

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12th October 2015 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Mace (Chairman) and Cllrs Brentor, Cordell, Dean, Ford, Hayward, Lacey, Sutcliffe, Yeates, Watts and Whitmarsh.
Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Seven members of the public were present.

15/160: Apologies: Cllrs Chandler, Dickinson, Quarmby and Pearce and Unitary Councillor Julian Johnson.

15/161: Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th September 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded by Cllr Cordell and agreed by the meeting with abstentions from Cllrs Dean, Hayward and Whitmarsh.

15/162: Public Question/Statement Time –15 minutes to receive any questions or statements from members of the public:

Mr John Mellin expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for organising the Remembrance Event for Second Lieutenant Bonvalot.

Mr Rick Ladds asked for a progress report on the Memorial Hall's planning application. Cllr Sutcliffe advised that the Parish Council was awaiting a response from the Environment Agency following the submission of a revised Flood Risk Assessment.

15/163: Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest were received.

15/164: Matters arising from the Minutes: There were no matters arising.

15/165: Wiltshire Council matters – Unitary Councillor's Report: In Cllr Johnson's absence, the Chairman read out a report which highlighted the following issues:

- **Icelandic Banks:** Like many other local authorities and public bodies, Wiltshire invested in Icelandic banks which were then offering attractive rates of interest. The subsequent collapse of these banks in 2008 put the Council's investment – and those of the other investors – at risk. The Icelandic banks have been able to gradually pay back these monies and of the £12 million deposited by Wiltshire, £11.7 million (98% of funds invested) have now been returned.
- **Unoccupied Properties:** The Council's Cabinet has agreed a number of changes in the way in which council tax is charged on these properties, resulting in an estimated £2.1 million additional income. Further details are available online.

15/166: To agree the wording of Chairman's Statement to be made at the meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee on 21st October 2015 at which the Primary School and Charles Church planning applications will be considered: Following a discussion, Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the formulation of the agreed wording be delegated to Cllrs Brentor, Mace, Yeates and the Clerk.

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15/167: To consider and agree on the process by which the parish will be consulted on the future provision of public conveniences in Downton following Wiltshire Council's request to Parish and Town Councils to consider owning and running their facilities: Following a brief discussion, the Clerk agreed to seek further information on costs from Wiltshire Council and also on the timeframe for a decision to be taken.

15/168: To consider and approve a further contribution of £25 towards the Community Area Transport Group's work to implement an extension of 25 metres to the existing double yellow lines in The Borough from just beyond The Bull public house: Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was approved by the meeting.

15/169: To consider and approve a further 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 Sutcliffe seconded and it was approved by the meeting.

15/170: To approve the purchase of two Poppy Wreaths for £15 and £22.44 to be laid on behalf of the Parish Council at the special Remembrance Event on 8th October 2015 for Second Lieutenant Bonvalot and at the 8th November 2015 Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial Hall: Cllr Yeates proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and they were approved by the meeting.

15/171: To consider the purchase of a new computer for the Clerk from PC World Business at the cost of £690 to replace her current computer, bought in October 2009, and to consider the virement of the sum of £390 from the Parish Council's budget line for Legal Fees to the budget line for Office Equipment: Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was approved by the meeting.

The Chairman advised that no costs would be incurred by the Parish Council with regard to the setting up and installation of the new computer and its software and also the transfer of information from the old computer to the new computer. This was to be done free of charge by Mr Paul Cornish.

15/172: Representatives' Reports:

Southern Wiltshire Area Board: Cllr Whitmarsh gave a detailed report on a recent meeting at which there had been a report from Wiltshire Police, the Alzheimer's Society and the funding of youth projects for the area.

Brian Whitehead Sports Centre Association: Cllr Sutcliffe gave a brief report on the recent AGM at which funding and succession planning had been discussed. He said that both Jackie Elkins, the Treasurer and Dr Tony Howgrave-Graham, who had been Chairman for 10 years, were looking to hand over their roles to other volunteers.

15/173: To approve the following further payments:

- £183.84 - The Landscape Group – for bin emptying.

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

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15/174: To approve the Accounts for payment for October, to record the bank balances and to note the Budget to Actual figures to date:

	£
Mr F Tyhurst – Flood Risk Assessment for Memorial Hall	385.00
The Landscape Group – For bin emptying	183.84
Mr B Morris – For Poppy Wreath	15.00
Mrs B Cornish – For purchase of Great War Poppy Wreath	22.44
Ms R Saxby – October Salary	151.20
Mr T Price– October Salary	151.20
Mrs B Cornish – October Salary	1368.33
HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE for July, Sept, Oct	1210.68

Total	3487.69
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Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 12.10.15:

Current A/c: £2,347.19 Deposit A/c: £41,153.30 Santander Time Deposit: £41,650.92

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

15/175: Correspondence

- 1 The Pensions Regulator – A letter from Mr Charles Counsell, Executive Director, advising of the legal duty of Town and Parish Councils to have a pension scheme in place to which they must make contributions for enrolment by eligible employees by 1 March 2016.
- 2 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr Tim Woolford advising that the 3 month consultation with the public about the future provision of public conveniences throughout the county had commenced on 14th September 2015.
- 3 Wiltshire Council – Several emails from Ms Emma Dragge regarding youth activities.
- 4 Downton Scouts – A letter from Mr Peter Ulyatt advising of the Bonfire Night event at the White Horse on Saturday 7th November 2015.
- 5 Downton Scouts – An email from Mrs Claire Goodyear requesting the placement of signage to deter dog fouling along the track beside the Scout Hut.
- 6 Mr Bryan Morris – An email requesting the closure of the road as usual for the Remembrance Sunday service on 8th November 2015.
- 7 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr Adrian Hampton providing an update on the highway and streetscene services.
- 8 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr Malcolm Dodds advising that his work will cease with the Council on 30th September.
- 9 National Grid – An email advising of the selection of Hale Purlieu as one the projects which will enable the pylons to be removed and the lines to be buried underground.
- 10 Southern Wiltshire Area Board – An email from Mr Tom Bray advising of the need by the Cinnamon Trust for volunteers in Lover to help walk the dog of an elderly resident.
- 11 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr Mike Marshman enclosing the September edition of the Intelligencer.
- 12 Mr and Mrs D Wise – An email seeking advice regarding housing developments in Lode Hill.
- 13 Trafalgar School Association – An email from Mrs Sarah Skeates advising of a Quiz Night being held at the school on Friday 20th November at 7 pm.
- 14 Mrs Helen Roberts – Several email regarding the new brick wall at the King's Arms.
- 15 South Wiltshire Ramblers – An email from Mr Norman Martin regarding the inaccessible stiles on Barford Down.

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- 16 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mrs Jane Scott inviting members to a meeting at the Guildhall in Salisbury on Thursday 29th October at 5.30 pm to discuss the challenges it faces in 2016 and into the future.
- 17 Mr Barry Fairbrother – An email advising of his response to the planning application for Mesh Wick Hall.
- 18 Mrs W Arbuckle – An email advising of her correspondence with the Post Office re a new post box and the response being that the request had been turned down due to the fact that it would affect utilities and that the postbox opposite the coop is within half a mile.
- 19 Wyg – An email from Mr Richard Austin enclosing copies of a presentation on the restoration of Pound Bottom.
- 20 Wiltshire Council – An email from Ms Catherine Darbyshire inviting a Parish Council representative to attend Housing Panels meetings either on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 from 7pm-8.30pm or Friday 13th November 2015 from 2pm-3.30pm.
- 21 Wiltshire Council – an email from Mr Mike Marshman advising of an Open Day at the History Centre in Chippenham to celebrate its 8th birthday on 31st October this year. There will be local government records available to view and displays and activities throughout the day.
- 22 Wiltshire Association of Local Councils – October Newsletter.
- 23 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr John Cole enclosing a Road Closure Notice for the temporary closure of Gravel Close from 24th to 30th November 2015.

15/176: Date of next meeting: Monday 26th October 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.