

## DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Mace (Chairman) and Cllrs Chandler, Cordell, Dean, Dickinson, Ford, Lacey, Hayward, Pearce, Quarmby, Sutcliffe, Watts and Whitmarsh.  
Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Twelve members of the public were present.

**14/364:** Cllr Mace welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting and proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that items 11 and 12 on the Agenda be brought forward to be considered after item 5.

**14/365: Apologies:** Cllrs Ross and Yeates.

**14/366: Minutes:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th April 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Sutcliffe seconded by Cllr Hayward and agreed by the meeting with an abstention from Cllr Dean.

**14/367: Public Question/Statement Time:** Mrs Christine Parry, Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee, reported that she had furnished Cllr Watts with a copy of the Hall's Annual Accounts following the query he raised at the 23rd March meeting. She also said that the Treasurer would be pleased to respond to any further questions, if required.

Mrs Judi Brown spoke in reference to item 10 on the Agenda expressing her concern about the changes to the opening hours of the household recycling centres. As a member of the Downton Green Group, she said the village should be recycling more, not less and she wished to add her support to the Council's objection to the proposed changes.

Mr Bryan Morris briefed members on the letters and petition containing 100 names which he subsequently submitted to the Council. He then made a statement saying that he wished to have it recorded that those objecting to the current plans for the Primary School did not object in principle to the expansion of the school and the use of the Memorial Gardens, just the content of the plans and the way in which the school had gone about it.

Mr Morris also said that if the plans were moderated to incorporate the concerns from the neighbours and, in particular, the realignment of The Bunny, then people's strong fears about flooding would be allayed. He said residents would rather have something which worked, rather than something which was untried. He asked further questions as to why the plans had changed so much from the original consultation and why the community had not been informed.

Mrs Nikki Wilson, speaking on behalf of the Downton Society, gave some feedback to the Parish Council on the Governance Pilot and apologised to Cllr Quarmby that she had not submitted her response in time for his report. She said she felt that the incorporation of planning applications and issues into the main meeting made them less accessible to the public and there was a perception that insufficient due diligence was being given to them by members, with some councillors not interested in planning matters.

Mrs Wilson also reported that Wiltshire Council had appointed a new Neighbourhood Plan liaison officer and had given very positive feedback on the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Mrs Jenny Saxby raised her concerns regarding the swale and the comments made by her hydrologist adviser. A lengthy explanation from Cllr Quarmby followed on the process

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required to be followed if the Environment Agency were to consider giving it the land drainage consent it required before it could be implemented. He said if the EA did not award its consent then it was his understanding that it could not be built as Wiltshire Council did not have the authority to override it and, if it did so, would be liable to prosecution.

Mrs Moody expressed her thanks to Cllr Quarmby and Mr Dilke who had met with her and Mrs Saxby in the Memorial Gardens on Maundy Thursday. She said she remained concerned about the swale and thought it would be a health hazard to children using the Gardens.

**14/368: To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011:** Cllr Dean declared a personal interest in Minutes 14/370 and 14/371 and did not speak or vote.

**14/369: Matters arising from the Minutes:**

**Annual Parish Meeting 2015:** The Chairman reported that Mr Matt Wheeldon of Wessex Water had confirmed to Wiltshire Council that on the assumption that the groundwater management strategy was to be satisfactorily completed and all relevant parties were to play their part in the delivery of the strategy, Wessex Water withdraws its objection and will continue to work with the applicant on water supply and sewer adoptions.

**14/370: To consider a response to a letter from Mrs Jenny Saxby regarding the proposed Swale in the Memorial Gardens:** Cllr Quarmby gave responses to further issues raised in Mrs Saxby's letter with Cllr Ford and Cllr Hayward also providing further explanations on the specific insurance and liability issues.

**14/371: To consider a response to a letter from the neighbours to Downton Primary School regarding their proposals on a way forward for the extension and The Bunny:** At this point in the meeting the Chairman invited Mr Richard Fishlock and Mr Jonathan Freer, Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors to the Primary School, to speak and respond to the questions raised in the letter and in the public section of the meeting. Mr Fishlock relayed the school's wish to be compliant with Department of Education guidelines on play and organised games space for primary schools whilst at the same time providing the meeting with various statistics.

Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was agreed by all that the meeting be opened to the public to allow further questions to be asked of Mr Fishlock and Mr Freer.

Following further discussion, the Chairman asked that Mr Fishlock and the governors of the school consider the proposed way forward set out in the neighbours' letter. Mr Fishlock expressed his willingness to answer the neighbours' questions and agreed to come back to the neighbours and the Parish Council with a considered response.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fishlock and Mr Freer for attending the meeting on behalf of the Primary School.

**14/372: Planning and Tree Works Applications:**

**15/02635/FUL – 31 Hamilton Park, Downton – First floor extension over existing attached garage:** Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was agreed by the meeting with one abstention from Cllr Chandler that no objection be raised on the grounds that there was no change to the footprint, no impact on parking and in line with the neighbouring properties.

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**15/02719/ADV - Longford Service Station, Salisbury Road, Downton - Various illuminated and non illuminated signage:** Cllr Quarmby proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that no objection be raised on the grounds that the signage was replacing existing signage in the same location.

**15/03255/FUL - 53 Catherine Crescent Downton - Erection of single storey side and rear extension, hard and soft landscaping and associated works:** Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and it was agreed by the meeting with one abstention from Cllr Chandler that no objection be raised on the grounds that it complied with policy.

**15/03119/FUL - 2 Avon Meadow Downton - Demolition of outbuildings adjacent to dwelling - Construction of carport and garden store. Revisions to existing driveway:** Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and it was agreed by the meeting with one abstention from Cllr Chandler that no objection be raised on the grounds that it was appropriate development for the site.

**Downton Sewage Works – Proposed Base Station Upgrade Works (CS)122522 - (VF)86695 by Vodafone and Telefonika:** Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that although the Parish Council had no objection in principle to the proposals, it could not comment further until it had seen a formal planning application.

**14/373: To consider a Report on the Governance Pilot conducted by Cllr Quarmby and its recommendations as follows:** Cllr Quarmby briefed members on the process of the review and the reasons for making the recommendations.

- i. **The Council considers whether to have all planning matters covered by the current New Housing Development Committee and the previous Planning Committee considered by a new Planning Committee that would meet every two weeks dependent on planning applications or whether to continue with the pilot governance arrangements for planning and have a separate New Housing Development Committee. The formation of the new Planning Committee would result in there being one Parish Council meeting per month:** Following a detailed discussion, Cllr Chandler proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the Parish Council should continue with the pilot governance arrangements for planning and have a separate New Housing Development Committee.
- ii. **The Council supports making permanent the pilot governance arrangements subject to the decision made on recommendation 1:** Cllr Quarmby proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was agreed by the meeting.
- iii. **The Council supports the improvements identified and a small working group with the Clerk to develop any plans or detailed proposals for implementation:** Cllr Quarmby proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that Cllr Quarmby should form a working group with Cllrs Hayward and Ford.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks from the chair to Cllr Quarmby for all the work he had done on the review of the governance pilot.

**14/374: To consider Minute 14/35 regarding the deadline for implementing the governance pilot at the Annual Meeting in May 2015 and to agree to an extension to the June meeting:** Cllr Quarmby proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was agreed by

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the meeting that implementation of the outcomes of the review should be considered at the end of June Parish Council meeting.

**14/375: To consider submitting a request to the Community Area Transport Group to extend the double yellow lines at the western end of The Borough by the entrance to The Bull public house with the purpose of improving traffic flow:** Following receipt of an explanation from the Clerk, Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was agreed by the meeting.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Mace suspended standing orders and proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was approved by the meeting that the meeting continue beyond 10 pm.

**14/376: To consider a proposal from Cllr Yeates to write a letter of complaint to Ms Tracy Carter, Associate Director, Waste and Environment in the light of the proposed changes to the opening hours of the Wiltshire Council Recycling Centres:** Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was approved by the meeting with suggested minor amendments.

### **14/377: Correspondence:**

- 1 Wiltshire Council – An email from Ms Emma Drage, Community Youth Officer, setting out the process for applying for grants under the positive activities funding pot via the Area Board.
- 2 Mr M Easterbrook – An email regarding the location of the household bins at the Charlotte Close development.
- 3 Mrs Jenny Saxby – A copy letter to Mr Warren Simmonds on the Primary School's application and a copy document of Government guidance on drainage and waste disposal.
- 4 Mrs Jenny Saxby – An email regarding the volume of music played by the fitness instructor running Insanity Fitness in the Memorial Gardens.
- 5 WALC – An email from Liz Read regarding a new Finance Briefing which has recently been added to the NALC Website.
- 6 An email from Mr Bryan Morris attaching a letter and petition from residents neighbouring the Primary School.
- 7 Mrs Jenny Saxby – An email attaching a copy letter to Mr Warren Simmonds regarding the proposed Swale in the memorial Gardens.
- 8 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr David Parkes enclosing the agenda for the next Southern Area Planning Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
- 9 Wiltshire Council – Five further emails from Ms Emma Drage, Community Youth Officer, regarding the May half term summer swim programme, the Youth Network, the Big Pledge for 2015, UK Youth Parliament and summer cricket courses at South Wilts Cricket Ground.
- 10 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr John Cole advising of the closure of the road for the Cuckoo Fair.
- 11 Environment Agency – An email from Mr Edward Stevens advising of the annual fishing survey being done on the Avon between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

**14/378:** Date of next meeting, the Annual Meeting, will be on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.