

DONNINGTON AND MUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting **held at St John's Church, Muxton** **on 11th October 2017**

Present: Councillors: A Lawrence (Vice-Chairman), Mrs R Gregory, D Hayward, J Lavery, C Mason and V Rainsford.

Also Present: R Morgan (Parish Clerk), Dominic Proud (Telford & Wrekin Council's Service Delivery Manager – Highways, Transport & Engineering Services), Ms H Cooper and Ms G Maiden.

17/10/94 Apologies: Councillors Mrs E A Clare, Mrs L Dugmore, N Dugmore, M Edwards, P Loughlin and J Thompson.

Resolved – that the apologies are accepted.

17/10/95 Declaration of Interest: As per Register.

17/10/96 Public Session

Ms H Cooper and Ms G Maiden informed Councillors that they were attending the meeting due to concerns regarding speeding along Marshbrook Way, Muxton and that something had to be done to rectify this before someone was injured or killed. The Vice-Chairman stated that this was also occurring along Wellington Road, Muxton and this may be due to the Safer Road Partnership concentrating its efforts around the new layout by the Clocktower Roundabout. As the Highways Officer was present the item would be addressed as part of the next agenda item.

17/10/97 Highway Issues

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Dominic Proud (Telford & Wrekin Council's Service Delivery Manager – Highways, Transport & Engineering Services) who discussed the following issues with those present:

Marshbrook Way, Muxton – The Safer Roads Partnership had recently carried out speeding enforcement checks along the road and the number of vehicles caught speeding was high. As a result the Borough Council is now considering some form of traffic calming along this route. In the short term more prominent speed signs can be installed whilst an investigation can be carried out as to what permanent traffic calming methods would be most effective and what funding would be available. Mr Proud was aware that the Parish Council had made enquiries regarding a permanent Flashing Speed Indicator Sign but these were somewhat costly. Another option would be to link up with adjoining Parish/Town Councils and purchase the smaller portable Speed Indicator Display Signs (SIDS) which could then be shared around the area. Mr Proud stated that he would also check to see if funding was made available for traffic calming measures by Morris Homes when the new development on Marshbrook Way was built.

Wellington Road, Muxton – The result of the earlier consultation showed that residents were not in favour of physical speed humps.

A new consultation is currently under way for a scheme of reduced methods such as extending the 40MPH zone further out of Muxton. Councillors suggested that the markings in the centre of the road are removed and cycle lanes painted adjacent to the footpaths. This gives the illusion of a narrower road and slows drivers down. This has been successful in other areas. Mr Proud stated that he would discuss trialling this option.

“Quiet Lane” – This has been included on the list for future consideration dependant on funding. The Clerk informed Mr Proud that the Parish Council had offered to pay half of the cost to try and speed up the process.

St Matthew’s Road, Donnington – Councillor C Mason stated that when the new housing development was built on St Matthew’s Road it was said that a pedestrian crossing would also be installed to enable safer access to the school for children. Councillor Mrs R Gregory also stated that during school drop off and collection time cars were parking opposite the junction with Church Road making it extremely dangerous for children and traffic coming around the bend. Councillors requested that double yellow lines are placed on the road opposite the junction and Mr Proud stated that he would add it to the schedule of works.

Reinstatement of footpaths/roads/grass verges – Councillors were concerned over the condition of the reinstatement of roads, footpaths and grass verges after media suppliers had dug the areas up. This was especially the case after Virgin Media recently carried out work in Muxton. Mr Proud stated that the Borough Council had more power now to get the companies involved to return to remedy any unsatisfactory reinstatements after work carried out and had been in contact with Virgin Media regarding the issues in Muxton. Companies, however, have a legislated six months in which to carry out remedial work and if this was not done to the standard expected then the Borough Council also had the option of employing its own contractors and then recharging the companies.

Cycling on footpaths – Donnington and Muxton has very good cycle paths but other than erecting “No Cycle” signs there is not a lot the Council can do to prevent cyclists using the pavements.

17/10/98 Minutes

To confirm the following Minutes of the Council:

- a. Planning Committee meeting held on 11th September 2017
Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.
- b. Council Meeting held on 11th September 2017.
Resolved - that they are confirmed and signed as a true record.

17/10/99 Matters Arising from Minutes

The Clerk informed Councillors of his meeting with Michael Barker regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and the next steps in the process. The Clerk also updated Councillors on the request for Casey’s to install new flooring at Cordingley Hall.

17/10/100 Expenditure Transactions

Each Councillor received a copy of the Expenditure Transactions for August 2017.

Resolved – that the expenditure transactions for August 2017 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

17/10/101 Income Received

Each Councillor received a copy of the Income Report for August 2017.

Resolved – that the Income Report for August 2017 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

17/10/102 Financial Budget Comparisons

Each Councillor received a copy of the financial budget comparisons as at 31st August 2017.

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

17/10/103 Bank Reconciliation

Each Councillor received a copy of the Bank reconciliation as at 31st August 2017.

Resolved – that the bank reconciliation as at 31st August 2017 is accepted as a true record.

17/10/104 Parish Council Debit Card

Councillors considered obtaining a Lloyds Bank Debit Card with a set upper limit for use by the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to purchase items only available from the internet (internet security) or works required from companies requiring deposit payment prior to attending. The Clerk would then inform Councillors of any expenditure occurred in the expenditure transactions for that month along with the other transactions that have taken place.

Resolved – that a debit card is obtained for the Parish Council for use by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk with a maximum spending limit of £500.

17/10/105 Telford@50

Councillors discussed working with Telford & Wrekin Council to develop a programme of activities and events across the Borough to celebrate Telford@50. It was suggested that the Clerk investigates what Telford & Wrekin Council has already planned so that there is no clash of dates for events. It was agreed that the Parish Council needs to form ideas from what the community wants and possibly unite with the Donnington Community Hub in putting on an event. Councillors also suggested planting flowers around Muxton and Donnington possibly forming the Telford @ 50 logo and tidying up the roundabout at The Humbers and improve the planting on the Clocktower roundabout. The Clerk was also asked to enquire about Parish Environment Teams (PET) and even invite someone to talk to the Council about them.

17/10/106 Bus Users Group

Councillor V Rainsford reported to Councillors of what was discussed at the last bus users' group meeting. He informed Councillors that Councillor J Thompson had resigned as Chairman and Councillor R Wickson from Ercall Magna had been elected to replace him. The Town Centre Bus Station should be completed by the end of November and some minor adjustments had been made to some routes. Councillor A Lawrence thanked Councillor V Rainsford for representing this Parish Council at these meetings and though some felt the meetings were ineffective they provided a platform from which to raise issues with Arriva.

17/10/107 Correspondence Received

The Chairman informed Councillors that an invitation has been received to Wellington Town Council's Civic Reception on Sunday 22nd October 2017.

17/10/108 Christmas Activity Donations

The Clerk informed Councillors that he was still in the process of trying to contact groups and organisations that may be organising events for residents for Christmas.

Councillor C Mason stated that he was disappointed with the Council's decision not to provide £5 vouchers for those residing in the Parish aged 65 years and over as these targeted many more pensioners than events could.

17/10/109 Sale of Cordingley Hall

Councillors considered going into Private Session for this item.

Resolved – that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2) and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 which states that the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts.

Councillors discussed the possible sale of Cordingley Hall and any implications with regard to its sitting tenant and the Deed of Covenant on the building. The Clerk informed Councillors of a meeting he recently had with the Council's solicitor regarding this matter and read an email received from the solicitor highlighting the difficulties of selling the property with a secured tenant and Deed of Covenant. Councillor Mrs R Gregory suggested that the Community should make Cordingley Hall a Community Asset instead of the Parish Council considering selling it. One Councillor raised concerns that in his opinion there were some Parish Councillors with an ulterior motive for selling the building and that the Parish Council had a responsibility to the community to retain Parish Council assets.

Resolved – that as less than half the Councillors were able to attend this meeting this item is deferred to the next Parish Council meeting so that the Clerk can send a copy of the email received from the solicitor to all Councillors to read at their leisure. The Clerk was also asked to approach Telford & Wrekin Council to discover what its position would be regarding the covenant if the building was sold.

17/10/110 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:

Sale of Cordingley Hall
Christmas Festival

17/10/111 Date of next meeting

The Chairman informed Councillors that the next Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13th November 2017 at Turreff Hall, Donnington commencing at 7pm. A Planning Committee meeting will be held at Turreff Hall on Monday 16th October 2017 commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2020hrs.

Signed:

Date: