

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 15th November 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present

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

In attendance: Paul Bryant (PB) (WBC Councillor), John Austin (Clerk), Paul James, WBC Culture Manager (PJ) and 3 Parishioners.

Note: P = proposed, S = seconded

3875 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Elizabeth Nonweiler (EN).

3876 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

3877 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2017 were approved unanimously (P – SD, S – GT) and signed as a true record.

3878 **Matters arising**

- 3870. The Chairman had written to WBC with comments on their street cleaning proposals.
- 3873/1. The disabled spaces in the Church car park had now been repainted.
- 3874/1. Nothing further had been heard from English Heritage about speeding and litter signage around Donnington Castle.
- 3874/3. The 'speed' sign was now in place at the Oxford Road end of Shop Lane..

3879 **Correspondence**

1. An e-mail from WBC Traffic and Road Safety notifying of a proposal to install double yellow lines at the junction of Kingsley Close/Love Lane in response to the residents' petition submitted to WBC via the parish council.
2. A notification letter from WBC of a CIL payment to the council of £1,905.47 in respect of planning application 16/01610/FULD, Westwick, Long Lane, Shaw.
3. An e-mail notification of the Public Protection Community Fund, a new fund designed to help community safety initiatives and crime prevention projects. The Clerk was asked to pass details on to Linda Tull, Chairman of NAG.
4. Diary date: Next District Parish Conference – Thursday, 15th March 2018.

3880 **Presentation by Paul James, WBC Culture Manager, on libraries and their financing**

Paul explained what was currently happening with the organisation and running of libraries in West Berkshire. He also explained how they are currently being financed and the differing approaches to the parish contributions proposal, which at present is running £60k short of the £150k target.

A discussion followed. TH felt, in the light of a published Government White Paper, which included support for the importance of libraries, that funding should come from central government rather than from local residents. A discussion of the differing legal positions of WBC and BALC/NALC to parish funding of libraries was curtailed by the Chairman who proposed the following resolution: *"That the amount budgeted for by the parish council in 2017/18 is paid to West Berkshire Council as contribution towards the library service and that a similar amount is budgeted for 2018/19 for the same purpose using the powers granted to the Council under S. 137 of the LGA 1972"* (S – SD) The resolution was carried by 6 votes to 1, TH voting against.

The resolution was passed against both the legal advice of NALC/BALC and the advice of the Clerk. Paul also outlined the Shaw Conservation Area Management Plan in which WBC would like the parish council to be involved.

3881

Finance

1. The following payments were agreed unanimously: (P – TH, S – MC)

Michael Gurr	Litter picking Nov 2017	62.40
John Austin	Salary & expenses Oct 2017	669.21
James Snelling	Groundsman's pay Oct. 2017	120.00
Castle Water	Pavilion water Feb-Apr, Sep-Dec	19.80
Bill Graham	Chairman's Allowance 2017/18	70.00
SSE Contracting	Street Light recharge repairs Sept quarter	67.42
Southern Electric	Pavilion Aug - Nov	172.55
ScD Village Hall	Hire of Hall Nov 17 – Oct 18	315.00
Came & Co	Mower insurance	116.48
HMRC	PAYE/NIC on Clerk's salary	167.43
Veolia	Bin emptying Oct 2017	44.53
		<u>£1,824.82</u>

2. Budget 2018/19

The following was agreed to be included for consideration:

Library contribution £1,665, Defibrillator £1,000, Steps in play area next to slide £1,000
Playground repairs, amount to be decided.

3. Bank Mandate

This was proceeding but very slowly. It was decided to see how the process progressed.

3882

District Councillor's comments.

- The Sandleford development had produced three planning applications; two had been refused and the third had been called in to committee.
- Devolution. A closer relationship between WBC and Parishes was seen to be desirable.
- The top dressing of the churchyard paths was in progress.

3883

Planning

1. Applications

There were no new applications.

2. WBC Decisions

17/02280/HOUSE 1 Yew Gate, Love Lane RG14 2JG

Single storey extension and internal reconfiguration

Granted

17/02435/HOUSE The Old Tannery, Donnington RG14 2JT

Single storey extension and alterations

Granted

3884

Land west of the Wantage Road (Christmas Tree field)

- PB had spoken to WBC Planning and planning permission would be required for conversion from agricultural to recreational use but this should not present any problems.
- The Chairman and Clerk had written to the owner's agent as per the last meeting's resolution. An acknowledgement had been received.

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Website

The website is running well.

3886

Churchyard tombs

The Chairman and SD had attended a site meeting with WBC and other interested parties. There are 4 listed tombs and one (the largest) unlisted in need of extensive repair. The Chairman put forward at the meeting the parish council's position that it will not be prepared to recommend any contributions from parishioners towards repairing the dilapidated tombs on the basis that they were in a very poor state of repair when the churchyard was closed and nothing, or very little, has been done since by the responsible authority.

In view of the cost involved it was agreed at the meeting that all parties will co-operate in trying to obtain grants towards the repairs.

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Community defibrillator

MC was looking into the cost/type of defibrillator for the area. It was noted that the WI may contribute to the cost and possibly the Rotary Club. It was also noted that maintenance costs of defibrillators are minimal, possibly £200 per annum.

- 3888 **Conversion of street lighting to LED**
CY agreed to undertake a study of converting all the parish council's street lights to LED rather than continue with the present policy of replacing the old lights only when necessary.
- 3889 **Village Summer event**
It was agreed to hold a community tea party again, this time on Sunday, 3rd June 2018. It was felt that if enough parishioners were prepared to take part that a few extras could be added e.g. a bouncy castle and a bric-a-brac stall. This could lead to a gradual expansion of the event over time to something possibly akin to a village fete.
- 3890 **Amenities**
 1. No Councillors felt strongly enough about whether the duplicated signs at the Recreation Ground should remain or be removed and it was therefore unanimously decided nothing should be done.
 2. It was agreed (P – GT, S – CF) unanimously that the time allowed for pavilion cleaning should be given more flexibility rather than adhere to the 1 hour previously agreed.
 3. A parishioner had attended the meeting to complain about the state of the area of land by Shaw Social Club which had a surfeit of dog mess and litter and was generally untidy. It was explained that this area was not in the parish but it was thought possibly to be the responsibility of either Newbury Town Council or WBC. PB will contact WBC and AH will contact a colleague at NTC and attempt to get something done.
- 3891 **Footpaths**
The overgrowth reported by GT to WBC had now been dealt with.
- 3892 **Highways**
 1. TH will report back to the council when he has received the acoustic survey reports he and neighbours had commissioned on noise from the A34.
 2. A discussion was held concerning roadside 'village gates' designed to encourage speed restraint. It was noted that there is one installed at Long Lane and another on the Oxford Road but there is not one on the Wantage Road. It was agreed that any further discussion be postponed.
- 3893 **Members Reports and Questions**
It was noted that the newly re-opened Castle pub had installed drop down bollards at the entrances to their overflow car park and also erected a 'private car park' sign. It was not known whether users of the Recreation Ground will eventually be barred from using the car park but it was felt that it would be worth considering, in the future, extending and re-furbishing the Castle Lane (top) car park and even perhaps moving the fence.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.