



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 7.30pm

Present

Margo Payne (MP) (Chair), Richard Almond (RA), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Anni Gruner (AG), Ian Miller (IM), Glyn Thomas (GT), Colin Yates (CY), WB Councillor Antony Amirtharaj (AA) and Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk.

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

72 **Apologies** WB councillor Martha Vickers (MV)

73 **Declarations of interest** There were none

74 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2023 were approved, following the correction of the date (P – IM, S – AG).

75 **Matters arising**

- A meeting to commence planning the summer event has been arranged for 23 November at 7.30pm.
- The Litter Pick took place on 28 October, thanks to Bill for organising.
- GD has obtained a quote from Glasdon for a replacement dog/litter bin for £203.23 plus fixings. No extra cost for emptying. As there have been no issues with the bin overflowing in recent weeks it was agreed to watch and wait to see if it needs replacing.
- WBC's Mark Lewis has convened a meeting for stakeholders of the new school, and a number of councillors are attending. GD reminded those attending to submit questions in advance.
- Shaw-cum-Donnington Primary School have accepted the council's offer to use the recreation ground, but this won't be until the summer term.

76 **Co-option of a new councillor**

Richard introduced himself to the councillors and said he had been a councillor in Pinner before moving to Donnington last year. He has also been a school governor. Richard has attended many Parish Council meetings in the last twelve months. He was unanimously co-opted. (P – MP, S – GT).

77 **Correspondence**

- A request from a resident of Kingsley Close for support with installing a defibrillator was discussed. GD to respond with the suggestion of mounting it on a lamppost.
- Taylor Wimpey had contacted us offering support with upcoming community events. Councillors suggested we ask if they would sponsor a new bin.
- A parent of ScD primary school children had requested a crossing on the B4494 near to the recreation ground. It was agreed that GT would co-ordinate a group of councillors to do some counting of pedestrians and vehicles at peak times, to gather evidence for a crossing.
- A resident of Monica Gardens had complained of speeding on Long Lane – see item below.

- Email from the Earl of Winchester Regiment of the English Civil War Society enquiring about the possibility of holding a re-enactment event at Donnington Castle and our recreation ground in either 2024 or 2025. MP to respond that we are keen to help, but believe 2025 will give more time for arranging this.
- Notice of the AGM of the West Berkshire Green Exchange on 22 November at 7.30pm in Cold Ash
- WBC Community Forum to be held at Chieveley Village Hall on 5 December at 6pm.

78 Finance

- Councillors approved a contribution to the WBC library service for 2023/24 of £1,800 (P – MP, S – MC)
- The following payments were approved for September (P – MC, S – CY), CY and GT will authorise the payments.

Litter picker	Litter picking October	75.29
Clerk	Salary for October	1,313.64
Clerk	donation to over 80s Parcel Fund	200.00
Clerk	bin bags for pavilion	4.88
Cleaner	cleaning pavilion for October	26.00
B Graham	paint for pavilion	193.00
3 rd Newbury Scouts	Donation for summer fair activities	100.00
Mario the Plumber	Work on pavilion	788.00
RBL	donation for poppy wreath	50.00
Gallagher	Insurance for mower	244.34
SCD village hall	hall hire for meetings until March 2024	159.00
WBC	grounds maintenance for third quarter	789.71
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	95.68
Castle Water (DD)	Water for pavilion in October	197.68
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk October	183.92
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying for October	<u>108.66</u>
		<u>£4,477.25</u>

Total payments authorised for September (excluding Direct Debits) **£3,986.99**

c. Review of council's investments; BG not present.

d. Additions to the 2024/25 budget

GD to research the cost of creating a new easy to use website, AG suggested a cost of around £1,200. GD to ask other clerks what platforms they use.

MC asked that we ensure we have money for potentially two SIDs i.e. £10,000, and to make sure that we have the funding in the budget for the road signs.

MP asked for a bigger newsletter budget, for a quarterly community newsletter.

MC suggested funding for further upgrades to the pavilion, e.g. the kitchen and changing room benches.

79 District Councillors' Reports

AA welcomed councillors and any interested members of the public to attend the upcoming Community Forum in Chieveley. AA has been in meetings discussing the possibility of getting footway lighting in the path around Vodafone, but the owners of the site are refusing to install it. Another possibility is to get the path designated as a Public Footpath (it is currently just a right of way) but this could take some time. This is necessary for the residents of Shaw Valley who use it in early winter mornings and evenings to get to work and school. AA also mentioned the new bus route; however, this cannot start until the ANPR

camera in Bastion Street is installed, and the latest news on this is that it won't happen until April next year. Councillors asked AA to speak to the WBC officers again and push for an earlier date.

AA also reported that WB libraries are looking at ways to increase revenue, but not by issuing fines. However, their budgets are being protected for the coming year.

80 **Planning**

a. Applications

1. 23/01774/HOUSE 2 Hop Gardens. Amended plans, extension is now single storey. No objection. (P – CY, S – MC).
2. 23/02525/HOUSE The Old Rectory, Church Road, extension of garage. No objection. (P – CY, S – MC).

b. Decisions

1. 23/02122/NONMA Donnington Heights change of roof type from hip to gable. Approved.
2. 23/02075/REG3 Bungalow at Castle School, demolition and change of use. Approved.

81 **Speeding in the Parish**

a. Update on Community Speed Watch

IM advised that there had been four sessions so far, and a significant number of vehicles had been recorded as speeding in each session. No session last week due to the rain, but another is planned for next week. More volunteers are needed.

b. Update on speed reduction measures within the parish

GT, MC and GD met with WBC highway officers to discuss the signage the parish had requested around the parish. This time officers did agree to replace the gateway signs in Long Lane, with added CSW signs and a new gateway with signage at the entrance of Newbury/Shaw from Long Lane. Also a new 'Donnington' sign at the entrance to Donnington Heights. Other requested signs were either refused for being 'unnecessary' or require further investigation, such as the one on private land at Shaw Valley.

AA offered to speak to the Highways officers about their refusal to install signs identifying Donnington and Shaw. MP thanked the members of the working group for their hard work in getting this far.

82 **Amenities**

a. Update on Owen Road Field

GD has met with the contracts manager of Blaze Construction, and they will be sending a quote at cost for a partial levelling of the field.

b. Donnington Recreation Ground

i) Update on improvements to the pavilion. The electricians and plumber have nearly completed the rewiring, installation of a new fuse box, installation of new fan and water heaters. Community Payback hope to start painting the pavilion on 25 November if the weather is fine.

ii) improvements to area by the top gate. IM still needs a third quote. GD to send details of Blaze Construction contact.

83 **Review of the Council's Action Plan**

GD to look into suppliers of low-level street lighting for Shaw Hill. CY to find details of supplier previously contacted.

GT to check the surface of the footpaths on Shaw Hill and Lamp Acres to Love Lane.

GD to contact ARK about their plans for the River Lambourn in the parish.

RA to ask DWH how the allotments are coming along.

84 **Christmas Newsletter to residents**

This needs to be written and printed before 24 November, to go out with St Mary's Christmas leaflet. Events coming up – Spring litter pick on 16 March, Annual Parish Meeting on 1 May, D-Day beacon on 6 June, Summer event on 23 June. Other items include an update on our action plan – link to website. CSW report, update on signage improvements for speeding, upgrade on pavilion improvements and plans for Owen Road Field, including the play equipment hire scheme. Bill's retirement as Chair, new Chair and new councillor.

MG to ask BG for details of the delivery routes.

85 **Parish Response to the suggested bus route for the new estate**

GD to put GT in touch with the relevant WBC officer to advise them of our ideas regarding the route and the places at which the bus should stop. AA agreed to contact Vodafone about sharing their buses too, and to liaise with the WBC officers.

86 **Date for summer event**

It was agreed to hold the event on 23 June 2024

87 **Members reports and questions**

GT asked for councillor's agreement to have a further 100 welcome packs printed for new residents, this was agreed (P – MP, S – CY).

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 9.45pm