PAT testing	35.00
ALD Playgrounds	Installing the table tennis table	12,648.00
TFM	emptying bins	281.29
TFM	grass cutting at Owen Road	78.50
HMRC	PAYE/NIC for February	207.02
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	4.25
Castle Water	Water for pavilion	10.36*
SSE	Electricity for streetlights February	184.83*
British Gas	Pavilion electricity	143.94*
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk February	<u>183.35*</u>
		<u>£15,326.50</u>
	Total payments authorised for January (excluding Direct Debits*)	<u>£14,799.77</u>

GD advised councillors that TFM have recently announced a 18% increase in their bin emptying charges. GD has asked other local clerks and they say that FTM are still competitively priced, but all were annoyed that notice of the increase hadn't happened before the budgets were set.

GD advised councillors that £10,000 would be withdrawn from the CCLA PSDF for cashflow purposes, but that once the first half of the precept arrives at the end of April, some of this plus the VAT repayment could be transferred into the CCLA deposit fund, depending on upcoming expenditure.

- b. Review of the council's investments: CCLA interest rate today was 3.63% for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.
- c. The bank reconciliation for February 2026 was approved (P - MP, S - IM).

130 Planning This item was moved forward in the agenda due to public interest

a. Applications

- 1 26/00296/FULL Large house in Donnington Park, off Love Lane. Objection, outside the settlement boundary and in the strategic gap, additionally the present open space acts as a soak away adjacent to an area prone to flooding. (P - PB, S - MC). RA abstained.
- 2 26/00209/HOUSE Lean to conservatory 2 Wagtail Way. No objection. (P - PB, S - GT). SB abstained.
- 3 26/00331/TPW Dreweatts Oxford Road, tree work by footpath and drive. No objection. (P - PB, S - GT).

b. Decisions

1. 26/00145/PASSHE The Greenway Donnington, single storey extension. Approval not required.

131 Road Safety in the Parish

IM reported that he and MC had taken the new speed camera outside for a trial, but not only found it very heavy, and quick to use up the battery, but also found that it would not connect to a mobile phone or tablet as advised. It will only connect to a laptop or a tablet with Windows. IM hopes that it will be fully working next time it is used. MC reported that motorists had all slowed down when seeing the new camera.

MC has downloaded and analysed recent data from the SIDs. Encouragingly it has shown that there has been a small reduction in speeding during this time in Long Lane and Love Lane, though around

three percent of motorists are still exceeding the ACPO limits. MC will provide data from the B4009 SID to show that speeding in the 50mph zone is still an issue.

132 Annual Parish Meeting and Community Award

GD encouraged councillors to either nominate people for the Community Award or persuade others to do so. It was agreed that the Village Hall should make a presentation about the refurbishment/extension, together with MP's summary of the year, the awards and the Relief in Need presentation. GD to create a draft agenda and circulate it. LA had several ideas which can be considered for next year.

133 To consider a response to the Government consultation on local government reorganisation

A Parish Council response was agreed: to prefer the option of three unitary authorities in what is now Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, with our parish falling into the new Ridgeway Authority. Concern however to be expressed at the effect of being part of a much larger authority with its centre distant from the parish which might make communication more difficult, and our area risks being treated as second best. (P – MP, S – IM)

134 Trees and debris in the River Lambourn – to consider how best to get them removed. This item was moved forward in the agenda due to public interest.

WBC have confirmed that the decision to leave the fallen trees and branches in the River Lambourn by Shaw Park is due to following the advice of the Environment Agency who state that it will not increase the risk of flooding. GD to find out if branches from trees with Ash Dieback should be removed and/or destroyed, and if so to ask WBC if the branches are from trees with Ash Dieback. GD also to ask the Environment Agency to confirm their policy on fallen trees and branches in rivers.

135 To review the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct

The existing Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were approved and adopted without amendment (P - IM, S - LA).

136 Members Reports and Questions

MP reported that she had today attended the CCB training course on Legionella disease and asbestos in buildings. She will write a report and send the is to GD. The PC needs to consider creating a risk assessment for Legionella and getting a management survey for potential asbestos in the pavilion.

GT reported that the portable electrical items in the pavilion have been PAT tested (with thanks to the primary school for arranging it again) and there should be some new updated bus timetables arriving soon (a pile to be kept in the Village Hall; the rest at the Central Library/Tourist Information Centre).

RA has delivered welcome leaflets to the Sovereign houses and flats on the new estates and there are 14 left over leaflets.

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 21.40pm