

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th July 2015 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.

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

Twenty members of the public were present.

15/84: Apologies: None.

15/85: Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd June 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Dean seconded by Cllr Ford and agreed by the meeting with an abstention from Cllr Pearce.

15/86: Public Question/Statement Time –15 minutes to receive any questions or statements from members of the public:

Mr Bryan Morris stated that most residents were present to hear Cllr Sutcliffe's report at item 10 on the Agenda and asked if the Chairman could open the meeting so that members of the public could respond to his report.

Ms Claire Freemantle read out a statement on behalf of the Downton Society which reported that, following a Freedom of Information request to Wiltshire Council, it had been advised that of the 207 children on the roll at the Downton Primary School, 67 came from outside the parish and 11 outside the county. She said the figures shed a new light on the plans for the school because the Society's support for the principle of the expansion of the school was to prevent children from the parish being bussed out to other villages. She also said that the community was giving up land held in trust for the benefit of the village so this should not be given up for the children from other parishes.

Ms Freemantle also said that the Downton Society had not received a response from the Primary School to its letter and had not heard from one person who had received a response to a letter they had written to the school, which she felt was reprehensible.

Mr Tony Lowden asked that in view of the contents of Primary School's Newsletter and its disparaging comments towards local residents, whether the Parish Council had any confidence in the Board of Governors. Cllr Mace said that it was not the role of the Parish Council to comment on or question the competence of a Board of Governors.

Mr Chris Hall gave a brief report on a meeting of the Community Opportunities Board of the Southern Wiltshire Area Board which had met to discuss the campus project. He said Unitary Councillor John Thomson had stated that the project was a mess with large amounts of overspend for the campuses in North Wiltshire and he strongly urged the Parish Council to press the Area Board for some money for the Memorial Hall extension.

Mrs Jenny Saxby made reference to item 13 on the Agenda when the Parish Council was to consider her letter of complaint. She asked if the Parish Council could consider sending out a further newsletter setting out the progress on the school's planning application so that the community could be kept informed.

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15/87: To receive a brief update from Mrs Nikki Wilson on the progress of the Downton Neighbourhood Plan: Mrs Wilson gave a detailed overview of the status and timing of the Plan and said that although a large amount of work was still being done, it had been pushed back slightly due to the limited number of committee members who were available to carry out the work. She said many had been involved but several were now unavailable over the summer for various reasons. She also said that there were two issues of importance at the moment which were:

- The requirement to identify the preferred sites for development;
- The requirement to identify a list of community assets as being of potential community value under the Community Right to Bid scheme.

Cllr Quarmby commented that he thought the policies had come on 'leaps and bounds' since the last version and now looked really strong and offered his congratulations to all those who had done the work.

Cllr Mace thanked Mrs Wilson and her colleagues for the tremendous amount of work she had put into the Plan.

15/88: Declarations of Interest: Cllr Mace declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Minutes 15/105 and 15/106 and did not speak or vote.

15/89: Matters arising from the Minutes:

15/53: Street Cleaner Vacancy: The Chairman advised that from the applications received in response to the advert, Ms Rachael Saxby and Mr Tom Price had been appointed to the role and their contracts had started on 1st July after training with each working 20 hours per month.

15/77: Letter to Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education: The Chairman reported that the Parish Council has received an acknowledgement from Canon Stephens with the promise of a full response in due course.

15/78: Correspondence: The Chairman reported that the Clerk had sent a copy of the Parish Council's Newsletter to every person who had sent the Parish Council a letter concerning the Primary School's planning application. It was also sent to John Glen MP and all the governors of Downton Primary School.

15/90: Wiltshire Council matters – Unitary Councillor's Report: Cllr Johnson gave a brief report on the following issues:

- Further cuts in the budget were likely from the Department for Communities and Local Government which would have a consequential impact on the services provided by Wiltshire Council;
- He had contacted officers regarding the repair to Iron Bridge and been told that it was a listed structure so it would take time to obtain the correct materials;
- He had attended the Community Opportunities Board at which John Thomson had confirmed the massive overspend on the campus project;
- He endorsed the comments made by Cllr Ford and thanked Mrs Wilson for the tremendous amount of work she had put into the Neighbourhood Plan.

15/91: Planning and Tree Works Applications:

15/05735/FUL – Byways, Slab Lane, Downton - Replacement garden shed: Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Dickinson seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the

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Parish Council should raise no objection to this application but, in view of its size, request that a planning condition be included which stated that the shed could not be used as a dwelling.

15/05837/LBC - Manor House Cottage, Barford Lane, Downton - Retrospective application for repairs to the front porch, replacement of two first floor windows above the porch on the east elevation with double glazing: Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Quarmby seconded and it was agreed by the Parish Council that no objection be raised.

14/06561/FUL - Charles Church - for Land to the West of Salisbury Road, Downton, Wiltshire - Erect 99 dwellings (83 houses and 16 flats) together with garages, timber pergolas, garden sheds and refuse/cycle stores and associated works – To consider and agree on a response to the amended plans and a final response to the application: Following a discussion, Cllr Yeates proposed, seconded Cllr Sutcliffe and agreed by the meeting that a recommended response to the application be delegated to the New Housing Development Committee for further consideration by the Parish Council at the meeting on 27th July 2015.

15/92: Barford Park Barn, Barford Park Farm, Downton - To consider an application under the Licensing Act 2003 for Late Night Refreshment, Fridays & Saturdays 2300 – 2359 and the Provision of Regulated Entertainment & Supply of Alcohol on the Premises - Opening Hours Mondays - Sundays 0800 – 2359: Cllr Pearce proposed, Cllr Dickinson seconded and it was agreed the Parish Council should give its strong support to the application.

15/93: To receive a report from Cllr Sutcliffe on an all party meeting with Wiltshire Council on Downton Primary School's planning application: Cllr Sutcliffe gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which the following main points were discussed and agreed:

- Wiltshire Council confirmed that the lowering of the roof was not a problem and Cllr Sutcliffe gave officers several alternative options to enable the roof to be lowered by 1.5 metres without there being any impact on the building;
- The Parish Council would allow the school public access to the MUGA during the hours of 8 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday in term time only and this would be included in the lease for the land. Mr Fishlock had also agreed that the school no longer wished to have public access;
- No further land would be leased by the Parish Council if the upstream solution to the swale was not given permission by the Environment Agency;

15/94: To consider a response to a letter from Mr Richard Fishlock, Chairman of the Governing Body of Downton Primary School, containing the signatures and comments from supporters of the petition and including statements on the school's current position: Cllr Quarmby made a brief statement that the Parish Council had done a vast amount of collaborative work through the New Housing Development Committee with the Headteacher and governors and that this was reflected in the Parish Council's Newsletter. He also said that at the meeting held on 3rd July the Parish Council was keen to provide solutions to the issues. Cllr Quarmby subsequently proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the draft letter circulated to members be approved.

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15/95: To consider a response to a letter of complaint from Mrs Jenny Saxby regarding the content of the Primary School's newsletter and citing The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 77 (7): Following a comment from Cllr Ford that the Parish Council had greatly appreciated the in-depth work and insight into the Primary School's planning application which Mrs Saxby had brought to its attention over the last six months, he proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the Clerk should send a response stating that the Parish Council proposed to continue with the stance stated in its Newsletter.

15/96: To consider any further responses to be made concerning the Primary School's Newsletter: Following a brief discussion, Cllr Mace proposed from the chair that there were further responses to be considered.

15/97: To consider a request from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to endorse the revised Policies and Proposals to be included in the Downton Neighbourhood Plan: Following a query raised by Cllr Ford, he proposed, Cllr Quarmby seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that a response be delegated to the New Housing Development Committee.

15/98: To consider a request from Downton Baptist Church to use the Moot Lane Recreation Ground on Sunday 13th September 2015 for a Christian themed community family event entitled "Create" with the aim of being inclusive and providing family activities and music: Following a discussion and queries raised by Cllr Watts, the Clerk was asked to seek further information from the Baptist Church and to apprise councillors of the covenants and bye-laws applicable to the Moot Lane Recreation Ground.

15/99: To consider and approve a contribution of £325 towards the Community Area Transport Group's work to implement an extension of 50 metres to the existing double yellow lines in The Borough from just beyond The Bull public house: Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and they were approved by the meeting.

15/100: To consider and approve a contribution of £100 towards the Community Area Transport Group's work to enhance the visibility to drivers of the Crossing Point on the High Street and to install additional paving to enable visually impaired members of the public to use the Crossing Point with greater safety: Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was approved by the meeting.

15/101: To consider a recommendation from the Amenities Committee to install the purchased Pirate Ship for 'early years' children from Mant Leisure in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground: Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was approved by the meeting with objections from Cllrs Hayward and Yeates.

15/102: To consider a recommendation from the Amenities Committee to appoint two Street Cleaners at the additional cost of £1,270.08 per annum to be taken from reserves in order to take account of the reduced street cleaning services provided by Wiltshire Council: Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and it was approved by the meeting.

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15/103: To consider a recommendation from the Amenities Committee to allocate £3K from Parish Council reserves to the future use or future removal of the Moot Lane Pavilion: Following a brief update on the Pavilion given by Cllr Cordell, he proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was approved by the meeting with one objection from Cllr Yeates and two abstentions from Cllrs Chandler and Lacey.

15/104: Committee Reports:

Amenities Committee: Cllr Cordell gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which several items on the Parish Council's agenda had been discussed. He said that the issues of playground and bus shelter inspections had also been discussed together with a plan for cleaning both Moulds Bridge and Iron Bridge in mid August.

15/105: Representatives' Reports:

Campus Project: Cllr Dickinson gave a detailed report on a recent meeting at which Wiltshire Council's Cabinet Member Cllr John Thomas and Ms Laurie Bell had briefed the Community Opportunities Board on the issues with the Campus project and the overspend on the currently delivered seven campuses. He said the Board never really got a straight answer to the question of whether any money was available for the Southern Wiltshire Area but it was told that parishes should start to consider alternative funding either by sponsorship or by a public works board loan.

Cllr Dickinson reported further that Unitary Cllr Richard Britton had asked that the campus room in the Memorial Hall Extension be considered by Wiltshire Council and asked that the business case be ratified by the Southern Wiltshire Area Board at its meeting on 30th July 2015.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Sutcliffe took the chair.

15/106: To approve the following further payments:

- £183.84 - The Landscape Group – for bin emptying services.
- £300.00 – Cllr Dave Mace – For reimbursement for the printing of the Parish Newsletter by Prontaprint.
- £73.10 – Mrs B Cornish – For reimbursement for the purchase of street cleaner equipment from Wybone Ltd.
- £73.14 - Viking Direct – For printer cartridges, staples and folders.
- £100 – Mr Phill Brentor – for the setting up and maintenance of the Downton Neighbourhood Plan website.
- £25 – Mr Jeremy Parsons – for the hire of PA system.
- £389.29 – Mr R Moody – For repairs and maintenance at Downton Cemetery and the Moot Lane Recreation Ground in accordance with inspection reports.

Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Dean seconded and they were approved by the meeting.

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15/106: To approve the Accounts for payment for July and to record the bank balances and budget to actual:

	£
The Landscape Group – for bin emptying services	183.84
Cllr Dave Mace - Parish Newsletter printing by Prontaprint	300.00
Mr B Moody – For playground and cemetery maintenance work	389.29
Mrs B Cornish – Street cleaner equipment from Wybone Ltd	73.10
Viking Direct – For stationery	73.14
Mr Phill Brentor – For Downton Neighbourhood Plan website	100.00
Mr Jeremy Parsons – for the hire of PA system	25.00
Ms R Saxby – July Salary and training	158.76
Mr T Price – July Salary and training	158.76
Mrs B Cornish - July Salary	1381.73
HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE for April, May, June	1246.83

Total	4090.45
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Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 13.07.15:

Current A/c: £4,753.64 Deposit A/c: £17,839.56 Santander Time Deposit: £41,650.92

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

15/108: Correspondence:

Correspondence

- 1 Wiltshire Council – A copy of the June Intelligencer.
- 2 Mr Mike Sutcliffe – An email following his attendance at the last Parish Council meeting and stating that he was very impressed by the Council's honesty and clarity in stating their position and was embarrassed to say that he felt he'd been duped by the school governors' letter which was biased and scaremongering. On account of it he had signed the petition but wished he hadn't. He also thanked the Parish Council for its hard work in representing the wider community.
- 3 Mrs C Parry – An email thanking the Chairman and Clerk for the handling of the last Parish Council meeting.
- 4 Mrs Jocelyn Hoare – A copy email to Mr Warren Simmonds at Wiltshire Council supporting the Primary School's extension.
- 5 Mr John Elliott – An email requesting a copy of John Glen MP's commons question on solar parks to the Secretary of State for Environment.
- 6 Ms Jane Launchbury – An email congratulating the Parish Council on its excellent letter and for the handling of the last meeting.
- 7 Mrs Nikki Wilson – An email stating that the last meeting of the Parish Council had been very well handled - a view reflected by a number of people to whom she had spoken. She also thanked the Parish Council for its statement of facts which should help to clarify the issues for all residents and wished it luck with the meeting on 3rd July.
- 8 Ms Claire Freemantle – An email congratulating the Parish Council for its Newsletter.
- 9 Harold Stephens, Chair, Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education – An email acknowledging receipt of the Parish Council's letter and promising a response in due course.
- 10 Mr Nigel Walker – An email of thanks to the Chair and Clerk for their work and for the Newsletter which he thought was 'spot on'. He also expressed his thanks for the Chairman's fair but firm attitude at the meeting. This was appreciated, he hoped, by all parties.

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- 11 Mr Neville Jennings – An email thanking the Parish Council for its Newsletter and stating that he sincerely hoped the meeting planned for 3rd July would have a satisfactory outcome.
- 12 Mr Richard Austin, Governor of Downton Primary School – An email requesting a copy of the Parish Council's Newsletter.
- 13 Southern Wiltshire Area Board – An email from Mrs Karen Linaker requesting contact details for the parish's newsletters and magazines.
- 14 Ms Julie Derham - An email requesting a copy of the Parish Council's Newsletter.
- 15 Mr and Mrs Christopher Bird – An email expressing their thanks for an excellent Newsletter which was very concise and nicely summarised.
- 16 Mrs S Saxby – An email advising of the noise created by Mr Alan Adlam and his fitness class 'Insanity In the Park' which meant that she could not open her back door to the garden due to the level of noise.
- 17 JJ from Catherine Crescent – An email thanking the Parish Council for its Newsletter which clarified the issues raised by the Newsletter circulated by the Primary School and stating that he supported wholeheartedly the points the Parish Council were making in the argument and hoped the school would respond reasonably to its neighbours.
- 18 Mr Kevin Burns – A copy email to Mrs Alison Small, Headteacher at Downton Primary School, expressing his concerns about its planning application.
- 19 Wiltshire Council – Several emails from Emma Dragge, Community Youth Officer, on issues relating to young people.
- 20 Wiltshire Council – An email advising of precautions to take in the heatwave and of being vigilant towards the elderly and very young children.
- 21 Downton Society – An email from Ms Claire Freemantle providing information on the number of children attending Downton Primary School which lived outside of the catchment area for the school, following a Freedom of Information Act request. Of the 207 children on the roll, 140 live within parish, 67 live outside of parish and 11 live outside of the county.
- 22 Mr A J Lowden – An email and a letter in support of the Parish Council's Newsletter and stance and wishing it luck for the meeting on 3rd July.
- 23 Mr John Glen MP – An email response to the Newsletter and news of the meeting on 3rd July and stating that he hoped it would give the Parish Council a chance to set out its position as clearly and reasonably as it had to him as well defuse a great deal of unnecessary ill-feeling in the village.
- 24 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr John Watling, Deputy Returning Officer and Head of Electoral Services advising of the likely election costs and providing a matrix setting out the costs in accordance with the number of polling stations and electors.
- 25 Wiltshire Council – Passenger Transport Consultations – An email advising of consultation workshops to determine the likely cuts in passenger transport. The nearest workshop is being held at Salisbury City Hall on 15 July 2015 between 18:00 – 20:00.
- 26 Wiltshire Association of Local Councils – An email from Ms Katie Fielding advising of the Smaller Authorities Transparency Fund.
- 27 Tidworth Town Council – An email from Carly Lovell, Town Clerk, seeking advice and information on the Parish Council's skatepark at the Moot Lane Recreation Ground.
- 28 Mr Liam Hegarty – An email regarding paint damage to his son's clothes from the newly painted slide in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground.
- 29 Mrs Barbara Carter – A letter to Chairman of the Parish Council regarding the Primary School's planning application expressing concern about the lack of consultation by the school with its neighbours and the admissions policy which should not exclude children who live within the parish but live outside Downton village.

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15/109: Date of next meeting: Monday 27th July 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.