

# DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



## **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Mace (Chairman) and Cllrs Brentor, Chandler, Cordell, Dean, Dickinson, Ford, Hayward, Lacey, Pearce, Sutcliffe, Yeates, Watts and Whitmarsh.

**In attendance:** Mrs Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

**Also present:** Unitary Cllr Julian Johnson and seven members of the public.

### **Public Question Time:**

Following a question from Mr Bryan Morris regarding a map of the ecclesiastical parish boundaries for the Primary School, the Clerk advised that she had forwarded an email to him prior to Christmas from Wiltshire Council which contained links to both the Downton and Charlton All Saints boundaries. Mr Jeremy Parsons reported that he had received a map of both from the Diocese of Salisbury.

Following a question from Mrs Sandra Moody asking for more information about a project to erect a footbridge across the Avon in Moot Lane, the Chairman advised that this was a long-standing project and the Rights of Way Working Group, formed of volunteers and linked to the Amenities Committee of the Parish Council, had carried out a survey to seek to determine the likely usage of the bridge by residents.

Mrs Moody also asked that an additional clause stating that no sheds could be erected and no caravans parked be included in the lease for the land to form the playground extension in the Memorial Gardens.

Mrs Chris Parry expressed her thanks to Unitary Cllr Julian Johnson for pursuing the issue of the blocked drains in The Borough. She also expressed her thanks to Mr Moody who had repaired some of the guttering to the Memorial Hall. She said that the Clerk was aware of the leak in the roof and asked that some work be carried out to the barbed wire on the flat roof at the rear of the Hall.

### **Unitary Cllr Julian Johnson** gave a brief report advising of the following:

- Cllr Johnson advised that the contractors had repaired half of the drains in The Borough and would be returning to carry out more work. However, he said he was unable to say when they would return.
- Wiltshire Council's budget process would commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and end on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
- The consultation on rural transport and school buses had commenced and would end on 4<sup>th</sup> April. He said that he would do his best to speak up for the 44 bus but it was likely that there would be some cuts.
- Wiltshire Council staff had been trained in identifying and dealing with members of the public with dementia.

- Wiltshire Council's new highway contract was to be agreed on 19<sup>th</sup> January and would take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

Cllr Ford asked how Wiltshire Council would adhere to its mission to support the old, young and vulnerable when proposing to withdraw funding from the bus services which were mostly used by them.

Cllr Chandler asked that Cllr Johnson lobby strongly for the bus to Charlton All Saints, which ran only on one day each week. He said it was a considerable distance for elderly residents to walk to the bus stop on the A338 for the X3.

Cllr Mace thanked Cllr Johnson for his report.

**15/237: To receive and accept apologies for absence:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to note Cllr Quarmby's apology for the reason of a holiday commitment.

**15/238: Minutes:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED, with 2 abstentions from Cllr Cordell and Dickinson, to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

**15/239: Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Lacey declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 15/12195/FUL.

Cllr Ford declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 15/12510/TCA.

Cllr Chandler declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Minute 15/249.

**15/240: To resolve to refer any business raised by the public in public discussion, and any other matters or items of information from councillors, to the appropriate committee:** Following a discussion and information from Cllr Quarmby, Downton Parish Council RESOLVED that:

- a. The matter regarding the additional clause for the lease be deferred to the New Housing Development Committee; and
- b. The matter concerning the Memorial Hall be deferred to the Amenities Committee. Cllr Ford asked for the appropriate risk assessments and signage to be in place if the barbed wire was to be reinstated.

**15/241: Planning and Tree Work Applications:**

**15/12195/FUL 19 Church Leat, Downton - Erection of a timber conservatory to rear of property:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to raise no objection to this application.

**15/12284/FUL Aleppo, Long Close East, Downton - Proposed enlargement of rear garden room with associated works:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to raise no objection to this application.

**15/12510/TCA The Moot House, 15 Moot Lane, Downton - Fell 1 Pollarded Lime and 1 Sycamore:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to raise no objection to this application.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Mace proposed from the chair that the item to consider the survey and delegation of the toilets to the Parish Council be brought forward.

**15/243: In respect of the recent consultation with residents on the Public Conveniences in The Borough, Downton, to consider:**

- a. **the results of the consultation on whether residents wish to pay to keep the public toilets open or whether they should be closed by Wiltshire Council at the end of March 2016; and**
- b. **whether to resolve to issue a Statement of Intent to take on and have transferred the assets of the Public Conveniences from Wiltshire Council, subject to negotiation and clarification of costs.**

A discussion was held on the survey which contained 40 responses in favour of keeping the toilets and two responses in favour of closing them. Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was RESOLVED, with two objections from Cllrs Watts and Yeates, to approve the writing of a Statement of Intent to take on and have transferred the assets of the Public Conveniences from Wiltshire Council, subject to negotiation and clarification of costs.

**15/242: To consider and resolve to approve a revised 3 year Budget and level of Precept for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 prepared by the Clerk:** Following a discussion, Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Lacey seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the revised 3 year budget and to set a precept for 2016/17 at £74,624.75 which would be £57.19 for Band D properties. Cllrs Chandler and Watts objected and Cllr Yeates abstained.

**15/244: To consider and resolve to approve the wording of the Chairman's Statement to be made at the meeting of the Southern Area Planning Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at which the planning application for Scotts House, Salisbury Road, Downton will be considered:** Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED, with an abstention from Cllr Ford, that the Parish Council should delegate the writing of the statement, which was to await receipt of the Planning Officer's report in advance of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February, to Cllrs Quarmby, Sutcliffe and Brentor with the Clerk.

**15/245: To consider a response to Downton Primary School's consultation on its 2017-2018 Admission Arrangements:** Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was RESOLVED that a response from the Parish Council be delegated to the New Housing Development Committee.

**15/246: To consider a response to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon's consultation on his recommendation to set the increase for the policing element of the Council Tax for 2016/17 at 1.9%, which amounts to £3.12 per year for Band D properties:** Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was RESOLVED that a response be sent by the Clerk stating that the Parish Council supported the increase provided there was no change to Neighbourhood Policing.

**15/247: To consider and resolve to approve a change to the date of the Annual Parish Meeting for 2016 as Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April, to allow for a more flexible format:** Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the change of date be approved. Cllr Hayward also asked that the Parish Council engage with residents by having an occasional stand outside the Co-op.

**15/248: To consider recent correspondence between Mr John Elliott and the Chairman regarding the poor broadband performance at Standlynch Farm and its neighbouring businesses and to consider the action to be taken for that and any other area of the parish:** Cllr Chandler proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to Wiltshire Council seeking further information on the plans for superfast broadband to be delivered to Standlynch Farm, Charlton All Saints and to the residents in Downton who had yet to be upgraded.

**15/249: To consider a proposal from the Chairman to put forward Cllr Chandler's name to be the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils' representative at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016:** Cllr Yeates proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Chandler's name be put forward to the ballot.

**15/250: To consider and resolve to approve the following:**

**a. The virement of £1,254 from the Bus Shelter Maintenance budget line to the budget line for Playground Maintenance:**

Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should vire monies up to the amount of £1,254 from lines under the more appropriate 'Gardens' heading of the budget which were forecast to be underspent rather than from the Bus Shelter Maintenance budget line.

**b. The purchase of play matting for the surround of the Pirate Ship in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground from Mant Leisure at the cost of £1,254:** Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was RESOLVED that the purchase be approved.

**15/251: To approve the following payments:**

- £183.84 - The Landscape Group – for bin emptying.
- £300.00 – The Playground Inspection Company – for 4 playground inspections.
- £2,268.00 - Mant Leisure – for installation of Pirate Ship playground piece.
- £33.43 - Viking – for printer cartridges and plastic folders.

Cllr Dean proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that they be approved.

**15/252: To approve the Accounts for payment for January and to record the bank balances:**

	£
The Landscape Group – for bin emptying	183.84
The Playground Inspection Company – for 4 playground inspections	300.00
Mant Leisure – for installation of Pirate Ship playground piece	2268.00
Viking – for printer cartridges and plastic folders	33.43
Salisbury Window Cleaning Services	90.00
Southern Electric – Moot Lane Pavilion	42.90
Ms R Saxby – January Salary	151.20
Mr T Price – January Salary	151.20
Mrs B Cornish – January Salary	1381.73
HM Revenue & Customs	1206.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>5808.30</b>
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**Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 11.01.16:**

Current A/c: £5,600.55   Deposit A/c: £25,157.08   Santander Time Dep: £41,650.92

Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was RESOLVED that they be approved.

**15/253: Correspondence.**

- 1 Mr Hamish Ross – A letter regarding the petition to bring football back to Moot Lane Recreation Ground and stating that the way in which it had been dealt with by the Council at the last meeting had been ‘disappointing’.
- 2 Wiltshire Council – Several emails from Mr Tim Woolford regarding the consultation on the public conveniences with one providing two dates, 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 when parish and town councils can meet with Wiltshire Council officers to discussion delegation. The Clerk and Chairman will be attending the meeting in Trowbridge on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- 3 Wiltshire Association of Local Councils – Two emails from Ms Katie Fielding, one enclosing the December Newsletter and the second advising councils to nominate a representative to attend a Royal Garden Party on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- 4 Mr Bryan Morris and Mrs Jenny Saxby – Several emails regarding the boundary map for the Primary School’s admissions policy.
- 5 Wiltshire Police – An email from Pc Matt Holland enclosing the Neighbourhood Policing Bulletin for December.
- 6 Wiltshire Council – Several emails from Ms Emma Dragge regarding activities for youths over the Christmas holidays.
- 7 Healthmatic – An email from Mr Ian Young inviting the Parish Council to request a quote for the running of the public conveniences when Wiltshire Council ends its funding.
- 8 Southern Wiltshire Area Board – Three emails from Mr Tom Bray, one providing a report on the actions and outcomes of the last meeting of the Area Board, the second providing information on service levels to be provided by Wiltshire Council highways in 2016/17 and the third advising of the Clean for the Queen campaign in which it is hoped that all parishes will participate in an event to clean their parish. The event is set for the weekend of 4-6 March 2016.
- 9 Wiltshire Highways – A newsletter from Mr Adrian Hampton and Mr Bill Parks on the local highway services.

- 10 Wiltshire Council – An email acknowledgement from Ms Clare Medland, Head of School Place Commissioning, Performance and School Effectiveness Children's Services, in response to the Parish Council's letter and stating that Wiltshire Council has issued a further detailed response to the Environment Agency providing further clarification and seeking confirmation again that it is willing to lift its objection.
- 11 Mrs Becky Cornell – An email thanking the Parish Council for the pirate ship but asking for matting to surround it as the grass surface is very muddy which makes the equipment unusable.
- 12 Mrs Chris Parry – One email and several copy emails regarding the blocked drains in The Borough, the tree overhanging the Memorial Hall and parking on the pedestrian area outside the Co-op.
- 13 Mr Rick Ladds – A copy email to Cllr Johnson regarding the blocked drains in The Borough.
- 14 Police & Crime Commissioner – An email from Mr Angus MacPherson advising of a public consultation on the cost of policing in 2016 -17. He is considering an increase of 1.9%, which amounts to £3.12 per year or 6p per week for the average home (Band D property). At present, band D homes pay £163.98 a year.
- 15 Wiltshire Council – An email from Mr John Cole advising of a temporary road closure to Moot Close from 22nd February for up to three days to enable Bournemouth Water to install a new customer connection.
- 16 Southern Area Planning Committee – An email from Mrs Lisa Moore enclosing a link to the Agenda for 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- 17 Wiltshire Highways – An email from Mr Graham Axtell advising that contractors were clearing the drains in The Borough.
- 18 New Forest National Park Authority – An email from Mr Daniel Pape advising of a proposed cycle ride being planned from outside the Co-op to the New Forest on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and requesting the Parish Council to publicise it to residents.
- 19 Wvg – An email from Ms Tansy Bristow providing an update to the timing of Pound Bottom planning application for the proposed closure and restoration of Pound Bottom Landfill site.
- 20 Wiltshire Highways – An email from Ms Julie Wharton providing a plan showing the final details of the proposed extension to the double yellow lines in The Borough, Downton and confirming that this has been sent to the TRO team for the advert to appear on site and in the Salisbury Journal.
- 21 Ms Rosalind Johnson – Two emails regarding the works in Gravel Close and the removal of parking for residents.
- 22 Wiltshire Council Weather Team – An email asking parishes to write a Snow Plan to highlight what action as the parish it will take during periods of extreme weather.

**15/254: Date of next meeting – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton**

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.