

Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Love Lane, Donnington on Wednesday 18th May 2016 at 7.30pm

Present

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

In attendance Paul Bryant (WBC Councillor) (PB), John Austin (Clerk) and Parishioners Mary Carter (MC), Tony Harris (TH) and Elizabeth Nonweiler (EN)

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Apologies

There were no apologies

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Elect a Chairman

Bill Graham was unanimously elected as Chairman

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Elect a Vice-Chairman

Dawne Stephens was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman

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New Councillor applications and co-options

It was unanimously agreed that item 16 on the agenda be moved up to item 4. Four confirmed applications had been received for the four Councillor vacancies. It was unanimously agreed that Mary Carter, Tony Harris, Elizabeth Nonweiler and Julia Owen be co-opted onto the Council with immediate effect.

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Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

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Appoint Officers and Positions on External Bodies

The following were unanimously appointed:

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| a. Amenities Officer – Dawne Stephens | b. Footpath Officer – Bill Graham |
| b. Planning Officer – Chris Fenwick | d. Publicity Editor – Tony Harris |
| e. Webmaster – Tony Harris | f. Snelsmore Common Rep. – Dawne Stephens |
| g. Village Hall Trustee – Vicky Schollar | h. NAG Rep – Chris Byng |

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Proposal to create the posts of Churchyard Officer and Recreation Grounds Officer

It was agreed to create two new Officers, a Churchyard Officer and a Pavilion Officer. The following were unanimously appointed:

Churchyard Officer – Chris Fenwick Pavilion Officer – Bill Graham

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Appoint Advisory Groups

The following advisory groups were unanimously appointed:

Planning:

Chris Fenwick, Bill Graham, Dawne Stephens and Elizabeth Nonweiler

Amenities:

Dawne Stephens, Bill Graham, Chris Byng and Mary Carter

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Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

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Matters arising

1. 3576/4. The Clerk had informed PC Daryl Sowden of the regular gathering of youths on the Recreation Ground in the early evening.
2. 3587. The Clerk had written to the householder with the overgrown hedge in Shop Lane.

3600

Correspondence

An e-mail received from the Conservation Volunteers (TCV) in Reading enquiring as to whether they could help in developing local community greenspaces. There was no immediate project but it was agreed to keep on file and possibly consider this for the Castle Lane entrance of the Recreation Ground if the necessary.

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Finance

1. The following payments were agreed:

Michael Gurr	Litter picking & sacks May 2016	110.96
John Austin	Salary & expenses April 2016	746.39
James Snelling	Groundsman's pay & Petrol April 2016	126.00
Bill Graham	Grounds maintenance & pavilion roof	88.98
SSE Southern Electric	Pavilion electric Feb – May 2016	68.87
Chris Fenwick	Planning Officer's Allce Jan – Mar 2016	20.00
Newbury Weekly News	Parish Assembly Advert	70.13
Mark Ulry	Mowers repairs	137.00
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary	135.92
Veolia	Bin emptying March 2016	29.16
		£1,533.41

Note:

Thames Water	Pavilion Water	(in credit)	£13.63
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2. The Clerk presented and explained the pre-circulated draft accounts for 2015/16. The Reserves allocation was unanimously agreed.
3. It was agreed the Chairman should be reimbursed with the cost of the refreshments he provided at the Parish Assembly in the sum of £15.

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Suspension of Standing Order items 5.j.ix – xix

The suspension of the above Standing Order items was unanimously agreed.

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District Councillor's comments

- PB had spoken to Stewart Sowden concerning the Church paths. WBC was awaiting a quote which it was hoped would be acceptable to all parties.
- WBC was monitoring the transitional governmental funding. Two libraries were possibly still under threat. The future of Neighbourhood Wardens was under discussion.
- The case for having some affordable housing on developments of ten or less dwellings had been turned down on appeal by the government.
- The forced sale of stock by Sovereign Housing under the government's right to buy initiative meant they were struggling to get capital to build new homes.

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Planning

1. Applications
 - 16/00894/HOUSE. Baytree Cottage, Oxford Road, Donnington
Accommodation over garage
Council decision: No objections
 - 16/00640/HOUSE. 3 Love Lane, Donnington
Loft conversion and extension
Council decision: No objections
 - 16/01088/HOUSE. 3 Kingsley Close, Shaw
Two storey side extension
Council decision: No objections
2. Planning Officer's report
Nothing further to report

- 3605 **St. Mary's Churchyard updates**
CF was concerned with new holes appearing in the paths. Other than item 1 under District Councillor's comments there were no further updates.
- 3606 **Website**
Bill Ashton had spent a considerable time researching external companies who could help with the website for which the council were very grateful. TH will probably be able to update the site himself, perhaps initially upgrading the PHP software to a later version. An updated website would probably be run in parallel until any glitches had been resolved. Being an ongoing project TH asked for a target of the September meeting to report back to the council with some firm proposals.
- 3607 **Amenities**
VS volunteered to be responsible for the WBC Member's Grant application bid for the Castle Lane entrance refurbishment which would probably not be required until September. MC would assist.
- 3608 **Footpaths**
There were no footpath reports.
- 3609 **Highways**
1. MC raised the problem of the hedge alongside the footpath on Shaw Hill becoming overgrown. There appeared to be some doubt as to WBC's responsibility for this. MC will contact WBC to see what can be done.
2. TH reported that the 'quiet' surface on the A339 was breaking down.
- 3610 **Members Reports and Questions**
There were no members' reports or questions.
- 3611 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.