

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the New Housing Development Committee held on Monday 9th May 2016 at the Band Hall, Gravel, Downton at 6.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Quarmby (Chairman) and Cllrs Brentor, Cordell, Ford, Mace, Sutcliffe and Yeates. Mr Richard Fishlock.
Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Four members of the public were present.

Public Question Time:

Mr Bryan Morris asked for an update on the Lease of the Memorial Gardens land with the Primary School.

Cllr Quarmby advised that the Heads of Terms were currently being considered by the Diocese of Salisbury and that parties to the Lease would be the Diocese and the Parish Council.

NHD83/15: Apologies: Cllr Hayward, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Small.

NHD84/15: Minutes: Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Yeates seconded and it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th April 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

NHD85/15: Declarations of Interest: None.

NHD86/15: Following receipt of final confirmation from Wiltshire Council that it will not carry out any further investigations into the 'upstream solution' to The Bunny in relation to the Primary School's planning application, to consider any recommendations to be made to the Parish Council regarding any actions to be taken: Cllr Quarmby reported that he had been very frustrated in getting a response to his countless calls to Mr Alistair Cunningham. He said he finally received a call from Ms Clare Medland, the Head of School Place Commissioning, Performance and School Effectiveness who had said that Wiltshire Council needed to implement the bridge solution as soon as possible as there was not the time to delay it any further. She had also said that Wiltshire Council and the School wished to work with the Parish Council to look at ways of improving the current plans.

Cllr Quarmby also said that he saw no benefit in the Parish Council spending any more time or resources in investigating the upstream solution and should now focus on considering improvements to the current scheme and on finalising the Lease.

Mr Fishlock confirmed Cllr Quarmby's suggestion that the School was willing to work with the Parish Council through a Working Group of the Committee in looking at an improvement of the current plans and on the materials. He said the School would work with the Conservation Officer but it was aware that the look of the extension was important to the community would take a common sense approach to it. He

said that the School from its point of view was also disappointed at not being able to achieve a better solution but it did not want any increase in risk to the monies by prolonging the investigations.

Cllr Yeates commented that he was very disappointed with the outcome and said that it seems that if you are Wiltshire Council and sit on your hands for long enough, you get what you want. Cllr Brentor said she agreed with Cllr Yeates and said that a lot of time and resources had been put into this project by the Parish Council and there had been some very poor practice from a local authority. She also said that the Parish Council should consider making a formal complaint about the behaviour of Wiltshire Council in this process.

Cllr Ford said that the word 'negligent' should be used in any formal complaint made to Wiltshire Council and its lack of partnership working had damaged the goodwill of the Parish Council which would affect its future working relationship with the principal authority.

Following further discussions, Cllr Quarmby summarised the view of the Committee as follows:

- Everyone had expressed their disappointment at the lack of partnership working by Wiltshire Council in resolving the upstream solution for The Bunny which would have reduced the impact of the primary school's playground extension on the conservation area and its neighbours.
- The Committee reluctantly recommended that the Parish Council should now lift its current objection to the signing of the lease until the upstream solution had been resolved and should move forward to agree the lease.
- The only positive in the process was that Wiltshire Council had agreed that the Parish Council could work with it and the Primary School to improve the design and impact of the fencing and landscaping as approved.

Cllr Quarmby proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was RESOLVED that:

1. The Parish Council should submit a formal complaint to Wiltshire Council in view of the lack of partnership working, lack of response and its renegation on written commitments.
2. The Parish Council reluctantly should lift its current objection to the signing of the lease until the upstream solution had been resolved and should move forward to agree the lease.
3. A small Working Group consisting of Cllrs Quarmby, Sutcliffe and Yeates be formed to work with Wiltshire Council and the Primary School with the remit to consider the design and materials of the playground area and the materials used for the two storey classroom with the aim of reverting for approval to the New Housing Development Committee and Parish Council for approval.
4. The Primary School be strongly encouraged to work with its neighbours on the design and materials to be used.

Cllr Yeates asked that a professionally produced and detailed plan be commissioned by the Parish Council showing the precise area of the land to be leased to the School.

NHD87/15: Next meeting: Monday 5th September 2016 at 6.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 7.20 pm.