

Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday, 17 November 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present

Bill Graham (Chairman), Mary Carter (MC), Sean Doherty (SD), Glyn Thomas (GT), Paul Bryant (PB) Colin Yates (CY) and WBC Councillors Lynne Doherty (LD) and Steve Masters (MS)

In attendance: Parish Clerk Gillian Durrant plus 11 members of the public

Note: P = proposed, S = seconded (All decisions unanimous unless otherwise indicated)

4596 **Apologies** Cllr Tony Harris

4597 **Declarations of Interest** there were none

4598 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October were approved as a true record (P – CG, S - PB)

4599 **Matters arising**

The competition for schoolchildren for dog fowling poster; GT reported back that the school are interested, and should have some entries to be judged by the next meeting. GD completed and submitted the council's response to the government consultation on biodiversity. GT has written to the developers of Shaw Valley and Donnington Heights to see if they have any welcome pack planned for new residents. GD has received information from Shaw Church for the pack.

4600 **Presentation from Neil Stacey of WBC Highways Department**

Neil Stacey explained the plans for the Love Lane bus gate to Donnington Heights which is included in the planning consent given in 2016. The bus gate is to be installed at the road joining the new development to Love Lane, to avoid additional traffic on Love Lane, but will allow cyclists, pedestrians and buses to gain access. The exact form of the bus gate has not yet been decided. The following points were raised:

- GT pointed out that whilst the Council wants to avoid Love Lane congestion, it would like social cohesion in the parish, so would like to find a middle way. Neil explained that the planning decision would not be altered at this stage, and that the bus gate would be installed. It is expected that most children and their guardians will walk or cycle to the new school.
- A member of the public supported having a bus gate and didn't believe that it would cut the new residents off from the rest of the parish community.
- Another member of the public was very averse to allowing all traffic access between Love Lane and the new housing estate.
- PB suggested that the bus gate could be implemented in such a way that it could be reversed in the future should the need arise. Neil mentioned that this could be difficult if the planned road was one-way.
- GT asked Neil if the parish council could be consulted on the final plan of the type of bus gate that will be installed. Neil said WBC will want a bus gate that will be robust and low-maintenance, but not prone to being misused.
- MC did not believe that the new residents would miss something they have never had, and Neil also suggested that the new residents would prefer not to live in a through road.
- Another member of the public said Love Lane is very busy, and can be hard to get across at busy times, especially for children from Castle School.
- BG asked for assurances that the cost of installing and maintain the bus gate would not fall on the parish council, and Neil agreed that is would not.

PB mentioned that pedestrian access to Donnington Heights has no pavement on Oxford Road at Link View. LD said this has already been raised at WBC, and is being looked into. GT asked about

the possibility of a safer crossing at Oxford Road by The Castle pub. Neil explained the PV2 equation for calculating the number of pedestrians vs vehicles using the road. This is still used as a guide, but may be overruled if there is a particular safety problem (statistics of accidents) or the type of user for the crossing. The geometry of the road must also be considered; if cars are going too fast it will only give pedestrians a false sense of security. The crossing cannot be too close to a junction or private access. Neil had spent half an hour looking at the junction that morning, and explained it is a difficult site, and hasn't been surveyed for traffic for a long time. A pedestrian crossing would need a lot of street lighting and slower vehicle speeds. The entrances to the car parks are potentially in conflict with a crossing. It would therefore be more expensive to install a crossing at this location which makes it less likely to be installed. Traffic lights would be easier to install, but the traffic flows freely for much of the day, so traffic lights would be superfluous for much of the time. At peak times traffic can back up along much of Love Lane. Neil suggested that once the current work is finished the traffic speeds on Love Lane should be re-assessed. Preliminary work would be needed to assess the feasibility of traffic lights on the junction with Oxford Road and once costed WBC would then have to prioritise the installation with other schemes in the district. If the parish council contributed to the cost, it would be more likely to happen. SD said 62% of residents surveyed four years ago said there was no need for a crossing in this location.

A member of the public mentioned that the 'Give Way' signs by the repositioned chicane and crossing by Dene Way needed to be moved.

Neil gave some background to the planned changes to the Robin Hood Roundabout. A plan was agreed in 2016 to widen the southbound turning into Shaw Road to create an extra lane, allowing traffic coming from Shaw Road two sets of 2 green lights instead of a green, then a red light. More recently WBC has created an Active Travel plan, to help cyclists and pedestrians, and government funding has been requested. If the grant funding is received, WBC will create more crossings for pedestrians and cyclists on the Robin Hood Roundabout.

BG summed up by saying that the Councillors will take note of the public's wishes on these highways matters.

4601

Correspondence

- Invitation to the West Berkshire Parish Climate Forum on zoom on Wednesday 24th November at 12.30pm. PB to attend.
- Booking Morris Dancers for the Jubilee Lunch on 5 June 2022. The Garston Gallopers cost £100, and we are awaiting their availability. The Council approved this expenditure.
- Email from WBC inviting our attendance at an online discussion of library services, no date yet.

4602

Finance

The following payments were approved (P - MC, S - CY). SD and GT will authorise the payments. Payments for October.

Payments for October

Rt Walker	Litter picking October 2021	64.25
G Durrant	Salary and expenses October 2021	833.16
James Snelling	Groundsman	63.00
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	45.11
SSE	Replacement lamppost no3 Northern Avenue	1,356.36
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	240.00
Playtime/Fawns	New Seat for cableway at Recreation Ground	437.63
Gallagher	Insurance for mower	215.32
SCD village Hall	Rent for next year's meetings	324.00
SSE	pavilion electricity for August to November	93.99
NEST (DD)	Clerk's pension October	158.04
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying October 2021	72.77
		<u>£3,903.63</u>

Total payments authorised for October (excluding Direct Debits and Cheques) £3,578.83

Extra-ordinary items for the 2022/23 budget were considered. BG suggested a fund for the revived Community Steering group's projects (there may already be some money in reserves), and the improvements to the Owen Road field. Improvements to Shaw Hill street lights were also discussed.

4603

District Councillors' Reports

LD reported that the diocese and WBC are soon to be talking about the primary school. Councillors discussed the probability of a convenience store being built, as per the planning application. SM advised the councillors that on the second Wednesday of each month there will be a community café from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at The Starting Gate. A petition to Thames Water will be circulated to councillors by email.

4604

Planning

a. Applications

1. 21/02683/HOUSE 4 roof dormers and garage conversion to gym, St Annes Love Lane, no objection (P BG, S CY – PB, abstained due to an interest).

b. Decisions

1. 21/02265/HOUSE Demolition of garage and erection of a two-storey extension, Red Farmhouse, Long Lane. Approved.

2. 20/01097/COND4 Details reserved by conditions 10, 21, 22 & 23, Land adj. to Hilltop. Approved.

4605

Amenities

a. Owen Road– wording of the flyer was approved. GD is still awaiting quotes from several grounds maintenance contractors, and WBC for the scarifying of the ground. SM and other councillors will then hand deliver the flyers and collect the responses.

b. We no longer have a cleaner for the pavilion, MC is happy to keep it ticking over for the winter, but it will need a spring clean. BG agreed to assist.

4606

Footpaths – Shaw Hill – WBC to be asked again to cut back the trees and hedges along Shaw Hill footpath. PB to provide LD with the addresses of those with boundaries, and LD will chase this up. WBC have responded that the surface of Shaw Hill footpath is not bad enough to be resurfaced.

4607

Parish Letter – the draft Christmas parish letter was approved. The church Christmas leaflet will be ready on 23rd November, and this will be delivered simultaneously. 800 copies, single fold, colour front and black and white back. GD to make final amendments and send to BG for approval, and then to TH for printing. The newsletter will be hand delivered to all households by councillors.

4608

West Berkshire Library – it was agreed to contribute £1,600 to the WBC library services for 21/22 (P - PB, S – BG, with no proviso, GT abstained).

4609

Reviving the Community Forum post pandemic. David Willetts put forward a draft terms of reference for the ScD Community Steering Group, which was considered by the Councillors, and agreed with some amendments (P – PB, S – MC). By combining a number of community groups in this steering group it will have more clout. GT, PB, BG and MC volunteered to stand on behalf of the Council. DW will progress this with the Church and agree the date for the first meeting in December.

4610

Members Reports and Questions

CY looked into the possibility of dimming the street lights, but each light will need to be programmed individually, at a cost of £3,900 plus VAT. CY will look at this further.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

DRAFT