

DONNINGTON AND MUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at St John's Church, Muxton on 11th December 2019

Present: Councillors: Mrs L Dugmore (Vice-Chairman), Mrs E A Clare, N Dugmore, J Lavery, A Lawrence, C Mason, M Stokes and J Thompson.

Also Present: R Morgan (Parish Clerk), Debbie Germany (Telford & Wrekin Council's Neighbourhood & Customer Services Officer), Raymond Northwood (Prysmian Group Ltd), K Buttress, Mrs R Gregory, I Johnson, S Johnson and A Newman.

19/12/143 Apologies: Councillors Miss F Doran, M Edwards, J Gough, P Loughlin and R Overton.
Resolved – that the apologies are accepted.

19/12/144 Declaration of Interest: As per Register. Also, Councillor C Mason – Item 19/12/155.

19/12/145 Public Session

Mrs R Gregory stated that she had received positive feedback regarding the Christmas lights where comments made have been that they are better than last year, but would it be possible to have a tree around The Parade, Donnington? The Victorian Fayre held on 2nd December was also very positive and many people enjoyed it.

Mr K Buttress enquired as to what was happening with the building that was formerly Tin Tin's Restaurant. Councillors stated that the latest that they had heard was that it was going to be a European store and restaurant but as yet, no planning application for this had been received by Telford & Wrekin Council.

Mr A Newman enquired as to what was now happening with the bollards for Thornton Park Avenue, Muxton and thanked the Council for its support with regard to the proposed parking restrictions that were consulted on for this road. Councillors informed Mr Newman that the plan and cost for the bollards had been agreed and that they were now waiting for Telford & Wrekin Council's contractors to install them. Mr Newman also informed Councillors of the condition of the pavements especially outside Muxton Primary School where leaves had fallen and were now a potential slip hazard. The Clerk was asked to inform the Borough Council about this and request that the pavements are swept annually at this time of year. Mr Newman also stated that the Christmas lights looked very nice especially the Christmas Tree on the roundabout.

Councillor C Mason stated that he would like to thank Telford & Wrekin Council for installing dropped kerbs and centre refuge at the bottom of Wrekin Drive, Donnington.

19/12/146 Street Lighting

Councillors discussed the recent findings that this Council has additional streetlights that were not originally included on Telford & Wrekin Council's inventory with Debbie Germany (Telford & Wrekin Council's Neighbourhood & Customer Services Officer) and Raymond Northwood (Prysmian Group Ltd). Councillors were unhappy that they had already completed an extensive five-year programme to replace the LED lanterns and were unwilling to spend any more money on the streetlights.

It was agreed that the discrepancies between the list of lights that the Council paid to have new lanterns on, and the list recently produced by Telford & West Council should be compared and amended should the need arise.

Resolved – that the Clerk arranges a meeting between Debbie Germany, some Councillors and the Clerk to compare and discuss the lists.

19/12/147 Grant Application

Councillors considered a request for a grant from this Parish Council for the Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs Telford.

Resolved – that under the general Power of Competence a grant of £300 is awarded to the Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs Telford.

19/12/148 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings:

- a. Planning Committee meeting held on 11th November 2019.

Resolved – that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

- b. Council meeting held on 11th November 2019.

Resolved – that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

19/12/149 Matters Arising from Minutes

Councillor N Dugmore requested that when the new timers are installed outside Muxton Primary School that they are set to come on at 3pm to enable the children to see them when leaving school.

19/12/150 Expenditure Transactions

Each Councillor received a copy of the Expenditure Transactions for November 2019.

Resolved – that the expenditure transactions for November 2019 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

19/12/151 Income Received:

Each Councillor received a copy of the income report for November 2019.

Resolved – that the Income Report for November 2019 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

19/12/152 Bank Reconciliation

Each Councillor received a copy of the bank reconciliation as at 30th November 2019.

Resolved – that the bank reconciliation as at 30th November 2019 is accepted as a true record.

19/12/153 Financial Budget Comparisons

Each Councillor received the Financial Budget Comparison as at 30th November 2019.

Resolved – that the Financial Budget Comparisons as at 30th November 2019 are accepted as a true record.

19/12/154 Clerk's Report

Each Councillor received a copy of the Clerk's report containing the following:

Plant a Tree Scheme – the Clerk informed Councillors that during a telephone conversation with Mr Onions on 13th November 2019 the trees were being collected from Mr Adams on Friday 15th November and stored at Granville House. These will then be planted over the next three or four months. The Clerk is now liaising with Kay Grice with regard to the trees which will be purchased through Borough Councillors Ward Fund.

Bollards, Thornton Park Avenue – A revised quote for bollards has been received and the total cost of installing these bollards is now £3,300. If work to install them takes less time than planned, then the cost will be cheaper. The Parish Council thanked Councillor N Dugmore for contributing £500 toward the scheme. Councillor M Stokes stated that he would chase up the Borough Council to see when they are going to be installed.

Muxton Parking Restrictions – When informed of the issues and concerns raised at the last Parish Council meeting Mr Adam Brookes made the following comments in an email received on 12th November:

“To confirm, this is a consultation and by no means a set in stone scheme. The consultation has followed the statutory process required when consulting on restrictions such as these. Specific responses have been provided to your points raised below in red.

Based on the high number of responses we have received to date, it is unlikely this scheme will go ahead. Any scheme that does go ahead based on the consultation responses will be communicated again to allow comment.

1. It appears that the only notification of this consultation process to the residents of Thornton Park Avenue, Muxton was a notice attached to a lamp post. Therefore, many residents are not aware of it.

This proposal was published in the paper and a notice was placed on site. This site notice ensures those impacted by the proposals (both residents and non-residents) are aware and can provide comment. I can confirm we have had a good level of response, so a number of people are aware of the proposals and have commented accordingly.

2. Where are the residents, their visitors and tradesmen going to park between the restriction times especially in the cul-de-sac numbered 1 to 11 Thornton Park Avenue? It only affects the residents as they will have to move their cars out of the street twice a day but doesn't really inconvenience parents as they will find somewhere else to park.

There are advantages and disadvantages when implementing restrictions such as these. This is therefore why a consultation always takes place before making any changes.

3. It does not alleviate the problem of parents parking on the grass verges and this is why the Parish Council is working with the Borough Council to install bollards on the grass verges to prevent vehicles driving over it, parking on it and churning up all the grass.

Parking restrictions in this area would help with the issue of parking on the verge as the restriction would also apply to the verge and whilst the bollards will discourage parking in this area, it may not fully prevent access to the verge. However, we are continuing to work with you on the proposals for the bollards alongside this.

4. What are the perceived benefits of these parking restrictions?

This will prevent parking at school peak times where currently parking causes an issue and may be exacerbated when bollards are installed. However, this is just a proposal for all interested parties to consider and comment on.

5. The request for the double yellow lines to be extended by 5m along Marshbrook Way east and west adjacent to the entrance to Thornton Park Avenue appears to have been ignored.

This is noted and will be reviewed accordingly as part of this consultation.

Christmas Festival – The Parish Council has received many positive comments about how good this year's Christmas festival and lights are as well as the quality of stalls and entertainment. Councillor J Thompson stated that the event had received many positive comments.

19/12/155 Armed Forces Covenant

Councillors discussed signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant and providing Turreff Hall for an Armed Forces Veterans and Family Drop-in Session on Thursday 13th February 2020 between 12 noon and 4pm.

Resolved – that this Parish Council signs up to the Armed Forces Covenant and provides Turreff Hall free of charge for the proposed Armed Forces Veterans and Family Drop-in Session.

19/12/156 75th Anniversary VE Day

Councillors were informed that the event to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day will take place on Broadoaks Field on Saturday 9th May 2020. Telford & Wrekin Council has confirmed that this Parish Council has reserved the Field for the event. The Community Engagement and Events Officer is now working toward organising the event, and Councillors were informed of the minor issues arising due to the event falling on a bank holiday weekend.

19/12/157 Prostate Cancer Awareness Event

The Clerk informed Councillors that due to further discussions with the Shropshire Prostate Cancer Awareness Group, they have now decided not to hold one main event per year but to continue holding them around Telford. Councillors were asked if they wish to hold another event at Turreff Hall on 26th October 2020.

Resolved – that this Parish Council will sponsor the event on 26th October 2020 at Turreff Hall and again contribute £2,000 toward it.

19/12/158 CCTV Muxton

Councillors discussed the response received from Telford & Wrekin Council and West Mercia Police regarding the Borough Council's plans to upgrade its current systems. They were informed that if they wished to purchase cameras and be included in this scheme then this Council would have to purchase Nomad CCTV Cameras at a price of £7,000 per camera.

Resolved – not to be included in this scheme but to purchase this Council's own remote CCTV cameras which can be monitored through this Council's IT Tablet. The cameras are to be funded from the Community Fund.

19/12/159 Parish Council Policies/Protocol

Councillors were asked to review and adopt the following documents and confirm by resolution that this Council has prepared statements showing how it delivers best practice in meeting its duties in relation to Bio-diversity, Crime and Disorder and Value for Money.

- Complaints Procedure
- Disciplinary Policy and Disciplinary Procedure
- Pensions Discretion Policy
- Biodiversity Policy Statement (Local Council Award Scheme Gold Award)*
- Crime and Disorder Policy Statement (Local Council Award Scheme Gold Award)*
- Value for Money Strategy (Local Council Award Scheme Gold Award)*

Resolved – to adopt the aforementioned documents and confirm by resolution that this Council has prepared statements showing how it delivers best practice in meeting its duties in relation to Bio-diversity, Crime and Disorder and Value for Money.

19/12/160 Budgets 2020/2021

Councillors discussed the preliminary draft budgets for 2020/2021 and considered any additions or amendments required prior to January's Council meeting. Suggestions were made to increase the income budget 610 Miscellaneous/Grants and increase the expenditure budget 111 Elections. The Community Events and Engagement Officer is to meet with Councillor R Overton to discuss where grants can be obtained from.

Resolved – that the suggestions made to increase the budgets for Miscellaneous/Grants and Elections are to be included in the final draft budget document for the Council meeting in January 2020 at which the precept will be set and budgets confirmed.

19/12/161 Crocus Planting Muxton

Councillors officially thanked Telford Rotary Club for planting crocus bulbs behind and in front of the Soldiers Bench off Marshbrook Way, Muxton and the Clerk was asked to write to it expressing this Council's gratitude.

19/12/162 Bus Shelters

Councillors were asked to consider if they would like to hire a professional artist to brighten up the Parish Council owned brick bus shelters with themes relating to the parish.

Resolved – not to hire a painter to paint designs on the Parish Council owned brick bus shelters.

19/12/163 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:

CCTV Cameras – to receive a progress report on providing them.

War Memorial Muxton – to consider locating a War Memorial in Muxton.

Allotments – to provide an update on the search for land to provide more Parish Council allotments.

19/12/164 Date of next meeting

The Chairman informed Councillors that the next Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2020 at Turreff Hall, Donnington commencing at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 2040hrs.

Signed:

Date: