

Donnington and Muxton Parish Council



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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held remotely via Microsoft Teams on 11th January 2021 commencing at 6.30pm

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

Also Present: R Morgan (Parish Clerk), Mrs K Eshelby (Assistant Clerk), A Brookes and Ms R Taylor-Barnes (Telford & Wrekin Council Highways and Network Management).

21/01/128 Apologies: Apologies: Councillor P Loughlin.

Resolved – that the apology is accepted.

21/01/129 Declaration of Interest: As per Registers of Interest. Also, Councillor J Lavery – item 21/01/131.

21/01/130 Public Session: There were no members of the public present.

21/01/131 Grant Application

Councillors considered a request for a grant from this Parish Council by Donnington Boxing Club.

Resolved – to award Donnington Boxing Club a grant of £300 (The General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011 s1(1))).

21/01/132 Halcyon Court, Muxton

Councillors discussed concerns raised by a resident regarding parents parking during school drop off/pick up and speeding vehicles with A Brookes and Ms R Taylor-Barnes (Telford & Wrekin Council Highways and Network Management). Ms Taylor-Barnes informed Councillors that all schools in Telford had been contacted by the Borough Council regarding parent parking issues but not many problems had been identified by Muxton Primary School. The Borough Council has already upgraded school warning signs and the 20mph advisory signs by the school as well as installing bollards and parking restrictions in Thornton Park Avenue, Holland Drive and Marshbrook Way. This, unfortunately, has now displaced the parking to Halcyon Court and more restrictions would only mean more displacement. A Brookes stated he would be happy to discuss the issue with the resident. Councillors were of the opinion that parents should be more considerate when parking and not block driveways. A Brookes stated he would speak with the enforcement team and highlight this problem as the Police can deal with pavement parking and dropped kerb parking.

It was agreed:

- to contact St John's Church, Muxton to ask if parents could park there and walk to school from the Church,
- work with Muxton Primary School to possibly stagger school year starting times,
- to try and change drivers attitudes to where they can park, not block driveways and to be considerate to residents.

The Chair thanked Mr Brookes and Ms Taylor-Barnes for attending the meeting.

21/01/133 Minutes: To confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th December 2020.

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

21/01/134 Matters Arising from Minutes

Christmas lights – the Clerk informed Councillors that the current three-year contract was for the provision of the Christmas lights that we currently have and there is no provision for any new lights/festoons.

21/01/135 Expenditure Transactions: Each Councillor received a copy of the Expenditure Transactions for December 2020.

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

21/01/136 Income Received: Each Councillor received a copy of the Income Report for December 2020.

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

21/01/137 Bank Reconciliation: Each Councillor received a copy of the Bank Reconciliation as of 31st December 2020.

Resolved – that the Bank Reconciliation as of 31st December 2020 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

21/01/138 Financial Budget Comparisons

Each Councillor received a copy of the Financial Budget Comparison as at 31st December 2020.

Resolved – that the Financial Budget Comparisons as at 31st December 2020 are accepted as a true record.

21/01/139 Budgets 2021/2022 Councillors considered the explanation of reserves and effects on Band “D” regarding the precept, the cash flow forecast to the end of March 2021, the comparison to other Town and Parish Councils precepts and discussed the draft budgets for 2021/2022. Councillors then discussed setting the precept and agreeing the budgets for the financial year 2021/2022. After much discussion, the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer warned Councillors that if the precept was not increased it could put the Parish Council at financial risk.

Proposed by Councillor M Edwards, seconded by Councillor J Lavery to increase the precept by £20,000.

An amendment to the original proposal was made by Councillor A Lawrence, seconded by Councillor J Gough not to increase the precept at all.

Councillor J Gough then requested a recorded vote.

For: Councillors Mrs L Dugmore, N Dugmore, J Gough and A Lawrence.
Against: Councillors Miss F Doran, M Edwards, J Lavery, R Overton and J Thompson.
Abstention: Councillor M Stokes.

On the proposal to raise the precept by £20,000:

For: Councillors Miss F Doran, M Edwards, J Lavery, R Overton and J Thompson.
Against: Councillors Mrs L Dugmore, N Dugmore, J Gough and A Lawrence.
Abstention: Councillor M Stokes.

Resolved – that the precept is increased by £20,000 to £200,119 for the financial year 2021/2022 and the proposed draft budgets for 2021/2022 are accepted (Local Government Finance Act 1992 s41).

21/01/140 Face to Face Council Meetings

Councillors discussed the possibility of holding Council meetings face to face instead of remotely.

Resolved – that in the current circumstances this Parish Council will continue to hold meetings remotely via Microsoft Teams. This item is to be included on the agenda for February's Council meeting for further discussion.

21/01/141 Parish Council Reserves

Councillors discussed the possible use of Parish Council reserves for projects around the parish. The Clerk explained that the only money available for projects was the Community Fund grant. Councillors were then asked to investigate what projects their Parish Council Wards would benefit from and inform Council of these at the next Council meeting. If possible, match funding could be obtained from grants to achieve these projects.

21/01/142 Unadopted Development Sites

Councillors discussed Telford & Wrekin Council's lack of progress in adopting development sites and the lack of maintenance/responsibility by developers/management companies. The Clerk informed Councillors that he had discussed this with other Clerks, and it appears that this is a Borough and possibly a nationwide problem. Concerns were raised as to what the fees to management companies were being spent on as they were not maintaining the development sites. Councillor N Dugmore stated that he had raised the issue at a Borough Council meeting asking if it was acceptable to have to wait 15 years before a development site was adopted by the Borough Council. He is still waiting for a response, as is the Clerk who requested information on how long it will take for the Borough Council to adopt sites in the parish and what is being done to force management companies to maintain these sites in the meantime. The Clerk was asked to keep this as an agenda item for the next Council meeting which will be held in February and chase up Telford & Wrekin Council's legal department to ascertain what action the Borough Council is doing to resolve the problem.

21/01/143 War Memorial, Muxton

Councillor J Gough explained that he had been considering various options as to what type of memorial to propose and suggested asking the school children at Muxton Primary School to design one. St John's Church wanted more information regarding the size and style of the memorial prior to agreeing the use of its land and the Clerk is still investigating if there are any utilities that run underground at the site where the Soldier's bench is located.

21/01/144 Footpath land adjacent Saltwell's Drive

Councillor M Stokes raised concerns regarding the condition of the footpath on Parish Council land off Saltwell's Drive which runs towards St John's Church.

Resolved – that the Clerk asks idverde to provide the Parish Council with a quote to put gravel on the path and compact it down.

21/01/145 Miniature Libraries: As Councillor J Gough had left the meeting it was agreed to defer this item to the next Council meeting in February.

21/01/146 Events Officer

Councillors were informed that the Parish Council's Community Engagement and Events Officer, Mrs Holly Westwood, has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). Councillors congratulated Mrs Westwood on achieving this qualification. The Clerk was also asked to pass on the Councillors congratulations on the birth of her son.

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.

21/01/147 Cordingley Hall

When considering possible rent implications due to Government restrictions caused by Covid -19 Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the tenant and inform her of the discussion had by this Council.

21/01/148 Agenda Items for the Next Council Meeting

No items were requested for discussion on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

21/01/149 Date of next meeting

The Chairman informed Councillors that the next Council meeting will be held remotely via Teams on Monday 8th February 2021 commencing at 6.30pm unless restrictions regarding the Coronavirus pandemic change to enable face to face meetings. If so, the meeting may be held on Monday 11th January 2021 at Turreff Hall, Donnington commencing at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 2020hrs.

Signed:

Date: