

Donnington and Muxton Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Turreff Hall
on 8th May 2017 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: Mrs L Dugmore (Chairman), N Dugmore, Mrs L Edwards, M Edwards, Mrs R Gregory, J Lavery, A Lawrence, C Mason, V Rainsford, J Thompson.

Also Present: R Morgan (Parish Clerk), K Buttress, Mrs J Earl and WPC N Scott.

Presentation: Prior to the meeting starting a presentation of historical artefacts was made by the Mayor of Wellington Town Council, Councillor P Morris-Jones to this Parish Council. The artefacts relate to a scroll presented to The Reverend A.A. Turreff J.P. on his retirement from the Rural District Council of Wellington, Shropshire where he had served for an unbroken period of thirty-two years, ten of which as Chairman. A presentation key to celebrate the opening of the new Council Chambers in Wellington by Colonel J Baldwin Webb given to Reverend Turreff dated 24th April 1940 also accompanied the scroll. The Parish Council will get the artefacts framed and displayed at Turreff Hall along with the press reports relating to this.

AP17/1. Apologies: Councillors Mrs E A Clare and D Hayward.

Resolved – that the apologies are accepted.

AP17/2. Chairman's Report 2016/2017:

Each Councillor received a copy of the Chairman's Report for 2016/2017 which was as follows:

It has been my privilege to serve a second year as Chairman of Donnington and Muxton Parish Council, especially during a year that yet again has seen a great number of changes. Our most significant task this year was taking over responsibility for running the library. I am very pleased to report that Donnington and Muxton Community library is now up and running under our stewardship and is open for more hours than Telford and Wrekin were able to offer previously. This is due to the incredible pool of volunteers that have come forward to support us and I would like to thank each and every one of them for making the re-opening such a success. Thanks of course also go to Ralph and Kate who have taken on their new home and new responsibilities without missing a beat.

We face continuing challenges of course. In Donnington, Church Walk has been an ongoing issue for some time. I am happy to report that with the tenacity most Jack Russells would be proud of, Cllrs Liz Clare and Clive Mason have helped to bring about a solution and we now have tenants moving in.

In Donnington Wood, the work continues to take over the running of the Lifelong Learning Centre. Tribute must be paid to Cllr Rose Gregory for her tenacity in making this happen. Again, thanks to volunteers we now have a new group (Donnington Operations Team (DOT)) to help Donnington Partnership oversee the running of this vital facility, and we look forward to its re-launch later this year.

Muxton remains the site of choice for housing developers. Last year I reported that we had successfully seen off Gladman's plans for Muxton Lane! Well 12 months on and two appeals later, we are now awaiting the latest decision from the planning inspector. Muxton residents have led the fight and rallied the troops, and a special mention must go to Phil Loughlin for his leadership of that group.

Tenacity has also brought success in our campaigns with the highways teams. We now have a weight restriction on Wrekin Drive, we continue our argument for Muxton Lane to be designated a 'quiet lane' and we are even now about to begin public consultation for traffic calming measures on Wellington Road. Aesop was right about the tortoise in this particular race. Our crusade to improve the bus services locally has little evidence of success, but we will not give up our lobbying of Arriva, and we are now working together with 3 other parish councils in a bid to have our voices heard.

We have produced a five-year business plan which we can begin to put into action thanks to a community payment from the solar farm in Muxton. A lump sum rather than small annual payments was negotiated and this will allow us to take on some capital projects without increasing the burden on our residents.

I would like to thank Helen, Kate and Ralph for the work they undertake – most of it unseen by all of us – that means that everything runs as smoothly as it does. I should also like to thank and pay tribute to my fellow councillors for the hard work and dedication they show to our community.

The Chairman then also wished to add that since writing the report she was now pleased to announce that the appeal by Gladman Developments regarding a proposed development at Muxton Lane had been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate. It is now hoped that this decision will help contest the appeal by Seabridge Developments.

Councillor C Mason thanked Councillor Mrs L Dugmore for all the work she had done as Chairman to this Council.

Councillor J Thompson stated that she had been an excellent Councillor and Chairman for Donnington and Muxton.

AP17/3. Questions from Parishioners:

Mr K Buttress stated that whilst he appreciated the amount of time given by Councillors and that the Parish is under attack from developers wishing to build in the area, he was concerned that a Parish Councillor had not attended the Gladman appeal hearing in support of the Borough Council. A local resident had attended but the developers had wanted to know on what authority he spoke. The Chairman stated that it was difficult for Councillors that had full time jobs to attend these hearings but accepted the point Mr Buttress was making. Councillor V Rainsford stated that he would attend the Seabridge Appeal hearing on 6th June to represent the Parish Council.

Mrs J Earl asked if Councillors could spread the word that Donnington and Muxton Community Library is open and wished to thank Ralph and Kate (Clerk and Assistant Clerk) for their help with the volunteers.

Councillor J Thompson stated that it was wonderful to have positive comments from residents regarding the work the Parish Council does and he was pleased to still have a library in Donnington.

WPC Scott thanked Councillor Mrs L Dugmore for her work carried out as a Councillor and as Chairman and thanked Councillors Mrs E A Clare and C Mason for the work dealing with the issues at the ongoing development at Church Walk, Donnington. As a member of Donnington Partnership, WPC Scott also thanked Councillor Mrs R Gregory for her work at the Lifelong Learning Centre.

The meeting closed at 1925hrs.

Signed:

Date: