

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2015

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Downton Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, The Borough, Downton on Monday 13th April 2015 at 7 pm.

The meeting was attended by 19 members of the public. Twelve members of the Parish Council and Unitary Councillor Julian Johnson of Wiltshire Council were also present.

Cllr Dave Mace, Chairman of the Parish Council, presided.

Welcome and Apologies: The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dean, Quarmby and Ross.

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2014 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Sutcliffe, seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by the meeting.

Presentation by Mr Matt Wheeldon, Head of Wastewater Strategy at Wessex Water, providing an update on work carried out to the drainage and sewerage systems in Downton over the last year. Also present was Mr Danny Everett, Senior Drainage Engineer, Wiltshire Council:

Mr Wheeldon gave a detailed presentation on the work carried out to identify the issues with the foul drainage system over the last year. He said Wessex Water had carried out extensive Impermeable Area Study over the whole of the west side of Downton to identify where surface water was being directed into the public sewer. He said they had also:

- CCTV'd 5582m of public sewer to try to identify infiltration locations.
- Sealed 366 metres of sewer and 3 manholes.
- Identified a number of private drains that were allowing groundwater into the sewer network.

Mr Wheeldon also said that they had developed an emergency mitigation plan should groundwater overwhelm the sewer system again and were working with Wiltshire Council to develop its Groundwater Management Strategy. The mitigation plan involved a 'Seasonal Pumped Overflow'. This would only operate intermittently with the pipe discharging large amounts of groundwater with very diluted and filtered sewage into the river from the South Lane pumping station.

In the light of the mitigation measures being implemented, he said that Wessex Water would be lifting its objection to the Charles Church development in the next few days.

Following the completion of his presentation, Mr Wheeldon and Mr Danny Everett responded to several questions from members of the public and, in particular, questions on how Wiltshire Council would enforce the residents of private dwellings with drains which were allowing groundwater into the sewer network to repair them.

Mr Danny Everett said that he could not give any reassurance at this stage that Wiltshire Council would insist on residents mending their drains as, to his knowledge, this had not been done before. However, it was likely that the local authority would not back away from its statutory duty and would carry out an investigation to see whether the issue could be given a proportionate response.

Cllr Mace thanked Messrs Wheeldon and Everett for an excellent presentation and their response to questions.

Downton Neighbourhood Plan: Mrs Wilson gave a detailed update on Stage 1 of the Plan and explained the plans for Stage 2. She said the initial draft of the Plan had been considered and endorsed by the Parish Council and the next part of the process was for it to go out for a 6 week public consultation to residents starting at Cuckoo Fair 2015 and then for a 6 week public consultation by Wiltshire Council. She further reported that the final draft of the plan was to be inspected by the Planning Inspectorate in Autumn 2015 and then, subject to approval, put to a referendum by the end of the year.

Chairman's Report: Cllr Mace read out his Annual Report to the meeting and thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their work over the last year.

Questions and Comments:

In response to a question from Mr Glyn Parry, the Chairman advised that the Clerk would report the issue of cars for sale at the western end of The Borough and at the entrance to the industrial estate to the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

In response to a question from Mrs Judi Brown on the poor state of the Cemetery, the Chairman advised that the Parish Council had included a greater sum in this year's budget to carry out remedial works at the Cemetery.

In response to a question from Cllr Ford regarding the continued presence of the caravan in the Moot car park, Ms Susan Barnhurst-Davies reported that the Moot Trust had issued the occupant with a notice and the matter was with the Trust's solicitors.

As there were no further questions, Cllr Mace thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and it closed at 8.25 pm.