

Donnington and Muxton Parish Council



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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held remotely via Microsoft Teams on 12th October 2020 commencing at 6.00pm

Present: Councillors: Mrs L Dugmore (Vice-Chairman), Miss F Doran, N Dugmore, M Edwards, J Lavery, A Lawrence, R Overton, M Stokes and J Thompson.

Also Present: R Morgan (Parish Clerk), Mrs K Eshelby (Assistant Clerk), Mrs H Westwood (Community Events and Engagement Officer) and A Moore (Local Democracy Reporter).

Absent: Councillor J Gough.

20/10/70 Apologies: Councillor P Loughlin.

Resolved – that the apology is accepted.

20/10/71 Declaration of Interest: As per Register of Interests.

20/10/72 Public Session: There were no questions/comments.

20/10/73 Minutes: To confirm the following Minutes of the Council and its Committees:

- a. Full Council meeting held on 14th September 2020.

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

- b. Planning Committee meeting held on 28th September 2020.

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

20/10/74 Matters Arising from Minutes: There were no matters arising.

20/10/75 Expenditure Transactions: Each Councillor received a copy of the Expenditure Transactions for September 2020.

Resolved – that the expenditure transactions for September 2020 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

20/10/76 Income Received: Each Councillor received a copy of the Income Report for September 2020.

Resolved – that the Income Report for September 2020 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

20/10/77 Bank Reconciliation: Each Councillor received a copy of the Bank Reconciliation as of 30th September 2020.

Resolved – that the Bank Reconciliation as of 30th September 2020 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

20/10/78 Financial Budget Comparisons: Each Councillor received a copy of the Financial Budget Comparison as at 30th September 2020.

Resolved – that the Financial Budget Comparisons as at 30th September 2020 are accepted as a true record.

20/10/79 Laptops for Learning

The Clerk informed Councillors that the criteria for children receiving Laptops is that they:

- Reside within Telford and Wrekin
- Attend Year 6 in the current academic year (2020/2021) in a Telford & Wrekin School situated within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin
- Are eligible for free school meals or the Head Teacher believes they would benefit from the use of a device
- Have not already received a device through the Department of Education Funding
- Do not have access to any other device at home
- Will treat it with respect
- Will benefit from use of the device (learning capability)

The schools will have identified the children they wish to allocate to and if an internet dongle is required, the school contacts Telford & Wrekin Council on an individual basis and it can provide one. It is not providing a dongle as standard with each device as the majority of households already have internet provision.

The Borough Council is not aware of anyone being given a device for which they don't have access to the internet however please bear in mind that over 500 devices were supplied through the Department of Education scheme to children within children's services at the authority (separate project to the Laptops for Learning) and this may have been one of these children.

20/10/80 Prostate Cancer Awareness Event

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Prostate Cancer Awareness Event scheduled for 26th October 2020 has been cancelled. However, the organiser has requested that the Parish Council helps sponsors one large event to be held around May 2021 at the Whitehouse Hotel Telford. Concerns were raised that money should be spent on the local community and the difficulties some people from the parish may have in getting to the venue.

Resolved – to sponsor the event should it go ahead and provide financial support of £2,000.

20/10/81 Council and Committee Chairman

Due to concerns raised by the current Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council who is standing in as Chairman to the Council and is also the Chairman of the Planning and Staff and Personnel Committees, Councillors were asked to consider if they are satisfied with the situation as it stands.

Resolved – that Councillors were satisfied with the situation as it stands and thanked Councillor Mrs L Dugmore for taking on these roles.

20/10/82 Outdoor Gym Donnington

Councillors were asked to consider a request from Telford & Wrekin Council whether the Parish Council would be able to contribute any potential funding toward an outdoor gym in Donnington.

Resolved – to support in principle but more information is required as to costs and what locations would be considered for an outdoor gym.

20/10/83 Live Streaming Council/Committee meetings

Councillors were asked to consider if they wish to live stream Council and Committee meetings through social media.

Resolved – to trial live streaming meetings at the forthcoming Planning Committee meeting scheduled for Monday 19th October 2020 at 6.30pm.

20/10/84 Face to Face Council Meetings

Councillors discussed the possibility of holding Council meetings face to face instead of remotely. The Clerk informed Councillors that the National Association of Local Councils current advice is to continue holding meetings remotely. Some Councillors stated that face to face meetings should not be encouraged but to keep reviewing the situation at each Council meeting.

Resolved – to continue holding meetings remotely but keep this as an agenda item for forthcoming Council meetings for review. The Clerk was asked to investigate how many Parish/Town Councils in the Borough are holding face to face meetings.

20/10/85 Armistice Day 2020

The Clerk informed Councillors that at this moment there are no plans to hold an event for Armistice Day 2020. However, Reverend Paula Smith stated that she would be willing to say a prayer and some words at the wreath laying by a Parish Councillor.

Resolved – that a maximum group of six consisting of a Borough Councillor, Parish Councillor, Reverend Paula Smith, and representatives from local volunteer organisations should lay the wreaths and live stream this event to discourage people attending the event.

20/10/86 Friends of Central Hall (“The Snake”)

The Clerk informed Councillors that he had not received any further information regarding the proposed “Friends of Central Hall” despite chasing this up after the last Council meeting. The Clerk was asked to include this item on the agenda for the next Council meeting in November.

Councillor A Lawrence joined the meeting. A Moore left the meeting.

Private Session

Resolved – that by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2) and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, 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.

20/10/87 Cordingley Hall

With regard to information requested about Cordingley Hall at the last Council meeting Councillors were informed that:

- Whilst the evaluation company that had previously valued the hall had not called back, the Parish Council's solicitor stated that the value would not have increased by much over the last four years. This is due to the "protected tenancy" of the current tenant. The Council's solicitor stated he would be happy to attend a meeting and explain the intricacies of the "protected tenancy". Councillors were of the opinion that the commercial sale value of the building should be much higher.
- Each Councillor had been sent a detailed list of Income and Expenditure prior to this meeting which has been spent/received in the year prior to leasing the hall to the current tenant and since the current tenancy began in 2013.
- The Clerk, having spoken to this Council's solicitor, informed Councillors that it was difficult to predict the open market lease value for 2023 as this is reflected in the economic situation at the time.
- The Clerk informed Councillors that he had contacted Telford & Wrekin Council regarding the possible sale of Cordingley Hall and what its views would be on the "restricted covenant" on any sale of the building. This has been passed to the Borough Council's Estates Team to investigate its legal position which will reply to the Clerk in due course.

Resolved – to invite the Parish Council's solicitor to the next Council meeting to explain the lease, the protected tenancy and the open market lease value.

20/10/88 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:

- Fundraising for a War Memorial at Muxton.

20/10/89 Date of next meeting

The Chairman informed Councillors that the next Council meeting will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Monday 9th November 2020 commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 1910hrs.

Signed:

Date: