

DONNINGTON AND MUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Turreff Hall, Donnington on 13th March 2017

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

Also Present: R Morgan (Clerk), J Crowsley (Arriva), Angie Astley (Assistant Director – Neighbourhood & Customer Services Telford & Wrekin Council), Dominic Proud (Service Delivery Manager - Highways, Transport & Engineering Services, Customer & Neighbourhood Services Telford & Wrekin Council), K Hanmer (Chairman Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Parish Council), S Reynolds (Mayor of Oakengates Town Council), S Parr, S Davies, Ms J Nelson, Councillors from Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Parish Council.

17/03/198 Apologies: Councillors Mrs L Edwards, M Edwards and C Mason.

Resolved – that the apologies are accepted.

17/03/199 Declaration of Interest: As per Register.

17/03/200 Public Session: Representatives from NC United Rookies informed the Chairman that they had brought some additional literature about their organisation for consideration when discussing grants. The Clerk apologised that he had forgotten to inform them that grants would not be discussed until April's meeting as it would be the start of the new financial year and with the amount of applications received money would be available in the new budget.

17/03/201 Bus Routes

The Chairman invited Mr Crowsley to discuss the current bus routes within the Parish Council area, Wrockwardine Wood, Trench and Ketley Bank and answer questions already put forward by the Councillors from these areas. Mr Crowsley provided the following responses to the questions and comments:

Question: Do we have any subsidised routes in Donnington and Muxton?

Answer: Evening journeys on service 7 Monday – Saturday

Question: Why was the bus along Marshbrook Way removed after less than twelve months?

Answer: Service 6 did not deliver the patronage required for the service to remain. The new section of Marshbrook Way did not have sufficient patronage levels to be retained within the 5a service alteration.

Question: What plans would there be to add a bus to Telford Priory School if the catchment areas were changed?

Answer: Currently we have no plans. However I would be happy to meet with the School or Local Authority in regards the potential of setting up a dedicated service. This may need to be supported in its infancy by the School or Local Authority but if proven commercial we would be happy to operate without support.

Question: Will Arriva divert buses down St Matthew's Road?

Answer: We have no current plans to make this change as the current arrangement on service 5/5a has returned positive results. The current timetable for the 5/5a gives School Road/Queens Road a combined frequency which is more attractive to our customers. Splitting the service devalues our timetable and becomes operationally difficult for staff.

Question: With the catchment areas for Muxton changing what provision are Arriva going to make for Children to get to School using Public Transport?

Answer: As I mentioned earlier I am happy to engage in conversation regarding a tailor made solution. However it will need to be financially viable.

Question: Would it be possible to re-route the service 5 bus onto A518 and the 5a onto the old 33 route?

Answer: Currently we have no plans to change either service as they are currently performing well and complement each other with combined frequencies along certain sections.

Question: Why is the number 7 bus every 30 minutes now when it needs to be every 20 minutes?

Answer: The short service 7 has a combined frequency of 15 minutes with the full service 7 along the busiest section. The 30 minute section does not require a higher frequency currently but should passenger numbers dictate we will review again.

Statement: Residents are unhappy that noticeboards/timetables have not been updated since the changes were put in place?

Reply: A large project was undertaken by the roadside team, however on occasion stops are missed or information removed. If the local councils pass on issues with certain stops etc I will have them updated. When possible I will also arrange a timetable audit within the area.

Statement: Problems with reliability of buses.

Reply: Last year the service 6 and 7 timetables were unsatisfactory and for that I apologise however significant improvements have been made.

Statement: Huge problems with buses going down Richmond Avenue. The road is narrow, turning circle too tight, residents want service reverted back to original route.

Reply: Currently we have no plans to change the route as we await the results of the safety survey carried out by Telford and Wrekin Council. Dominic Proud stated that the survey was nearly completed and if concerns were discovered then the Borough Council will try and address them. If no issues then the Council will keep reviewing the area.

Statement: Lack of bus stops near the new Priory School.

Reply: Local authority authorise the position of bus stops. Should a new stop be requested along an established route we are always happy to discuss and attend any site meetings.

Statement: No bus stops near Wrockwardine Wood Infant School, Parish Office, Leisure Centre or local Church?

Reply: Local authority authorise the position of bus stops. As we have no service in this area we have no requirement to raise the issue.

Statement: Residents are unable to get to their doctors surgery in Donnington unless they walk or catch a taxi?

Answer: We are always happy to assist in planning residents' journeys where possible however the areas we no longer serve are as a result of low patronage levels. We would require financial support to serve all the areas previously served pre July 2015

Statement: Residents are now unable to travel to Wellington without catching several buses?

Reply: Service 5 and 5a connecting with service 4 in Oakengates to Wellington = 2 buses. Service 7 serves Wellington on the long and short trips. Service 897 am and pm serves Wellington direct from Newport via Wellington Road and Trench Road

Statement: No direct link to the Princess Royal Hospital for residents. A large number of local residents are elderly as well as being ill and have to catch more than two buses to get to the hospital.

Reply: Patronage was not sufficient on the former 55 route into the Hospital and around the Dothill area. Service 5/5a and 7 changing onto service 4 in Oakengates to the hospital = 2 buses.

Statement: Old age pensioners' bungalows in Woodhouse Crescent, Malcom Davies Drive and Church road have no adequate bus service?

Reply: These areas did not support a commercial bus service with patronage levels lower than the areas retained. As a business we would require financial support to serve all the areas removed following the network changes made in July 2015.

Statement: Lack of buses to Ketley Bank

Reply: Services 5/5a and 7 connect with service 4 in Oakengates Bus Station which operates up to every ten minutes seven days per week. Happy to supply service 4 timetables to local libraries etc. Dominic Proud stated that T&Wr will investigate providing subsidised routes for Ketley Bank and Trench Lock and assess requests for new bus routes. However, consideration would have to be given to long term costs and sustainability. Money will be coming in from s106 agreements for the proposed development in Priorslee to possibly provide new routes and buses.

Question: With growth in housing in this and the surrounding areas, has Arriva got a plan to incorporate current bus routes to service new housing developments?

Answer: Telford as a whole has an exciting future with large developments on the horizon. I have no planned changes currently but whenever section 106 money is available we look to maximize the area we can serve within the available funds.

Summary: Members of Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Parish Council who attend the Bus Users Group meetings with Arriva feel that they have not been consulted with or their views listened to regarding changes made to the local bus route, in particular the number 7 route. Members strongly recommend that the route is changed as follows: Oakengates–New Road –Wombridge Road–Trench Road–Church Road–Plough Road; Oakengates Road–Wrekin Drive–Turreff Avenue–Wellington Road–Trench Road. The Members request that Arriva provide a service that is safe for residents and covers the whole of the area, which would in turn create more profit for Arriva.

Summary Reply: Whilst I appreciate the concerns raised by the local residents, revenue generated from the areas removed in the review of 2015 did not cover the costs of the extra vehicles and overheads required to operate them. If we were to revisit the potential of areas removed following the 2015 review then a solid business case would need to be put together. Without financial support I do not currently see any of the areas removed being served again in the immediate future.

Councillors also requested that unused bus shelters in Muxton are removed and raised the problem that students from Muxton trying to get to Wellington to access higher education facilities are finding it extremely difficult due to the lack of buses and that when one does eventually arrive it drives past as it is full. A suggestion was made to consider use of integrated transport system by T&Wr to try and alleviate this problem.

A request as to how full a bus has to be to be financially viable could not be answered as the figure was not at hand.

The Chairman thanked Jamie Crowsley, Dominic Proud and Angie Astley for attending the meeting.

17/03/202 Minutes

To confirm the following Minutes of the Council:

- a. Planning Committee meeting held on 6th February 2017.
Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.
- b. Parish Council meeting held on 8th February 2017.
Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.
- c. Library Committee Meeting 13th February 2017.
Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.
- d. Planning Committee meeting held on 20th February 2017.
Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.
- e. Extraordinary Council meeting held on 20th February 2017.
Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.
- f. Library Committee Meeting 27th February 2017.
Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.

17/03/203 Matters Arising from Minutes

Councillors received updated information of actions contained in the Minutes thereof with regard to this Council's forthcoming May Day Festival and response from Telford & Wrekin Council concerning Good2Great. The Chairman stated she would chase up a response to her own email regarding this matter.

17/03/204 Expenditure Transactions

Each Councillor received a copy of the Expenditure Transactions for:

- a. January 2017.
Resolved – that the expenditure transactions for January 2017 are ratified and accepted as a true record.
- b. February 2017.
Resolved – that the expenditure transactions for February 2017 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

17/03/205 Income Received

Each Councillor received a copy of the income report for:

- a. January 2017.
Resolved – that the income received report for January 2017 is accepted as a true record.
- b. February 2017.
Resolved – that the income received report for February 2017 is accepted as a true record.

17/03/206 Financial Budget Comparisons

Each Councillor received a copy of the financial budget comparisons as at:

- a. 31st January 2017.
Resolved – that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.
- b. 28th February 2017
Resolved – that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.

17/03/207 Bank Reconciliation

To receive the bank reconciliations as at:

- a. 31st January 2017.
Resolved – that the bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2017 is accepted as a true record.
- b. 28th February 2017.
Resolved – that the bank reconciliation as at 28th February 2017 is accepted as a true record.

17/03/208 Project Officer

Councillor Mrs R Gregory informed Councillors that at a recent Donnington Partnership meeting it had been suggested that a Project Officer be employed and shared between the Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) and the Parish Council to help raise funds for the building and assist the Parish Council in organising events. Funding for a project officer would be generated from grants through which the position could also potentially be self-financed. Councillors discussed the matter and decided that it would be more beneficial if the LLC teamed up with another similar Community Centre such as those at Arlestone or Leegomery.

17/03/209 Environmental Issues Donnington

Councillor J Lavery informed Councillors that he had spoken to local Street Champions in Donnington who had complained about the amount of Asda trolleys being dumped in the Bradley Road/Ash Lea Drive/Donnington Bowling Club areas of Donnington and when reported were taking weeks to be removed. Other stores such as Aldi charge £1 for their trollies and these are not left around the area. Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Asda Donnington with this Council's concerns about the trollies but also inform Asda that this Council is delighted with the support that it continues to provide within this community and on local projects. The Council also wishes to know if there is anything this Council can do to help alleviate the problem with the trollies.

17/03/210 Information for Councillors

- a. Neighbourhood Plan including the progress of a grant application for it – The Clerk informed Councillors that he had discussed and completed the grant application form to offset costs toward a Neighbourhood Plan with Michael Barker and when finally 597

- completed would be sent off for determination. Mr Barker has also produced a draft letter for this Council to send to Telford & Wrekin Council formally telling it of this Council's intention to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan and it was agreed that the Chairman signs this letter on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Barker has also produced a list of stages that this project would have to go through and possible costs and timescales involved. Councillor Mrs L Dugmore stated that she had a link to Muxton groups who could be involved in the process together with something for this Council's website.
- b. Donnington library including details of the progress of the building works, opening hours and volunteers – the Clerk informed Councillors that most of the building work has now been completed and the Parish Office recently moved into its new location within the library. As from 3rd April 2017 it has been proposed to open the library at the following times:
Monday 9am to 5pm – the Assistant Clerk will work until 5pm on this day and finish earlier on Thursday to accommodate these hours.
Tuesday 9am to 3pm
Wednesday 9am to 5pm
Thursday 9am to 3pm
Friday 9am to 1pm
The Parish Council intends to try and open on a Saturday from 10am to 1pm but these hours cannot be guaranteed at present due to lack of volunteers wishing to do these times on a regular basis.
- c. Lifelong Learning Centre including progress of the centre being run by volunteers in conjunction with Donnington Partnership – Councillor Mrs R Gregory informed Councillors that the business plan was now at its final draft stage and that a representative from "Locality" had stated that there were possible grants available to employ a project worker. The Resident Group had renamed itself and would be known in future as the Donnington Operations Team (DOT) and they would organise fundraising activities/an event's organiser and wish to rename the building, get a new logo and title to remove any presumed association with Telford & Wrekin Council. By renaming the building it may be possible to reduce the Council rates as it is currently being classed as a "learning centre". Councillors were asked to think of possible new names for the building for consideration.

17/03/211 Tree Warden Scheme – Declaration of Interest

Councillors discussed a request to assist Telford & Wrekin Council in a scheme to raise awareness within the population of the importance of trees within the Parish and Town Council's boundaries.

Resolved – to express an initial interest in the scheme and invite Matthew Seabrook (Neighbourhoods & Environment Telford & Wrekin Council) to a Council meeting to provide further information about the project.

17/03/212 Public Consultation Document – Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport

Each Councillor received a copy of the public consultation document on the re-introduction of published approved Instrument Approach Procedures to the main runway at the Halfpenny Green airfield. Councillors had no comments to make regarding this proposal.

17/03/213 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:

Tree Warden Scheme

Flooding Wellington Road, Donnington – to discuss the proposed work to alleviate the problem and dates and times of proposed works.

17/03/214 Date of next meeting

The Chairman informed Councillors that the next Council meeting will be held on Monday 10th April 2017 at the Lifelong Learning Centre, St Matthew's Road, Donnington commencing at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 2040hrs.

Signed:

Date: