

# Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Love Lane, Donnington on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm.

## Present

Bill Graham (BG), Mary Carter (MC), Sean Doherty (SD), Chris Fenwick (CF), Glyn Thomas (GT) and Colin Yates (CY).

In attendance: John Austin (Clerk) and 4 Parishioners.

**Note:** P = proposed, S = seconded

## Part 1

### 3913 Apologies

Apologies were received from Tony Harris (TH), Elizabeth Nonweiler(EN) and Paul Bryant (PB)

### 3914 Declarations of Interest

CY declared an interest in the community defibrillator agenda item as he is employed by one of the potential suppliers. He would not participate in any vote relating to purchase decisions.

### 3915 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were approved unanimously (P – MC, S – GT) and signed as a true record.

### 3916 Matters arising

3900/3. PB has spoken to WBC concerning the posts in Church Road and is awaiting a definitive proposal from them.

3909/2. A quote for a new dog waste bin at the NW corner of the Vodafone footpath had been received from WBC at a cost of £303.42 plus installation estimated at approx. £50. It was unanimously agreed (P - SD, S – GT) to proceed with this. It was also noted that the cost of emptying each bin has reduced to £25.07 per annum from £37.00 per annum WBC add a 10% administration charge to this giving a weekly emptying cost of .53p per bin.

### 3917 Correspondence

1. An e-mail from WBC Community Co-ordinator about an offer from Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Co for volunteer work under the Community Payback Scheme. It was felt that painting of the pavilion and re-varnishing of the parish noticeboards could be suitable projects.
2. The District/Parish conference will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and will be run by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. A notification that the Local Government Boundary Commission has now published their final recommendations for West Berkshire.

### 3918 Finance

1. The following payments were agreed unanimously: (P – SD, S – EN)

Michael Gurr	Litter picking Jan 2018	62.40
John Austin	Salary & expenses Dec 2017	727.00
James Snelling	Groundsman's pay Dec. 2017	60.00
West Berks Council	Contribution to library service (S137)	1,665.00
SSE Contracting	Maintenance December quarter	681.14
Suzanne Trousdale	Pavilion cleaning Dec 17	45.00
Mary Carter	Pavilion cleaning consumables	65.45
Southern Electric	Street Lights Dec quarter	535.58
HMRC	PAYE/NIC on Clerk's salary	167.43
Veolia	Bin emptying Dec 2017	29.69
		<u>£4,038.69</u>

2. The budget for 2018/19 was unanimously approved (P – CY, S – MC)
3. The precept was unanimously approved at £38,000.00 (P – GT, S – SD)

3919

**District Councillor's comments.**

PB provided a written report for the meeting:

- The Government has accepted WBC's request to be a pilot for the "business rate pilot". However 70% of this money goes to the Local Enterprise Partnership for infrastructure projects across Berkshire. The remaining 30% means an increase in revenue of £1.75M. Currently we have not seen the small print and there may be restrictions on how the money is spent and/or new burdens and/or reductions in some other grants.
- It would appear that we will be able to increase the Council Tax by 3% rather than 2% before a referendum would be required. A 3% increase would provide £2.7M. We are also expecting to be able to increase the Council Tax by a further 3% for care of the elderly.
- These increases in funding may well have an effect on the proposed budget that has just finished its consultation. My hope is that we will be able to restore part of the grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Currently it looks like there may be an overspend this year of something like £1M
- The traffic counting strips laid in the Wantage Road are nothing to do with the District Council. Developers often make such measurements in support of an expected planning application. The Council should be informed of such activities but often are not. As the organisations doing the measurements are normally competent the Council would not normally take any action.

3920

**Planning**

1. Applications  
17/03291/FULD 60 Dene Way, Donnington RG14 2JW  
 Erection of a three bedroom end of terrace house  
 Council unanimous decision (P – Chairman, S – CF): Objection due to dangers of lack of visibility if excess parking takes place and terrace construction is out of keeping with the area.  
17/03468/HOUSE Donnington Holt, Wantage Road RG14 3BA  
 Variation of condition 2 on approval of 16/02077/HOUSE  
 Council unanimous decision (P – SD, S – GT): No objections
2. WBC Decisions  
17/03068/LBC2 & 17/03069LBC2 The Green & Meadow Way, Snelmore Common RG14 3BG  
 Replacement of plastic rainwater goods to match existing - Granted
3. Notification of planning applications  
 It was agreed to use the WBC on-line portal when hard copies are no longer issued after April 2018

3921

**Community defibrillator**

- MC had produced and pre-circulated a comprehensive proposal.
- At present financing is £1,000 from the parish council and £200 from the WI.
- A request for donations towards a 'defibrillator' fund had been put on the parish website.
- It was decided unanimously, (P – SD, S – GT), with CY not voting due to his previously declared interest, to purchase a LIFEPAK CR2 automatic defibrillator with a DefibSafe2 cabinet at a total cost of £2,067. The parish council would supply the extra finance in order not to delay the project and recoup this from any future donations received.
- MC was thanked for her hard work and research for the project.

3922

**Conversion of street lighting to LED**

CY presented a comprehensive written overview of a conversion to LED, looking at pros and cons, alternatives in the market place and financing options. He hoped to have a number of comparisons and a proposal for some next steps for discussion at the April meeting.

3923

**Village Summer event**

GT had investigated the hire of a 'bouncy castle' for the summer event. It was unanimously agreed (P - MC, S – SD) to place an order for the smaller of the two alternatives at a cost of £100.

3924

**Amenities**

1. Recreation Ground security. The cricket square ropes had again been removed. CF has alerted the local police who will hopefully keep a watch on the ground.

2. Improvements to Play Area. GT will try to survey local children via local schools to get some idea of how to improve the area. He will also invite some play area contractors/suppliers to put forward some ideas and costs. Some financing may be possible through the Good Exchange.

3925 **Footpaths**

- An e-mail from WBC advised that the closure of footpath 19/1 had been extended as the farmer in question had not resolved the problem. It was hoped this will be done in the next few days.
- The order to divert part of footpath 20/1 at Honeybottom was made on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.(Minute 3856 September 2017 refers)

3926 **Highways**

In the absence of PB it was not known if he had consulted with WBC about the Love Lane/Oxford Road junction (Minute 3911/1 December 2017 refers). CF would consult with his police contacts.

3927 **Members Reports and Questions**

There were no Members' reports or questions

**Part 2 Confidential** – members of the public were asked to leave the meeting

3928 **Clerk's Salary, Expenses and Allowances**

It was unanimously agreed the Clerk's hourly rate be increased to £14.50. Office allowance should be increased to £50 per month. Both to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

3929 **Review of Groundsman's contract rate**

It was unanimously agreed (P – Chairman, S – SD) that the Groundsman's contract rate be increased to £13 per hour from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.