

# DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



## **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.**

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

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

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

### **Public Question Time:**

Mr Patrick Briddon advised that he and two other residents were present to register their objection to the potential proposal to locate the route for the footbridge across the Avon via Green Lane. He said that if it goes ahead there would be 'one hell of a fight'. He also reported that several residents on the other side of the river to Green Lane, who had been been unaware of the plans, were also appalled.

Cllr Whitmarsh asked Mr Briddon whether he was objecting in principle to a bridge across the river or whether his objection was that it should not be routed via Green Lane. He confirmed that he was not against a bridge across the river in principle but that it was routed via Green Lane.

Mr Bryan Morris asked if the Parish Council could provide an update on the meeting with representatives of the Primary School and the Environment Agency to discuss the redesigned plans for The Bunny.

Mr Rick Ladds asked that if the 'northern swale' plan was to be implemented there would be a full planning application for it. He also asked whether the recommendations of the Conservation Officer were going to be followed with regard to the classroom block and if not, why not. He asked further whether all residents who lived adjacent to rivers were aware of their responsibilities and asked whether the Parish Council was going to write to all of them to remind them of these. He said the particular issue was The Bunny on both sides of The Borough.

Mrs Chris Parry reported that the owner of Fairfield House arranged for the section of The Bunny which crossed his land to be cleared annually.

Mrs Jenny Saxby asked for clarification with regard to the landscaping of the extended playground at the Primary School and whether the new plan was the plan the Primary School was pursuing rather than the upstream solution. She asked that the trees be planted be of a sufficient height to screen the playground and that there be a clause in the lease to provide protection for the neighbours against noise. Mrs Saxby asked further that something be done with the fence on the eastern side of the Memorial Gardens as it was in a poor state of repair.

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

- Wiltshire Council was currently going through its annual budget process;
- Its total budget was just over £900 million with £587 million of it for schools and £342 million of it for providing 350 services including children, adult and disability care and highways;
- The grant from government had been reduced by £16 million and the Council was looking to make a further £25 million in savings for the coming year;
- The Council was likely to increase the Council Tax for 2016/17 by 1.99 percent and there would also be an increase in the precept for the Fire Service of 2 percent.
- Cllr Johnson said he questioned how long this sort of austerity could continue;
- He encouraged members to complete Wiltshire Council's consultation on the rural bus services and said he would be pressing for no local services to be cut.

Cllr Mace thanked Cllr Johnson for his report.

**15/255: To receive and accept apologies for absence:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to note Cllrs Dean and Lacey's apologies due to illness, Cllr Pearce's apology due to a holiday commitment and Cllr Watts's apology for undisclosed 'personal reasons'.

**15/256: To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED, with 1 abstention from Cllr Quarmby, to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

**15/257: To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011:** No declarations were received.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Mace proposed from the chair that the item to the request from Mr and Mrs Porter be brought forward.

**15/258: To consider a request for permission from Mr and Mrs Porter of Park View, 35 The Borough, to extend scaffolding for the purpose of building a rear extension to their house into the western side of the Memorial Gardens for a period of 8 weeks and to permit an access on an agreed basis across the Memorial Gardens to enable materials to be delivered:** Members considered a draft management plan for the project which had been submitted by Mr Porter and tabled at the meeting.

Following various questions, which were responded to by Mr Porter, and a request from Cllr Yeates for consideration to be given to making a donation to the Memorial Hall as a gesture of thanks for the co-operation of the Parish Council, Cllr Yeates proposed, Cllr Quarmby seconded and it was RESOLVED that Mr and Mrs Porter's request be approved in principle. It was also agreed that Cllrs Mace and Ford should work with the Clerk to ensure that all appropriate risks were assessed and mitigated against and a formal agreement was signed and agreed between both parties.

**15/259: 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 or to resolve to agree on any other action:** Following a proposal from the chair from Cllr Mace and information from Cllr Quarmby, Downton Parish Council RESOLVED that:

- a. The matter regarding the footbridge be deferred to the Rights of Way Working Group;
- b. The questions regarding the Primary School's planning application be deferred to the report to be given by Cllr Quarmby on a meeting of the New Housing Development Committee at a later point in the meeting;
- c. The Clerk was to include a brief article providing guidance and information on the responsibilities of Riparian Owners in the next edition of the InDownton Newsletter; and
- d. The Clerk was to write to the owners of the fence on the eastern boundary of the Memorial Gardens to request that it be repaired or replaced.

#### **15/260: Planning and Tree Work Applications:**

**15/10934/FUL Wick Lodge, The Headlands, Downton – Two Storey Rear Extensions; Replace Garage with Single Storey Extension:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to recommend refusal for this application on the grounds that it was contrary to the Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 Car Parking Strategy, Section 7.4 which requires there to be a minimum number of 3 parking spaces for a residential dwelling with four bedrooms.

**15/12046/FUL The Headlands Garage, 2 The Borough, Downton – Proposed Conversion of Commercial Garage to Single Dwelling, with associated alterations:** Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to raise no objection to this application.

**15/261: To consider and resolve to approve a response to Wiltshire Council's consultation on the future provision of subsidised bus services in Wiltshire:** Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Whitmarsh seconded and it was RESOLVED that a response from the Parish Council be delegated to be drafted by Cllrs Brentor, Dickinson and the Clerk with the assistance of Ms Susan Barnhurst-Davies and brought back for approval to the March meeting.

**15/262: To consider and resolve to approve a response to the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on the proposed changes to National Planning Policy:** Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Quarmby seconded and it was RESOLVED that a response from the Parish Council be delegated to and submitted by Cllrs Brentor and Yeates with the assistance of Mrs Nikki Wilson and the Clerk.

**15/263: To resolve to approve the removal of a further 16 former councillors as signatories from the Parish Council's bank mandate:** Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Yeates seconded and it was RESOLVED that the removal be approved.

**15/264: To resolve to approve the adding of the Pirate Ship and Matting to the Parish Council's Asset Register at the value of £7,404:** Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the inclusion of the Pirate Ship and matting be approved.

**15/265: To consider a recommendation from the Amenities Committee that the Parish Council participates in the Clean for the Queen event on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in partnership with Wiltshire Council:** Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Hayward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the parish's participation be approved.

**15/266: To consider a proposal from the Southern Wiltshire Area Board to take on the responsibility of a Speed Indicator Device in partnership and on a rota basis with a number of other Parish Councils in Southern Wiltshire for the cost of approximately £240 per year, which will include at least 3 installations around the parish per year, site installation and take down after 10 days, recharge and maintenance of the device:** Following a discussion and a brief report from Cllr Yeates, Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Whitmarsh seconded and it was RESOLVED, with two objections from Cllrs Hayward and Quarmby, that the Parish Council should take on the Speed Indicator Device for one year as a pilot.

**15/267: To consider a proposal from the Southern Wiltshire Area Board that the Parish Council hosts an event to raise awareness of dementia in the community with the aim of focusing on improving inclusion and the quality of life for people with dementia:** Following a short briefing from Cllr Brentor, she proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council's hosting of the event be approved.

#### **15/268: Committee Reports:**

**Amenities Committee:** Cllr Cordell gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which:

- A report was received from a representative of the Rights of Way Working Group on the project to erect a footbridge across the Avon;
- The proposal put forward by Mr Hamish Ross had been considered and a business plan had been requested from the Downton Moot Lane Sports Club Committee; and
- A report was received on the emergency work required to repair the roof of the Memorial Hall.

**New Housing Development Committee:** Cllr Quarmby gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which the Parish Council's response to the Primary School's Draft Admissions Policy for 2017/2018 had been agreed. He said there had been a lengthy discussion on the issue of the school needing to give as much flexibility to in catchment children before out of catchment children. This was to enable the school to take account of the new housing developments which were to come on stream in the next 2-3 years.

Cllr Quarmby said that he had given a report on a meeting with Mr Luke Martin regarding the plans for The Bunny and updated members on a subsequent meeting which he attended on site with Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency at which a redesign had been discussed whereby two ramps on either side of a reduced bridge had been considered to be acceptable. He also responded to several questions raised by members of the public.

Cllr Yeates expressed his dismay at the lack of progress on the preferred upstream solution and said he was concerned by the plethora of additional fencing proposed in the new design and the impact they would have on the conservation area. A very lengthy discussion ensued on whether the Parish Council should write further to Wiltshire Council regarding the leasing if, as the Parish Council had previously stated and requested, no work to explore the upstream solution to demonstrate its unviability had been carried out by Wiltshire Council. The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting a response from Mr Alistair Cunningham to a letter she had sent on behalf of the Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

**15/269: To resolve to receive and note the Minutes of:**

The meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.  
The meeting of the New Housing Development Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Cllr Mace proposed from the chair and it was RESOLVED that they be noted.

**15/270: Representatives reports:**

**Chalk Pit Management Committee:** Cllr Yeates gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which it had been reported that Downton Scouts had made good use of the Chalk Pit for camping. There was also a proposal to relocate the tethered horse from the site.

**Southern Wiltshire Area Board:** Cllr Whitmarsh gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which reports had been received from both Wiltshire Police and a representative of the Wiltshire & Swindon Police & Crime Commissioner. She said discussions had been held on the taking on of Speed Indicator Devices and parishes had been asked to consider the theme of conservation and how it related to their parishes.

**Public Conveniences:** Cllr Mace gave a brief report on a recent meeting with Wiltshire Council at which it had been made clear that there was not an option to defer the taking on of the public conveniences to April 2017. He said that if the Parish Council did not take on their servicing, Wiltshire Council would lock the doors on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. Cllr Mace said that the Clerk was liaising the Parish Council's solicitor regarding the lease and a tender process for contractors would be carried out prior to the end of March.

**15/271: To approve the following payments**

- £183.84 - The Landscape Group – for bin emptying.
- £270.00 – Fair Account – For Internal Audit services.
- £1,504.80 – Mant Leisure – For matting around the Pirate Ship.
- £45.00 – Reimbursement to Mrs B Cornish for purchase of new Backup device.
- £290.70 – Mr Bob Moody – For emergency work to the Memorial Hall following a leak.

Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Quarmby seconded and it was RESOLVED that they be approved.

**15/272: To approve the Accounts for payment for February and to record the bank balances:**

	£
The Landscape Group – for bin emptying	183.84
Fair Account – For internal audit services	270.00
Mant Leisure – For matting around Pirate Ship	1504.80
Mrs B Cornish – Reimbursement for backup device	45.00
Mr B Moody – For emergency work to the Memorial Hall Roof	290.70
Ms R Saxby – February Salary	151.20
Mr T Price – February Salary	151.20
B Cornish – February Salary	1381.93
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Total	<b>3978.67</b>
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**Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 08.02.16:**

Current A/c: £6,982.48 Deposit A/c: £25,158.26 Santander Time Deposit: £41,650.92

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

**15/273: Correspondence.**

- 1 The issue of the new LED Lights at Bidvest – Six emails and two telephone calls of complaint from residents regarding their brightness and intrusion.
- 2 The Footbridge project – Four emails and two letters of objection from residents of Green Lane which the Clerk has passed onto the Rights of Way working group.
- 3 Wiltshire Highways – Two emails from Mr Graham Axtell and Mr John Cole confirming the cancellation of the resurfacing works to Gravel Close during the February half term and advising that the works will take place from 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.
- 4 Mr John Glen MP – An email response to the Parish Council's letter regarding the Primary School's planning application and offering to chair a round table meeting with the Environment Agency.
- 5 Wiltshire Council – Several emails from officers regarding the Public Conveniences in relation to the lease and the taking on of the cleaning of the toilets.
- 6 Mrs Jenny Saxby – A letter regarding the Primary School's planning application and in particular the proposed changes to The Bunny.
- 7 Wiltshire Council – An email from Ms Heather Blake regarding the launch of the Salisbury to New Forest Cycle Route and the cycle ride from Downton to the New Forest being held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am and inviting the Parish Council to attend a Launch Photo.
- 8 Wiltshire Association of Local Councils – An email from Ms Katie Fielding enclosing the February Newsletter and other documentation.

**15/274: Date of next meeting – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.**

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.