



Donnington & Muxton Parish Council

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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the **Council Meeting** held at Turreff Hall, Donnington on **9th December 2024** commencing at 7pm.

Present: Councillors F Doran (Chairman), I Alexander, R Coates, L Dugmore, N Dugmore, J Gough, Z Harrison, T Hoof, R Overton, J Urey, O Vickers and L Vickers.

Also Present: R Morgan (Clerk to the Council), K Eshelby (Deputy Clerk to the Council) C Furnival (Events Officer), Amy Griffiths (Energize UK), K Buttress and R Minton.

Absent: Councillor A Lawrence.

24/12/123 Apologies: There were no apologies.

24/12/124 Declaration of Interest: As per Registers of Interests.

24/12/125 Public Session

R Minton informed those present about the flooding issues at the allotments. He suggested that some drainage be put in or create a wildlife pond on plots 21 and 22 when they become vacant. The Clerk explained that he had recently met with a contractor who stated that it would cost between £15,000 and £20,000 to put drainage in and then there was the concern as to where this water would run off to. Councillors thought that a wildlife pond would help and asked the Clerk to explore how much this would cost.

K Buttress asked Councillors to keep an eye on planning applications for large industrial units and to ensure that there will be sufficient parking for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs). There are issues currently along Granville Road, Muxton where HGVs are parking on the road making driver visibility coming off the roundabout dangerous as they are confronted with a lorry or cars on the wrong side of the road. Some HGVs are there for over 24 hours usually European lorries. Councillors suggested that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is put on this road, but this would only disperse the HGVs elsewhere. Councillors stated that there is a lack of HGV overnight lorry parks in Telford. The Clerk was asked to write to Telford & Wrekin Council informing it of the issue and write to the businesses requesting that they speak to the drivers and dissuade them from parking here.

24/12/126 Energize UK

The Chair welcomed A Griffiths who proceeded to give everyone a presentation on Energize's Donnington Health and Wellbeing Project. Each Councillor received a copy of the presentation. A Griffiths gave a brief background history into Energize whose aim is to address health inequalities by ensuring that everyone has access to the support they need to lead healthier, more active and happier lives. Also, to strive to create a stronger and more connected Donnington community. Energize is focussing on Donnington as it has significantly worse health outcomes compared to the Telford & Wrekin Borough and England averages. It has high rates of early death, lower life expectancy, high levels of deprivation, high levels of obesity in children and adults and a large proportion of residents reporting poor health or long-term illness.

Energize UK wishes to work with partner agencies to instigate change for the future health and wellbeing of Donnington by supporting and improving access to local services, developing new or existing projects and programmes, making improvements to facilities and the local area, facilitating community consultation and facilitating community-driven events. A Griffiths then gave an update on progress to date and future events and that Telford & Wrekin Council was investigating funding to provide a Multi-Use Games Area in Donnington.

Councillors suggested that Energize speaks to young people and work with groups/schools to help improve wellbeing and consider a work/life balance for accessibility to activities.

The Chair thanked A Griffiths for her presentation and discussions with Councillors.

24/12/127 Minutes To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings of the Council:

- a. Planning Committee meeting held on 11th November 2024.

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

- b. Council meeting held on 11th November 2024.

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

- c. Staff and Personnel Committee meeting held on 18th November 2024.

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

- d. Finance Committee meeting held on 26th November 2024.

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

24/12/128 Staff and Personnel Committee

Councillors were asked to ratify the decision made at the Staff and Personnel Committee meeting held on 18th November 2024 to increase the Deputy Clerk's hours to 37 hours per week.

Resolved – that the decision made by the Staff and Personnel Committee is ratified.

24/12/129 Budget and Precept for 2025/2026

Councillors were asked to ratify the budgets and precept for 2025/2026 as agreed at the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024.

Resolved – that the decision made by the Finance Committee is ratified.

24/12/130 Matters Arising from Minutes

Councillors received the following updated information of actions contained in the Minutes thereof:

LED Energy Scheme – The Clerk informed Councillors that Telford & Wrekin Council is awaiting a delivery of LED bulbs and when received it will be distributing them to those Councils that have requested them.

Station Road, The Humbers – The Clerk informed those present that he had requested the correct specification for a mirror from Telford & Wrekin Highways Department but, to date, had received no response. The Clerk was asked to write to D Sargeant to chase up highway issues and involve the Chair.

Spring Fayre, Muxton – Councillor N Dugmore informed those present that Muxton Primary School's preferred date for its Spring Fayre was 4th April. Councillors also stated that next year there would be celebrations to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and so this Council should be careful of when it has its event in Muxton. The Events Officer was asked to contact the school to see if they would like a stall at the Council's event.

24/12/131 Expenditure Transactions: Each Councillor received a copy of the Expenditure Transactions for November 2024.

Resolved – that the Expenditure Transactions for November 2024 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

24/12/132 Income Received: Each Councillor received a copy of the Income Report for November 2024.

Resolved - that the Income Report for November 2024 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

24/12/133 Bank Reconciliation: Each Councillor received a copy of the Bank Reconciliation as of 30th November 2024.

Resolved – that the Bank reconciliation as of 30th November 2024 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

24/12/134 Financial Budget Comparisons: Each Councillor received a copy of the financial budget comparisons as at 30th November 2024.

Resolved – that the Financial Budget Comparisons as of 30th November 2024 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

24/12/135 Community Action Team (CAT) Report for November 2024

Each Councillor received a copy of the CAT Action Report for November 2024. Councillors were pleased to see that penalty notices were starting to be issued and Councillor J Urey stated that she felt there was some data missing from the report. Councillors are still concerned about the parking along Wellington Road, Donnington when football matches are being played on Broadoaks Field and asked when something would be done about it. If double yellow lines were placed along this road, then vehicles would only disperse to near side streets. It was suggested that Telford & Wrekin Council creates a proper car park where vehicles park on Broadoaks Field for the bonfire. The Chair informed Councillors that officers in charge of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers would be attending January's Parish Council meeting to answer questions from Councillors.

24/12/136 Tables

Councillors considered a request from the Clerk to purchase 20 x new tables for Turreff Hall at a cost of £2,260. The Clerk informed Councillors of the reasons he had requested this which included storage issues of the current tables and the fact that the wheels were coming off them and some are damaged.

Resolved – to purchase ten tables.

24/12/137 Grit Bins

Councillors considered a request to purchase two grit bins for Wellington Road, Donnington. Councillors stated that Wellington Road, Donnington was regularly gritted as it is a bus route.

Resolved – not to purchase any grit bins for Wellington Road, Donnington.

24/12/138 Planters, The Parade, Donnington

The Chair informed Councillors that she had spoken to Telford & Wrekin Council which has stated that if the Parish Council would not maintain the planters on The Parade, then they will be removed. Councillor T Hoof stated that he would begrudgingly support the Parish Council taking over their maintenance, but it was the Borough Council that installed them initially without consulting the Parish Council. Other Councillors stated that they had improved the outlook of The Parade and that there was a general consensus to maintain the planters.

Resolved – to take over the future maintenance of the planters and that the Clerk obtains quotes for this.

24/12/139 Christmas Festival

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair formally thanked C Furnival, the Parish Council Events Officer for organising an excellent Christmas market and light switch on.

24/12/140 Fireworks

Councillors discussed the loudness of fireworks and the adverse effect they have on animals. Councillors were informed that the legal noise limit on fireworks is 120 decibels. The Clerk was asked to request quieter fireworks at Donnington bonfire and speak to the Borough Council to see what can be done about the noise. Environmental Health should police bonfire displays to ensure fireworks are within the legal limit.

24/12/141 Station Road, The Humbers

Councillors discussed the recently implemented speed limits on this road. Neither Councillors nor residents understood why the speed limit along Station Road, The Humbers was changed from 30mph to 40mph. The road is well used by cyclists and runners and the decision was poor and inconsiderate to residents. The consultation was also poor as documents sent out were wrongly titled and Parish and Town Councils were asked to respond by 16th August, a month when most don't meet.

Resolved – that this Council objects to the change in speed limit and requests that the Borough Council redresses its decision. The Clerk is also requested to write to the Borough Council to obtain a reason and justification as to why the speed limit had been changed.

24/12/142 Councillor Allowances

Councillors discussed a request to pay Councillors allowances. It was explained that this was discussed last year, and the outcome was that an expenses policy was put in place. This allowed Councillors that had to catch public transport to attend meetings to be reimbursed provided receipts were produced.

Resolved – not to pay Councillors allowances.

24/12/143 Agenda Items for the Next Council Meeting

Councillors did not request any items for discussion to be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

24/12/144 Date of next meeting

The Chair informed Councillors that the next Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2025 at Turreff Hall, Donnington commencing at 7pm.

The meeting closed at **2055hrs.**

Signed:

Date:

