

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2014 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Mace (Chairman) and Cllrs Barnhurst-Davies, Brown, Chandler, Cordell, Dean, Ford, Lacey, Harrison, Quarmby, Ross, Sutcliffe, Whitmarsh, Watts and Yeates. Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Five members of the public were present.

13/166: Apologies: Unitary Cllr Julian Johnson.

13/167: Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th December 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Sutcliffe, seconded by Cllr Barnhurst-Davies and agreed by the meeting.

13/168: Public Statement/Question Time:

Mr Peter Favier raised the issue of the very poor state of the overflowing sewer drain in Wick Lane and asked what effect the building of an additional 92 houses might have on it. He said both Wessex Water and its contractor had visited the site before Christmas but it showed no visible signs of having been fixed.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been compiling a portfolio of evidence of the poor state of the drainage and sewerage system across the parish, of which that drain was part, and it had not completed its discussions with Wiltshire Council and Wessex Water.

Mrs Chris Parry expressed her appreciation and that of other residents of The Borough for the help given by Cllr Brown, Mrs Sally Read-Brown, Cllr Barnhurst-Davies and the Clerk in delivering gel sacs, alerting residents to the flood warning and resolving related issues over the last two weeks. She asked the Parish Council to resolve to refuse any further housing until major work to improve the drainage system across the parish had been carried out.

Mr Noble thanked the Chairman for the recent letter from the Clerk which included copies of the conveyance for the Memorial Gardens. He said the Memorial Gardens were left to the residents of the village and suggested that the Parish Council take some legal advice on the covenants in the deed.

13/169: To receive Declarations of Interest from Councillors in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011: No declarations were received.

13/170: Matters Arising: None.

13/171: Wiltshire Council matters – Unitary Councillor’s Report: In Cllr Julian Johnson’s absence the Chairman read out a brief email which stated that:

1. It would be a nice gesture if Downton Parish Council could write to the Corporate Leadership Team at Wiltshire Council to express its appreciation for the work carried out by the Control Room Team during the period of the flood warning. Cllr Mace proposed from the chair that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks.

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2. Contrary to his statement at the last meeting and the Planning Inspector's proposed revision to the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy which was to result in an uplift in the allocation of houses from 37,000 homes to 44,000 homes for the plan period, this would indeed affect South Wiltshire as the higher housing figure would need to be disaggregated across all three housing market areas.

13/172: To consider a recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee to approve the revised Parish Precept for 2014/15: Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and it was agreed by the meeting, with two objections from Cllrs Chandler and Ford, that the Precept for 2014/15 be set at £57,819.87 which was an increase on 2013/14 of 19.5 percent.

13/173: To consider a recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee to approve the reallocation of the Parish Council's reserves: Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Brown seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the allocated reserves be set as follows:

£2k	Neighbourhood Plan
£5k	Painting of Memorial Hall
£5k	Child and youth play equipment for play areas
£3k	Legal fees for Section 106 Agreement with Persimmon Homes
£10k	To maintain the Redrow play area for the next 10 years
£27k	Fund to re-roof the Memorial Hall in approximately 3 years
£800	1 percent pay increase & overtime payment for the Clerk up to end of March 2014.

13/174: To consider and agree on a response to the Wiltshire Council consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy: Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the response be delegated to the Planning Committee.

13/175: To consider and agree on a response to the Wiltshire Council consultation on its draft Countryside Access Improvement Plan: Cllr Barnhurst-Davies proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the response be delegated to the Rights of Way Committee.

13/176: To consider and agree on a response to the Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner's consultation on his proposed increase of £3.15 per annum for a Band D Property to the Police & Crime Element of the Council Tax bill: Cllr Quarmby proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was agreed by the meeting, with abstentions from Cllrs Chandler and Yeates, that the Parish Council had no objection to the increase provided that the additional funding was spent on evidence-based priority issues.

13/177: To approve the following payments:

- Play Inspection Company Limited – Inspection of Playgrounds - £287.76.
- ROSPA Training for Two Councillors at Calne Town Council - £70.
- Southern Electric – Moot Lane Pavilion - £21.43.

Cllr Whitmarsh proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and they were approved by the meeting.

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13/178: Committee Reports:

Planning Committee: Cllr Lacey gave a brief report on recent meetings at which there had been a number of tree work applications. She also said that there had been an application for an extension to the workshop at The Sawmills, Lode Hill which the Committee had approved subject to there being no additional lorry movements.

Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Mace reported on a recent meeting at which the budget for 2014/15 had been discussed again at length.

New Housing Development Committee: Cllr Yeates gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which a number of issues relating to developer contributions and the primary school had been discussed.

13/179: Representatives Reports:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Cllr Ford gave a brief report on the first meeting of the Steering Group which had been attended by over 20 residents and councillors. He said that Mr Adam Hayward had been elected as the Chair.

Area Board 7.5 tonne weight limit meeting: Cllr Barnhurst-Davies reported that she had attended an excellent meeting of southern parishes which had addressed the increased flouting of the 7.5 tonne limit by HGVs. She said that Wiltshire Council would be pursuing requests for better signage, particularly on the M27, and more HGV monitoring through Lorry Watch.

Partial implementation of the Downton Flood Plan: Cllr Brown gave a report on the work carried out by Councillors and the Clerk to deal with the recent flood warnings. Following her report the Chairman asked the newer members to put themselves forward to assist at future flood warning events so that the Clerk could update the Flood Plan.

13/180: Accounts for payment for January: Cllr Barnhurst-Davies proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the following accounts be approved:

	£
Wylve Valley Forge – Memorial Garden Gates and Skatepark sign	550.00
Southern Electric - Moot Lane Pavilion	21.43
Calne Town Council - RoSPA Training	70.00
J Howells - January Salary	196.80
Bev Cornish – January Salary	1172.30
HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE and NIC for Oct, Nov, Dec 2013	1214.86
Play Inspection Co - Play area inspections	287.76

	3513.15
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Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 13.01.14:

Current A/C: £6,846.17 Deposit A/C: £20,938.72 Santander Time Deposit: £42,067.66

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13/181: Correspondence: The following letters had been received:

- 1 An email from Lianne Bartle confirming that the Traffic Orders for the reduction in the speed limit on Lode Hill has been approved by the Cabinet Member for Highways.
- 2 Police & Crime Commissioner - An email advising of Meet the Commissioner events in 2014. The nearest is Salisbury on 2nd September.
- 3 Police & Crime Commissioner - An email advising of a consultation on the increase of £3.15 per annum per Band D property to the Police and Crime element of the Council Tax bill.
- 4 Salisbury City Council - An invitation from Annie Child, Deputy City Clerk, to the chairman to visit the newly refurbished Crematorium on Friday 17th January from 4-6 pm.
- 5 Community First - A letter from the Chief Executive advising of the benefits of the Good Neighbour Co-ordinator and asking for a contribution towards their work - *Cllr Barnhurst-Davies asked for an item to be added to the February Agenda.*
- 6 Wiltshire Citizens Advice - A letter from the CEO advising of the benefits of the CAB service and asking for a contribution towards its work – *Cllr Barnhurst-Davies asked for an item to be added to the February Agenda.*
- 7 Memorial Hall Committee -The agenda for a forthcoming meeting.
- 8 Residents' emails & letters - A letter and two emails from residents regarding the poor state of the drains in Downton.
- 9 Bath & West Show - A letter from Lydia Matthews seeking nominations for the Prince of Wales Award 2014 for organisations who have brought about improvements to the lives of the rural population.
- 10 Sport Wiltshire - An email advising of a course of recreational basketball for adults in Five Rivers starting on 7th Feb – 4 April 2014.
- 11 Clerks & Councils Direct - January magazine.
- 12 SLCC - January issue of The Clerk magazine.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 10th February 2014 at 7.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.