



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall on Wednesday 20 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Present

Ian Miller (Vice-Chair), Richard Almond (RA), Paul Bryant (PB), Mary Carter (MC), Anni Gruner (AG), Glyn Thomas (GT), Colin Yates (CY), WB Councillor Martha Vickers (MV), and Gillian Durrant (GD) Parish Clerk.

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

88 **Apologies** Councillor Margo Payne (MP)

89 **Declarations of interest** MC reminded everyone she is a member of the ScD Gardening Club, in connection with item 93.

90 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2023 were approved, (P – MC, S – PB).

91 **Matters arising**

- A meeting to commence planning the summer happened on 23 November. The next one will be on 31 January.
- The bin by Vodafone on Love Lane has not noticeably been overflowing since the last meeting, so no action required.
- The meeting at ScD Primary School regarding the new school took place.
- GT advised that he hasn't yet set a date for counting pedestrians and motorists outside the Castle Pub, with a view to gauging the need for a crossing. GT will organise some volunteers and do a count twice, in the New Year and next summer.
- Action plan – no response yet from ARK. GD has contacted several lighting companies with regard to low level lighting for the footway lighting at Shaw Hill. RA asked DWH about progress on the allotments – they plan to have these ready by next summer, they are close to a road called 'The Redcoats' – and the houses here are near to being complete. A concrete retaining wall has been built at the bottom of the hill where the landslip occurred.
- Christmas Newsletter was written and distributed – thanks to all especially Glyn for working out the rounds in Bill's absence. GD and Anni have met to discuss a bigger newsletter.
- Welcome packs have been reprinted and distributed by GT.
- GT responded to WBC re the new bus route, asking that the route encompass the existing estates off Love Lane as well as the new estates.

92 **Presentation on West Berkshire Draught Busters by David Marson**

David is treasurer of the local Relief in Need charity, and also a trustee of West Berkshire Draught Busters, and this is currently being publicised. It is run by volunteers, including Steve Ardagh-Walters and Ken Neale. Volunteers go out and help those in need, which is not strictly defined, to improve insulation, especially draughts. This means fixing draughts through doors, windows, floorboards and holes in walls. Usually quick fixes that bring a dramatic difference. The charity

provides the materials and labour free of charge. Contributions are requested if the householder is able to pay. They are happy to take on self-referrals, for those who rent and own, including Sovereign Housing and almshouse residents. Funded by Greenham Trust and WB Council's Green Energy Scheme. The charity will also look for donations from building companies. To date demand has not been as high as anticipated. David has visited the Warm Spaces in Speen and at St Mary's Church. It was recommended that David pass on information to the fire service and the Community Furniture Project. GD to put the flyer on the ScD website and Facebook.

93 Correspondence

- The Shaw-cum-Donnington Gardening Club has closed and wishes to use its remaining money to purchase a bench to match the Coronation Bench on Donnington Recreation Ground. All agreed (P - CY, S – GT). MC to pass the details of the bench to GD, and the Parish Council will assist with installation.
- A resident has emailed concerning the ongoing flooding issue in Long Lane. MV to chase the WBC legal team, who have been asked to pursue a local farmer to resolve the issue of mud blocking the gulleys under the road. MC to send MV and WBC the SID data for the day of bad flooding in November, which shows many motorists were still driving well in excess of the speed limit close to the site of the flood.
- According to the recent WBC budget consultation two litter bins in the parish may be removed. GD to object to the proposal on behalf of the council. The councillors will consider taking on the cost and using an alternative contractor for emptying them. To be discussed with budget.
- WBC have advised that the next District Parish Conference will be held on Tuesday 30th January, 2024, 2 - 4.30pm, at Shaw House.
- Trees and hedge plants have arrived from Greenham Trust – one oak and 10 smaller native varieties, including cherry and birch. The oak is to be planted close to the Coronation Bench on the recreation ground, to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Councillors to consider locations for the other smaller trees.
- An Oxford Road resident emailed to say he is keen on a 20mph speed limit and a noise 'camera' which have been trialled in Chelsea and Westminster. GD to write to WBC Highways to ask if they will apply for grant funding for one of these cameras for our parish.

94 Finance

a. The following payments were approved (P – MC, S – GT), CY and GT will authorise the payments.

Litter picker	Litter picking November	75.49
Clerk	Salary for November	961.40
Cleaner	cleaning pavilion for November	45.50
Groundsman	mowing grass in October	193.00
WBC	Donation for library	1800.00
SLCC	Annual subscription	183.00
Paul Bryant	parts for repairing pavilion guttering	21.16
Alpha Xperience	Printing newsletter	155.00
Ostrich Print	Printing 100 welcome packs	145.00
TWK Electrical	Work on pavilion	10,824.00*
SSE	Electricity for lampposts (3.10-30.11.23)	23.95
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	52.40
Castle Water (DD)	Water for pavilion in November	70.47
NEST (DD)	Pension for clerk November	140.21
Veolia (DD)	Bin emptying for November	<u>108.66</u>
		<u>£14,665.25</u>

Total payments authorised for November (excluding Direct Debits and Invoices already paid*)

£3,563.65

b. Review of council's investments; the average yield for November for the CCLA deposit fund was 5.26%.

c. Councillors considered the draft 2024/25 budget. GD explained a number of items and a few alterations were agreed:

- to reduce the CPSG expenditure to £500 as there has been no call on this since the group was set up,
- to spend up to £1,200 on setting up a new website in the current year, and therefore reduce the budget for 2024/25 for IT accordingly (P – RA, S – GT)
- It was agreed to spend CIL money in the coming year on a new kitchen and lockers in the pavilion (P – PB, S – MC). GD to get an estimate of cost.
- It was agreed to purchase a second mobile SID in the current year, therefore to reduce the budget for next year's SID expenditure to £5,000. See item 97 below.

95 **District Councillors' Reports**

MV will ask for another meeting in the New Year with officers regarding the new developments. MV said in the past a specific person from the developers would have been given the job to liaise with WBC. GT to respond to Peter Walker at WBC re the bus route on Love Lane. MC asked if MV can confirm that the money has been received from the developers for the bus route, and that it is ringfenced. The cycle path had no funding from the developers. GD to send MV latest newsletter from PCC re police fund which could be used for footpath lighting.

MV asked us to let her know of anything else to discuss with the developers. She also mentioned a hardship fund run by WBC. Councillors advised MV that they had been having problems with WBC's 'Report a Problem' because they have been receiving emails stating that jobs had been done when they hadn't. MV will send these on the relevant officers.

96 **Planning**

a. Applications

1. 23/02719/LBC Old Rectory and Vicarage, Church Road, to convert to single dwelling. No objection (P - CY, S - GT)
2. 23/02631/HOUSE The Old Coach House, Church Road, rebuilding garden wall. No objection. (P - CY, S - GT)

b. Decisions

1. 23/02314/COND Old Tannery Donnington, reserved conditions, approved.
2. 23/02687/5DAY Donnington Priory, remove 2 felled trees blocking river, approved.

97 **Update on Community Speed Watch**

It was agreed to purchase another mobile SID using the money in reserves. (P - AG, S- GT)

IM reported that 15 to 25% of the speeding vehicles in the last CSW session had no MOT, and therefore invalid insurance. The police confirmed that they do follow up on this. The last session in Long Lane was done in conjunction with a CSW group from Hermitage, and the visibility of the volunteers appeared to have a positive impact on driving speeds. There is still a shortage of volunteers. MC proposed that we request a change of speed limit between Newbury and Long Lane to 40 mph, (P – MV, S – IM). GD to write to MV to request this.

Cheryl Evans from WBC has said we can buy and fit our own CSW signs onto Village welcome gateway signs. Examples of these signs are in Priors Court Road. GD to purchase these.

98 **Amenities**

Donnington Recreation Ground:

i) Update on improvements to the pavilion. PB has created an inspection spreadsheet for twice annual check-ups which will be brought to the January meeting. All agreed to add a new kitchen and lockers to next year's budget.

ii) Update on the proposed improvements to the North Western corner of the recreation ground. Two contractors have responded, but still waiting to hear from the third.

iii) Repairs to the playground equipment. GD has had a local company out to quote for repairs and all agreed to spend around two thousand pounds from this year's budget on repairs.

99 **To consider a bench or similar to commemorate Bill Graham**

All agreed to purchase a bench for Donnington Recreation Ground to commemorate Bill. The bench will match the Coronation Bench and the new one to be donated by the Gardening Club, (P – MC, S – CY).

100 **Councillor Responsibilities: to appoint new Amenity and Recreation Ground Officers, and a new member of the Investment Advisory Group.**

RA agreed to join the Investment Advisory Group, IM take on responsibility for the recreation ground, and RA will be the new Amenities officer, (P – CY, S- GT).

101 **Members reports and questions**

There were none.

102 **Exclusion of the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed**

This was not necessary as there were no members of the public present.

103 **To agree the salaries/rates of pay for the Parish Clerk, Litter Picker, Groundsman and Cleaner for 2024/25**

All agreed with the proposed amounts, in line with NJC pay scales and appraisal recommendations/the Real Living Wage/CPI inflation (P – GT, S – AG).

104 **To consider the quotes received for levelling Owen Road Field**

The three quotes were considered, and councillors agreed to accept the quote from Blaze Construction (P – MC, S – PB). GD to proceed with the project.

Chairperson

The meeting closed at 9.50pm