

# Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council

[www.shawcumdonnington.org.uk](http://www.shawcumdonnington.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Love Lane, Donnington on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm

## **Present**

Bill Graham (Chairman), Chris Byng (CB), Chris Fenwick (CF), Vicky Schollar (VS) and Dawne Stephens (DS).

In attendance John Austin (Clerk). Bill Ashton (BA) and Joanne Gostick (JG) (Parishioners)

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## **Apologies**

Paul Bryant

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## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

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## **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

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## **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

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## **Correspondence**

1. An e-mail from West Berks CAB asking for a poster to be displayed, details of the Relief in Need charity and a grant from the Council. The Clerk would put up a poster and had sent details of Relief in Need. Any grant of funds was not approved.
2. An e-mail from Linda Tull asking, for health & safety reasons, that the fence by the Recreation Ground entrance and bordering the Castle pub overflow car park to be shortened. The Clerk was asked to reply that as neither the car park nor the fence belonged to the Council it was not in a position to help.
3. An e-mail from WBC informing that the HSA DPD had been submitted to the Secretary of State on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
4. An e-mail from PC Darryl Sowden saying he had increased patrols in the light of incidents on the Recreation Ground but without result. He asked for any further information. The Clerk had already informed him of an incident reported by a parishioner and CF asked that he be informed of a regular gathering of youths on the ground in the early evening.
5. An e-mail from Paul Bryant asking if the Council had any project they wanted to put forward for the current 'Member's Bid'.
6. A letter from the West Berks Volunteer Centre concerning the launch of their Befriend West Berkshire project. The Chairman and CF would attend the launch on 19<sup>th</sup> May at Caffe Nero in Northbrook Street between 10am and 12 noon.

**Finance**

1. The following payments were agreed:

Michael Gurr	Litter picking April 2016	62.40
John Austin	Salary & expenses March 2016	812.18
James Snelling	Groundsman's pay March 2016	88.00
Bill Graham	Grounds maintenance - posts	11.94
SSE Contracting	Street Light Maintenance March ¼	659.93
BALC	Subscription 2016/17	394.57
West Berks Council	RoSPA inspections & dog bin emptying	564.91
E W Malone	New Pavilion roof	5,208.00
AKS Farm Contractors	Hedge cutting	480.00
Mark Ulry	Mowers & strimmer maintenance	326.00
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary	133.80
Veolia	Bin emptying March 2016	29.16
		<u>£8,770.69</u>

Note:

Southern Electric	Street Light Electricity 24/12/15 - 29/03/16	<u>£490.28</u>	<u>£98.05</u>	<u>£588.33</u>
		Taken from held credit		
		Credit remaining		<u>£188.76</u>

The meeting ratified the increase to £7.20 per hour for the Litter picker in line with previously agreed policy to fix the rate paid to the minimum wage.

2. It was agreed that the following be removed from the bank mandate:

J. Edwards, R. Reed, J. Stacey, W. Ashton, E. Hooker, K. Fox

And the following be added:

W. Graham, C. Fenwick

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**District Councillor's comments**

There were no District Councillor's comments

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Planning1. Applications

16/00259/HOUSE Hill Crest, Shaw Hill (out of parish)

2 storey rear extension

Council decision: No objections

16/00894/HOUSE Bay Tree Cottage, Oxford Road

Accommodation over existing garage

Deferred for PAG consideration.

2. Planning Officer's report

Nothing further to report

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**St. Mary's Churchyard updates**

- The lych-gate carvings had been replaced and repaired on 16<sup>th</sup> April. An excellent job had been done although it was not quite finished and the contractor planned to return on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. As extra work was involved the estimated price had increased from £600 to £765.
- Paths: Further information and a meeting were still awaited from WBC.
- Tombs: The Chairman had pre-circulated a discussion document. There were several complex issues involved including whether some tombs are listed, whether planning permission would be required as well as the costs involved. As the issue is not at present an urgent matter it was agreed that it be handed over to WBC to progress.

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**Donation to St. Mary's Church**

Under powers conferred by S.137 of the LGA 1972 it was agreed a donation of £765 be made to St. Mary's Church, Shaw to pay for repairs to the woodcarvings of the lych-gate.

- 3582        **Website**  
It was agreed that as the present website hosts will not accept a multiple signature direct debit (DD) we would continue with an individual undertaking the necessary DD. The Chairman would take this over from BA.  
It was agreed to continue the website in its current form but to try to upgrade the software to PHP v. 5.6. If this was not possible or proved to cause problems the website would stay or revert back to the current version and accept the support charge of £5.61 per month.  
BA will arrange the upgrade but asked after it was completed if all councillors would look at the website to ensure no problems had been created.  
It was agreed that, for the time being, the Chairman and the Clerk would be joint webmasters with perhaps other councillors taking responsibility for particular pages.
- 3583        **Parish Assembly – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
The draft agenda had been printed on the back of the councillor recruitment letter and a public notice will appear in the Newbury Weekly News on 21<sup>st</sup> April.
- 3584        **Parishioners' letter distribution**  
Distribution areas for each councillor were agreed.
- 3585        **Amenities**  
  1. A quotation had been received in the sum of £1,210 to excavate and re-lay the Castle Lane entrance (outside the gate) of the Donnington Recreation Ground. It was agreed this work be done. It was further agreed that an application be made for a WBC Member's bid grant to cover some of the cost.
  2. The Clerk reported that bookings for the Recreation Ground were down this year with two regular bookings not arising.
- 3586        **Footpaths**  
There were no footpath reports.
- 3587        **Highways**  
Two complaints had been received from parishioners concerning an overgrown hedge in Shop Lane which was starting to impede both vehicles and pedestrians. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner requesting the hedge be trimmed back.
- 3588        **Members Reports and Questions**  
Snelsmore Common was having trouble with some dogs racing through undergrowth and disturbing ground nesting birds. The number of these birds was declining, it was thought, due to this problem and BBOWT were considering employing dog wardens for the common.
- 3589        There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.