



Donnington & Muxton Parish Council
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EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the **Extraordinary Council Meeting** held at Turreff Hall, Donnington on **1st October 2025** commencing at 6pm.

Present: Councillors F Doran (Chairman), I Alexander, L Dugmore, N Dugmore, T Hoof, S Randhawa, J Urey

Also Present: K Eshelby (Deputy Clerk to the Council), Lawrence Plant (Roots UK), Christian Samuel (Roots UK), Adam Stephenson (Roots UK). 13 Members of the Public were in attendance.

25/10/89 Apologies: Councillors R Coates, J Gough, Z Harrison, R Overton L Vickers, O Vickers.
Resolved – that the apologies are noted.

25/10/90 Declaration of Interest: As per Registers of Interests.

25/10/91 – Allotments – Muxton:

Roots UK, a family run business gave a presentation to the council stating their mission to ‘create growing spaces that benefit people and planet by forming green-fingered communities who boost local biodiversity and their well-being in the process’.

They have a 10-year lease from Burhill Leisure (owners of The Shropshire) for the field along Muxton Lane.

Their vision for “Muxton Meadows” (Muxton Allotments) is to help the local community reconnect with the outside world, as many people have lost touch with growing their own food.

To make this as easy as possible, they will provide ready to plant patches, seeds, plants education, tools, workshops, events and talks.

The field itself will comprise of 380 allotment plots, wildflowers and fruit orchards around the edge along with a tipi for educational purposes, a tool shed and a Patch Manager unit. A small car park will be available on the site created using matting which is then grassed over.

The tipi will be erected around 2 months out of the year to provide training and education to plot holders on how to grow their own food.

The toolshed will provide all the tools required for plot holders including wheelbarrows, hosepipes, rakes, dippers, watering cans and spades.

Their sites throughout the UK have benefited both mentally and physically with 93% of the community reporting a wellbeing boost from growing their own food and 60% of the community meeting new people and making connections.

They make it their aim to work with local schools by donating a patch and giving monthly lessons to the children how to grow food in a fun way.

There will be Member Events focused currently on Growing Sessions and Re-Wilding Sessions – this is to include Yoga Sessions 4 times a year – on average 7-8 people attend.

They are very proud of the fact that they are the world’s first No-Dig allotment site and pioneer the modern no-dig method which involves laying down cardboard and then 5 inches compost on top of this which then gets planted. The compost will be topped up by 25% each year resulting in rebuilt soil health.

The Chairman thanked Roots UK for their presentation.

Roots UK then answered the following issues raised by members:

- **Water Sourcing:**

Water troughs are dug out around the site making it accessible to people on the allotments as they have elderly ones and children who grow food. They are interconnected along the site and fill up naturally.

The water supply will be from The Shropshire along the field so no road closure will take place to set up a water supply.

- **Data Gathering for Location at Muxton Site:**

Concerns were raised regarding water shortages (hosepipe bans) and whether assessments were carried out regarding that. Roots UK confirmed they do not specifically look in to this directly.

When looking for a potential site, Roots UK look at local demand using the government waiting list for allotments, flooding issues and land that drains well, soil analysis, and land that is close to people and on bus routes.

They send letters to landowners across the country with requests for the specific criteria and wait for responses. They find there is limited space available as housing developments have first options on land, so it is rare to find suitable sites.

It is here that Roots UK confirmed that they are not in any way affiliated with any organisation linked to long term housing development. This they said was an outright lie.

They do not sign off on any site unless 500 residents have shown an interest and pre-registered, due to financial risk to themselves.

They confirmed they are on a 10-year lease at Muxton Meadows with the clause to restore it back to its former status.

- **Community Engagement:**

Questions were raised as to why they did not engage with anyone prior to work commencing. Roots UK stated they took that approach to go ahead in response to both verbal and physical mistreatment in the past from other areas and wanting to avoid similar conflict.

They have received many issues in the past with other communities despite no planning permission being required under agricultural law.

New to the business and passionate about what they are trying to accomplish, they felt everyone would react positively but have since found out this isn't the case.

Roots UK were thanked again for coming to meet with members and residents but it was pointed out that councillors are responsible to the public and feel they have not been able to be so efficiently due to the lack of communication from Roots to the Parish Council as an entity. It was stated that the way Roots UK present themselves is important so a request was made that they keep the Parish Council updated and to engage with them during this project so the council can feed back that information to concerned residents.

- **Traffic Along Muxton Quiet Lane / Road Safety**

Telford is growing increasingly large with news housing developments going up all the time. Housing was rejected on the field in question due to the fact Muxton Lane is a Quiet Lane. Questions were asked how they are going to mitigate traffic issues as cars cannot park along the roadside and there are no bus routes to the site?

Surveys have been done across sites and from larger plots, data shows that there are never normally more than 9 cars at peak time (excluding the first 2 weeks). They only allow welcome slots up to a certain size so the area is managed.

Roots UK stated they will give their support to road bumps and a speed limit on Muxton Quiet Lane.

It is the hope that many will walk to the allotment site as all tools are provided.

Access through The Shropshire is a possibility they will look in to and feed back to the council.

- Safety and Security

Electricity – there will be no electricity on site and power tools are prohibited. The Community areas will be managed by Roots UK (edging, strimming, grass cutting)

Electric Gates – These run off solar panels and opens automatically at sunrise and closes at sunset. Times will be set accordingly.

Toolshed – Each plot holder has an app and the toolshed code will be accessed through it.

Fencing – 2-meter deer and rabbit fence will be around the allotment to protect the crops.

CCTV will also be in placed run off the solar panels. Roots UK are constantly improving security, although they have found across their site that break ins are a rare occurrence.

- Effect on Residents

The view can be protected for residents by trees and plants be grown in areas to mitigate this issue. Hedges and be planted and thickened if necessary.

Roots UK are happy to meet with residents again on site to discuss options and create a plan.

Allotment rules – Roots UK will share a full set to councillors which will be passed on to residents.

Management – The site will be managed, tidied, and their national team will come out regularly to collect waste (possibly through The Shropshire to mitigate traffic on Muxton Quiet Lane)

The Chairman asked councillors to adjourn the meeting to allow a 15-minute session for the residents to ask their questions to Roots UK.

Resolved: To allow the public an opportunity to ask their questions.

At the end of the 15 minutes, the public asked longer to discuss their issues. The chairman closed the meeting but allowed them to stay afterwards to chat to Roots UK should Roots UK concur. They were happy to stay for a while after to engage.

The meeting closed at 1930hrs.

Signed:

Date:

