

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 7:30pm

Present
Councillors Margo Payne (MP) (Chair), Richard Almond (RA), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Ian Miller (IM) (Vice Chair), Glyn Thomas (GT) and Gillian Durrant (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public in attendance.

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

42 Apologies Cllrs Liam Anderson (LA), Stephanie Bovell (SB) and Colin Yates (CY).

43 Declarations of interest Item 53 for RA and MC re Village Hall. And PB for item 50 regarding a donation to the over 80s parcel fund.

44 Approval of minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2026, were approved (P – GT, S – IM).

45 Clerk's report and Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
GD awaiting measurements for the four CSW signs before ordering replacements.
The defibrillator pads at the cricket pavilion need replacing. CY to order them.
A temporary metal barrier has been installed where the fence panel came down between the recreation ground and Oxford Road.
Bulb planting went ahead on 17 October at Donnington Recreation Ground. Only three councillors, the clerk and one member of the public turned up, but all 350 native bluebell and daffodil bulbs were planted.
GD wrote to WBC concerning the footpath in Shaw Park that is flooded for much of the winter, to see if they would consider raising the level of the path.
Following spray painting of the Owen Road Field table tennis table GD purchased some anti-graffiti spray and has managed to remove most of the paint. Councillors asked to record their thanks to the clerk for doing this. Whilst there GD saw a tent on the field, and noticed the wooden bollards had all been pulled out. Concrete bollards have been purchased to replace these. GD also advised SNG (Sovereign) of the graffiti on the wall of their garages, and the fly tipping by the bridlepath on their land. SNG have responded to say they will look into this. The number of broken off-road vehicles has increased in the parking bays adjacent to the field, but SNG have stated they have no intention of having them removed.
The litter pick takes place on 31st October from St Mary's Car Park from 10am till noon. IM to collect the equipment from WBC.

46 Questions from members of the public David Willetts mentioned the Heritage Working Group in the parish is being turned into a charity. DW asked if the Parish Council would like the right to appoint a trustee and they agreed.

47 District Councillor's report

West Berkshire Councillor Martha Vickers gave her apologies, but reported prior to the meeting that she has not had any updates on the expected DWH appeal, the sale of land for the convenience store at Donnington Heights, or the proposed footpath to Oxford Road. On the latter, the WBC Highways department are waiting on expert advice regarding the geotechnical and slope stability matters before recommending to the planning officers whether the latest planning application should be approved or not.

Speen PC are also chasing WBC for a crossing on Oxford Road – at the bottom of Castle Grove. No update from WBC yet on the promised VAS by the Castle Pub. GD to chase.

48 Finance

a. The schedule of payments for September was approved (P – GT, S – MA); IM and GT will authorise the payments.
b. The Investment Advisory Group met and recommended £100,000 of reserves be deposited with Redwood Bank, fixed for one year at interest of 4.8%. This was agreed (P – IM, S – PB). GD to open account with Redwood Bank for a one-year fixed rate savings bond at 4.8%.
c. Review of the council's investments: CCLA interest rate on 21 October was 3.77% for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.
d. The bank reconciliation for September 2026 was approved (P - MC, S - IM).
e. Councillors considered the budget to actual report for the quarter ended 30 September 2026. RA queried the budget for monkey bars in the recreation ground, and GD agreed to send pictures of the possible options to CY for his consideration.

49 Planning

Applications:

a. 26/02179/TPC St Mary's Churchyard, to fell Cedar of Lebanon tree. No objection (P - PB, S - RA).

Planning Decisions:

a. 26/01108/HOUSE 32 Kingsley Close, erection of linked garage. Approved
b. 26/01863/TPC Kennet House Castle Lane, various tree works. No Objection
c. 25/02302/MDOPO DWH – Land at Hilltop, removal of obligations re primary school. Refusal
d. 26/02179/TPC Brook House Donnington, to reduce crown of beech tree. No objection

50 To consider a donation to the NWN Over 80s Parcel Fund

IT was agreed to make a donation via the Good Exchange for £200. (P – IM, S – GT).

51 Report back from the Parish Survey working group on the Action Plan

The Parish Survey Working Group met to draft a new Action Plan from the findings of the summer's Parish Survey. The revised Action Plan was considered and approved.

52 Road safety in the parish

IM reported that they had a session with a new volunteer. Tim from Westcotec came yesterday to see Ian to discuss the speed camera. Tim advised that the camera cannot do some of the things we were told it could do, and he set the camera up and recalibrated it, and managed to get it working well. Hopefully it will continue to work well going forward.

53 To consider a request from the Village Hall Charity to agree that the Parish Council would take on and run the Village Hall should the charity's committee be unable to do so.

Councillors discussed the proposal from the Village Hall Committee. The committee are required to have a backstop in place in order to apply for funding for the extension project. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take on the Village Hall charity in the event of a committee ceasing to exist (P – M, S – GT).

53 Council Assets:

a) Pavilion – Autumn maintenance check. RA and PB visited – results have been circulated. GD will find the manuals for the frost stat heaters and pass these on. GD to ascertain if the fridge still works or not. GD to email the football club about the clutter filling up the umpire's room. A session will be organised to fill the cracks in the back wall and in other parts of the pavilion prior to decorating.

b) Donnington Recreation Ground play area RoSPA report. This was discussed and GD advised that she had approached the playground company that installed the table tennis table for quotes. All agreed to go ahead with the smaller jobs quoted and to get a quote for the climbing wall embankment repair.

54 To set up a working group to review the parish Emergency Plan, with a view to considering the increasing impact of climate change

GT, MC and MP volunteered to be in the working group. GD to set up a meeting.

55 Members' reports and questions

GT said he would like a mention in the next newsletter to praise the contractors for being ahead of schedule for the work on the sewage station, and for being so considerate or residents – MP to put in chairs letter. GT also mentioned an incident of antisocial behaviour in Dene Way.

RA asked about a PC Christmas Meal – perhaps at Hartley Arms or the Hare and Hounds. GD to investigate and send round menus.

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 9.16pm.