

Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Love Lane, Donnington on Wednesday, 19th September 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present

Bill Graham (Chairman), Mary Carter (MC), Chris Fenwick (CF), Tony Harris (TH), Elizabeth Nonweiler (EN), Glyn Thomas (GT) and Colin Yates (CY).

In attendance: Paul Bryant (PB) (WBC Councillor), John Austin (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

Note: P = proposed, S = seconded

4039 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Sean Doherty (SD).

4040 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

4041 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2018 were approved unanimously (P – TH, S – CY) and signed as a true record.

4042 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

4043 **Correspondence**

1. Library usage statistics by Shaw-cum-Donnington residents had been received and pre-distributed to Councillors.
2. Notification that the next District/Parish conference will take place on 6th November.
3. An e-mail from English Heritage asking if the parish council will be lighting a beacon at Donnington Castle to commemorate the end of WW1 in November. It was felt this was a good idea. GT will take the lead in organising.
4. WBC have launched the annual West Berkshire Community Champion awards for 2019 with a closing date for nominations of 26th October.
5. An e-mail had been received from Stephen Davies with an update on the proposed development on land west of the Wantage Road. The developers will shortly be approaching WBC for a pre-app meeting. There was little else reported and it was unlikely anything substantive will happen until early 2019.

4044 **Finance**

The following payments were agreed unanimously:

August (P – MC, S – GT)

Michael Gurr	Litter picking Aug 2018	62.40
Southern Electric	Pavilion 10/05 – 08/08	84.70
Wicksteed Leisure	Play equipment spares	109.86
Suzy Trousdale	Pavilion cleaning Apr - Jun	40.00
TWK Electrical	Installation of defibrillator	168.00
HMRC	PAYE/NIC on Clerk's salary	174.88
Veolia	Bin emptying July 2018	31.63
		<u>£671.47</u>

Authorised: Chairman/TH

September (P – MC, S – GT)

Michael Gurr	Litter picking Sept 2018	62.40
John Austin	Salary & expenses Jul & Aug 2018	1,338.55
James Snelling	Groundsman's duties. Jul & Aug 2018	299.00
Bill Graham	Property maintenance	68.23
Wicksteed Leisure	Play equipment spares	14.40
Came & Co	Insurance premium 2018/19	1,523.48
HMRC	PAYE/NIC on Clerk's salary	174.88
Veolia	Bin emptying Aug 2018	31.63
		<u>£3,512.57</u>

Authorisation: TH/EN

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District Councillor's comments.

- First I would like to turn to the roll forward of the local plan. The consultation for the sites will now probably be after May and will be commented and there will be a single consultation. After that the Council will decide on a preferred list. I think it important that the PC respond to the consultation. This needs to be in the light of the local policies already decided on. At an informal meeting between a few officers and members we were unhappy with the last plan and would like to prevent the same or similar mistakes in the future. For example - the lack of a school on the race course, having no high limit on a site on Cold Ash Ridge. Therefore comments on what conditions should be put on a site are important even though you might like to oppose it.
- You may be aware that Richard Beech, the enforcement officer has been unwell for some time. A further enforcement officer has now been appointed and enforcement is in far better shape.
- For some reason we do not understand planning applications are somewhat down on this time a year ago. We are still concerned over the large number of applications rejected due to errors in the application that wastes everyone's time. For example, it was found in one application just before resolution that the ownership certificate that said the applicant was the owner was untrue and it turned out that it was some company in the Cayman Islands.
- It looks like we have a balanced budget for next year. However, you may have read in NWN that social services care had overspent by a lot. The overspend has been caused by the need to employ agency staff. This tends to happen every year. A problem is that Council employed care staff are full time workers whereas agencies employ staff on more flexible terms that many care workers tend to prefer. Unfortunately these zero hours contracts have got a bad name. The Council is looking into employing staff on more flexible terms to avoid using agency staff.
- You may have seen that Theale parish council has at the last moment by a vote of 5 to 4 to release a field for a new school and that after a referendum. Strange are the workings of councils!
- West Berkshire has the highest rate of 'good' care homes in England. 98% or 62 are rated as good or better. Birchwood is inadequate and being worked on.
- Trinity has had a short Ofsted inspection and remains good.

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Planning

1. Applications
18/01289/FULD Land adjacent to North Cottage, Oxford Road, Donnington
Erection of a pair of semi-detached cottages
Council unanimous decision: No objections (P – MC, S – GT)
2. WBC Decisions
18/01289/FULD Land adjacent to North Cottage, Oxford Road, Donnington
Erection of a pair of semi-detached cottages
Granted
18/01404/HOUSE 46 Dene Way, Donnington
First Floor extension
Granted
18/01488/HOUSE Foxdene, Long Lane, Shaw
Convert conservatory to habitable room
Granted
3. Appeal
17/03291/FULD 60 Dene Way, Donnington
Erection of 3 bedroom end of terrace house
No change to original objections by the parish council

- 4047 **Mini Book Hub**
Still awaiting communication and negotiation with the owner of the Castle pub.
- 4048 **Revised Parish Plan**
SD had provided a comprehensive report outlining a vision for a revised plan following five key sustainable community strategy themes – stronger, greener, safer, prosperous and healthy. It was suggested information gathering from the community be done by survey. The meeting suggested this could possibly be promoted by a newsletter which could be piggybacked with a church newsletter towards the end of the year. SD was in touch with Burghfield PC who has recently refreshed their parish plan.
Unanimous support was expressed for SD's approach to the parish plan update.
- 4049 **Churchyard tombs update & Shaw House/Church Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP)**
No report had yet been received on the cost estimate for the tombs repairs so the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund could not progress; the project was at present on hold. The Chairman felt that perhaps CAMP may succeed where the parish council was unable to.
- 4050 **Amenities**
1. Street lighting conversion to LED: CY was progressing with this project. He had received several quotes for hardware and maintenance with a few more to come. Initial estimates suggested that a 30% saving in costs could be achieved. More would be known for the October meeting.
 2. Vandalism at Donnington Recreation Ground. Little had happened recently. All previous damage has now been repaired. CF reported that police are doing regular patrols.
 3. Cycling complaint re Recreation Ground. This was not perceived as a major problem. It will need monitoring but no further action was required at present.
 4. Owen Road field signage. The wording for the sign was agreed. MC will progress.
 5. Two more wooden posts had been demolished on the Owen Road field perimeter. The Chairman was authorised to have them replaced by new concrete posts.
- 4051 **Footpaths**
There were no official reports.
- 4052 **Highways**
Kingsley Close verge parking does not appear to be a problem.
- 4053 **Members Reports and Questions**
1. GT had recently had experience of the use of a defibrillator which saved a life. It emphasised the importance of the provision and accessibility of defibrillators
 2. GT reported that he had investigated funding for the playground extension with Vodafone with reasonably positive vibes. He was waiting to hear more.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 09.30 pm.