

Donnington and Muxton Parish Council



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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Cordingley Hall
on 17th May 2021 at 7.00pm**

Present:

Councillors: Mrs L Dugmore (Chairman), Miss F Doran, N Dugmore, J Gough, T Hoof, J Lavery, A Lawrence, M Rowe, J Thompson and J Urey.

Also Present: R Morgan (Clerk to the Parish Council), A Moore (Newsquest Local Democracy Reporter).

AP21/1 Apologies: Councillors M Edwards, R Overton and M Stokes.
Resolved – that the apologies are accepted.

AP21/2 Chairman's Report

Each Councillor received a copy of the Chairman's Report for 2020/2021 which was as follows:

There can only be one way to begin the Chair's report for the last year by saying 'what a year'. In April 2020, when we were putting the annual report together, the first lockdown was a mere month old, and although we were naturally concerned and anxious about infection rates and the effects on the NHS, we were reasonably confident that restrictions would be lifted in due course and that life would be back to normal by the summer. Little did we know then that we would be living under similar restrictions 12 months on and that all our lives would have been affected so much for so long.

This is also a report I wasn't due to write. We began the year with Councillor Phil Loughlin as Chairman. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Phil resigned his seat on the council. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Phil for his Chairmanship, and his hard work in the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Parish Council team for keeping the parish functioning under extremely difficult circumstances. I should also like to thank my fellow Councillors for the incredible way they have adapted to new ways of working. 12 months ago, few, if any of us had ever attended a virtual meeting, and yet we have continued to meet every month, via Microsoft Teams ensuring that the important work of the council can continue.

We were very sad that Councillor Clive Mason decided to step down from the Parish Council this year. Clive has been an incredible Councillor over more years than I think even he cares to remember and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the community. We miss his contributions at meetings but hope he will be able to take the chance to spend more time with his family when restrictions allow.

When this report is published at our annual meeting, we will have 3 new Parish councillors following the elections on May 6th – two in Donnington and one in Muxton. I know myself and the whole council will welcome these new councillors and look forward to working with them and being able to meet together as we hold our first face to face council meeting in a year.

Although we haven't been able to organise any events over the last year, we were able to mark Remembrance Sunday, although with only one representative each from the Parish and Borough councils, plus the Army, Police and Scouts. Thanks as always to Reverend Paula for a beautiful, simplified service.

As life slowly returns to normal, we are hopeful that we will be able to organise some events for the coming year.

Returning to the pandemic, the Council was delighted that we could play our part in the fight against Covid by allowing Turreff hall to be used as a vaccination centre. We know that residents really value having this resource at the heart of the community, and I should like to thank the whole team from Donnington Pharmacy for the amazing job they have done – not only with the vaccination centre but for their work throughout the pandemic.

Last and by no means least, I should like to pay tribute to all the Covid heroes; those working in the NHS, all key workers, volunteers, all those who kept life going – council workers for example, those who helped others, however small you thought it was – it would have meant a great deal, and everyone who worked from home, stayed at home, and did everything they could to keep us all safe.

Here's hoping that restrictions continue to be lifted, and here's to a return to a more normal life.

AP19/3 Questions from Parishioners

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 1907hrs.

Signed:

Date: