

DONNINGTON AND MUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Turreff Hall, Donnington on 14th November 2016

Present: Councillors: Mrs L Dugmore (Chairman), Mrs E A Clare, N Dugmore, Mrs R Gregory, D Hayward, C Mason, V Rainsford, J Lavery and J Thompson.

Also Present: R Morgan (Clerk), Tina Brasenell (Environmental Engagement Officer Telford & Wrekin Council), Coreen Themeras (Let's Grow" Project), Ms B Vandross (Centric Youth and Voluntary Club) and D Thompson.

16/11/112 Apologies: Councillors Mrs L Edwards, M Edwards and J Haigh.

Resolved – that the apologies are accepted.

16/11/113 Declaration of Interest: As per Register. Also Councillors Mrs E A Clare, Mrs R Gregory and J Lavery – Item 16/11/123 Lifelong Learning Centre.

16/11/114 Public Session

Mr D Thompson thanked Councillors Mrs E A Clare and C Mason for the work carried out in Donnington and informed Council that Royal Mail had been seen measuring the bus shelter at which a request had been made for a post box.

16/11/115 Dog Fouling and Street Champions

Councillors received a presentation from Tina Brasenell (Environmental Engagement Officer Telford & Wrekin Council) regarding what can be done to reduce dog fouling in the parish and received information on Street Champions operating within the parish. She explained that her role within Telford & Wrekin Council was to liaise with volunteers to improve the locality/community and provide them with High-Visibility vests and litter pickers to help keep areas including play areas clean. The intention is to create a community of volunteers.

Councillors then informed Ms Brasenell of the areas where dog fouling was at its worst stating Baldwin Webb Avenue, Donnington Recreation Ground, Asda Donnington to St George's, The Parade, Donnington including outside Lloyds Bank, Muxton School and shops at Fieldhouse Drive, Muxton.

Ms Brasenell explained that a scheme had been trialled where volunteers spray paint where dogs have fouled and record it on a monitoring sheet. The areas are brought to the attention of Council enforcement officers and Police Community Supports Officers (PCSO's) who then patrol the areas and issue fines where necessary. The area is then thoroughly cleaned. The scheme must be volunteer led and dogs must be deemed to be "under control" whether on or off the lead.

Dog bags are available at the Lifelong Learning Centre, Donnington Library and Granville House. The Clerk was asked to request some bags to be kept at and issued from the Parish Council office.

Ms Brasenell informed Council of the restructuring taking place at Telford & Wrekin Council's Environmental Department as there had been no designated public realm officer for Donnington and Muxton for nearly eighteen months. Areas had now been reassigned. Bins that are old and rusty will be replaced.

The Chairman thanked Ms Brasenell for her presentation.

16/11/116 Barclay Gardens Orchard

Councillors received a presentation from Coreen Themeras on the “Let’s Grow” Project and the work carried out on Barclay Garden’s orchard. She informed Councillors that work had commenced at the orchard in January 2016 and met every Tuesday. Cups of tea were offered to people who came along for a talk or help with the work. Communities are being encouraged to grow, cook and share fruit and vegetables. A tree survey had been carried out and it has been discovered that some trees had been planted by the Polish community as far back as 1951. Volunteers were in the process of tagging trees so that the different varieties can be logged and there may be a chance that there are rare varieties here. Let’s Grow had teamed up with Ms Brasenell and Green Heroes to make the paths more accessible for disabled people. An Apple Day event had been held where those attending were able to press apples and make chutneys. Residents from Barclay Court also attended the event. Financial assistance is required to get professionals to prune the trees but this will be spread over the early and late production of fruit. The volunteers can then carry out the minor pruning after this has been done. Work is expected to commence in February 2017 and this will enhance future harvests.

Local communities have been asked to identify green spaces after which there will be a public consultation. Let’s Grow has nominated the orchard to be classed as a green space.

The Chairman thanked Coreen Themeras for the presentation.

Resolved – to move item 16/11/126 Grant Applications to be discussed next on the agenda.

16/11/126 Grant Applications

Ms Vandross (Centric Youth and Voluntary Club) explained that it was the 25th Anniversary of the Ghanaian Community Presence in Telford and that it was organising a Christmas Dinner Party with an African theme to celebrate. Ms Vandross informed Councillors what the organisation was about and how it was trying to encourage its members to help in the communities in which they lived.

Resolved – that under the General Power of Competence grants are awarded to the following organisations:

1. Centric Youth and Voluntary Club	£ 200.00
2. Kids Krazy Klub	£ 200.00
3. Lawndale/Millward/Barclay Community Fund	£ 200.00
Total	£ 600.00

16/11/117 Minutes

Councillors were requested to confirm the following Minutes of the Council:

- a. Parish Council meeting held on 12th October 2016.

Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record

- b. Planning Committee meeting held on 31st October 2016.

Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.

16/11/118 Matters Arising from Minutes

The Chairman informed Councillors that Telford & Wrekin Council was proposing to change the catchment areas for local schools but Parish and Town Councils had not been informed. The Clerk was asked to invite the Development and Planning Team to this Council's next meeting. Councillor Mrs E A Clare stated that she would inform Telford & Wrekin Council of this Councils disappointment over the lack of information provided.

The Clerk informed Councillors that due to the way Asda had changed the way in which vouchers were processed he would have to use his own credit card to purchase them and claim the money back immediately from the Council. Should it be decided to issue vouchers in future then perhaps this should be considered around August.

16/11/119 Expenditure Transactions

Each Councillor received a copy of the Expenditure Transactions for:

- a. September 2016.

Resolved – that the expenditure transactions for September 2016 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

- b. October 2016

Resolved – that the expenditure transactions for October 2016 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

16/11/120 Income Received

Each Councillor received a copy of the income report for:

- a. September 2016.

Resolved – that the income received report for September 2016 is accepted as a true record.

- b. October 2016.

Resolved – that the income received report for October 2016 is accepted as a true record.

16/11/121 Financial Budget Comparisons

Each Councillor received a copy of the financial budget comparisons as at 31st October 2016.

Resolved – that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.

16/11/122 Bank Reconciliation

Each Councillor received a copy of the bank reconciliation as at:

- a. 30th September 2016.

Resolved – that the bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2016 is accepted as a true record.

- b. 31st October 2016.

Resolved – that the bank reconciliation as at 31st October 2016 is accepted as a true record.

16/11/123 Lifelong Learning Centre

Councillor Mrs R Gregory informed Councillors that there had been people looking around the Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) but, to date, no bids have been made to take over the future management and running of the building. One option available is to set up a residents group but this would need a partnership with an external organisation.

There is a possibility that the Parish Council could assist the residents but there would need to be a Service Level Agreement with the Parish Council with the Clerk being the facilities manager for the building and the Assistant Clerk taking on extra hours to process invoices. The Clerk is to liaise with Councillor Mrs R Gregory to ascertain exactly what is required should this be the preferred option.

16/11/124 Church Walk, Donnington

Councillor Mrs E A Clare informed Councillors that work on six of the flats is nearing completion and it should not be long before they are leased to tenants. Work on one house is now underway but there are still issues with the drains on one side of the site. The site has also now been cleaned up. Councillor J Thomson thanked Councillors Mrs E A Clare and C Mason for all the hard work carried out behind the scenes.

16/11/125 Budgets and Precept 2017/2018

Councillors discussed the draft budgets and proposed precept for 2017/2018 as agreed by the working group which met on 3rd October 2016. Some Councillors requested more time to examine the proposed draft budgets before making any decision.

Resolved – that the budgets are deferred to December’s Council meeting to allow Members more time to study the proposed draft budgets.

16/11/127 Proposed Development New Trench Road, Muxton

Councillors were informed that a public meeting had been held in Muxton to discuss the proposed development on land to the North and South of New Trench Road, Muxton (A518). The residents have agreed to form one action group to speak on behalf of everyone against all the proposed developments in Muxton. There will be a delay in finalising Telford & Wrekin Council’s Local Plan as the inspector is ill so it will be delayed until the New Year.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Council expressing this Council’s concerns regarding the overdevelopment of Muxton and potential loss of the “Lilleshall Gap”.

16/11/128 Local Development Order (LDO) 2017 Householder Alterations

Councillors discussed the proposed LDO 2017 regarding householder alterations and the effects on Parish/Town Councils and the public. The LDO 2017 aims to reduce the decision on minor applications from eight to two weeks with the onus being on the applicant and planning officer responsible. Councillors raised the following concerns which the Clerk was asked to pass on to the Borough Council:

- Parish Councils will not be informed of minor developments and the Clerk was asked to confirm if a complete list of planning applications will still be sent to Parish and Town Councils.
- It will be difficult for Parish/Town Councils to respond to any of these applications as most only meet once a month so may not be able to represent people objecting/supporting to the applications.
- It will be difficult to prove that the applicant has informed the neighbours especially if they do not have a good relationship with each other. It was suggested that it be made compulsory for a notice to be displayed by the applicant no matter what type of development is proposed.

16/11/129 Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)

Councillors considered supporting a proposal for a local branch of the CPRE to serve all areas of Telford & Wrekin. The Clerk was asked to write to the CPRE enquiring if representatives from Parish/Town Councils would be on the CPRE for the Borough as there are many green areas under threat and would like the opportunity to use its expertise.

16/11/130 Princess Royal Hospital

Councillors discussed a letter received from Mark Pritchard MP regarding the future of services at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford. It was stated that it is the Government's intention to reduce Accident and Emergency Departments and that the consultation process should have been carried out by people independent of the National Health Service.

16/11/131 Speed Limits Estate Roads

The Clerk informed Councillors that the proposal to have 20mph speed limit on estate roads was now part of Telford & Wrekin Council's Capital Works Programme. The Clerk was asked to enquire what enforcement for a 20mph speed limit can be made.

16/11/132 Council Policies

Councillors were requested to approve and adopt the following Parish Council Policies:

- a. Grant Awarding Policy
- b. Community Engagement Policy

Resolved – that the aforementioned policies are adopted for this Parish Council.

16/11/133 Wildflowers Granville Island

Councillors considered a request from Telford & Wrekin Council to contribute to the cost of planting wildflowers on Granville Island at a cost to the Parish Council of £579.

Proposed by Councillor C Mason, seconded by Councillor Mrs E A Clare that the Parish Council contributes £579 toward the cost of wildflowers on Granville Roundabout.

Resolved – that the Parish Council does not contribute £579 toward the cost of planting wildflowers on Granville Island. The motion was defeated by five votes to four.

16/11/134 Buffer/Polisher Turreff Hall

The Clerk informed Councillors that it has been necessary to purchase a new buffer/polisher for Turreff Hall at a cost of £590. This is due to the old buffer, which the Council has had for approximately twenty years, becoming unsafe and the engine has burnt out.

16/11/135 Oakengates Celebration of Christmas

The Chairman informed Councillors that an invitation has been received from the Mayor of Oakengates Town Council to attend Oakengates Celebration of Christmas taking place on Saturday 3rd December 2016 at 4.30pm in the library in The Place Theatre followed by the Christmas lights switch-on at 5.30pm.

The Chairman informed Councillors that the following correspondence had also been received after the agenda had been sent to Councillors:

- a. Wellington Town Council's Mayor's Carol Service will be taking place on Sunday 11th December 2016 at All Saints Church, Wellington at 6.30pm
- b. Shropshire and Newport Canal Trust Newsletter

16/11/136 Agenda Items for the Next Council Meeting

Councillors requested that the following items be included for discussion on the agenda of the next Council meeting:

Proposed changes to school catchment areas
20mph for Baldwin Webb Avenue, Donnington
Proposed budgets
Good2Great update

16/11/137 Date of next meeting

It was proposed that the date and venue for the next Council meeting is changed to Monday 12th December 2016 and to be held at Turreff Hall, Donnington. This is due to a clash with other meetings already scheduled for Wednesday 14th December 2016 resulting in some Councillors not being able to attend the Parish Council meeting.

Resolved – that the next Council meeting will be held on **Monday 12th December 2016** at Turreff Hall, Donnington commencing at 7pm.

The Clerk informed Councillors that there will be a Planning Committee meeting on Monday 21st November at Turreff Hall, Donnington commencing at 7pm

The meeting closed at 2100hrs.

Signed:

Date: