



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MONDAY 25TH APRIL 2016**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Downton Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, The Borough, Downton on Monday 25th April 2016 at 7 pm.

The meeting was attended by 17 members of the public. Ten 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, Ford, Watts and Yeates.

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Sutcliffe, seconded by Cllr Hayward and agreed by the meeting.

Presentation by Mr Ian Campbell, Chairman of the Parish Council's Rights of Way Working Group, on the Footbridge and Path across the Avon Proposal.

Mr Campbell gave a lengthy and detailed presentation on the work carried out to investigate possible locations for the footbridge, the liaison with Longford Estates and Natural England and the results of surveys of residents in Moot Lane, Green Lane and South Lane as well as the recommendation submitted for consideration to Lord Radnor. He said the residents surveyed in Moot Lane were very enthusiastic about the proposal and the preferred route was the route from Moot Lane to South Lane. This would be routed via an existing footpath and Mr Campbell provided details of the potential for daily car journeys to be saved which would reduce the peak time congestion in The Borough.

He also said that further work was needed to minimise the impact of the footpath on Will Dickson, the tenant farmer who farmed the field which was crossed by the footpath.

Mr Campbell responded to questions from the members of the public which asked for information on the likely cost of the footbridge, possible funding sources and consultation with the rest of the parish.

Cllr Quarmby, as Chairman of the Parish Council's New Housing Development Committee, said that with the high cost of the footbridge being in the region of £150-300K and possibly higher, he wondered whether residents would support the idea of allocating a contribution of future developer funding for the project. No vote was taken but no member of the public present raised a strong objection to the idea.

Cllr Mace thanked Mr Campbell for his presentation and for all his and his team's hard work so far on the project.

Downton Neighbourhood Plan: Mrs Wilson gave a brief update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan which had been approved by the Parish Council, had passed its first period of public consultation and was close to being considered by a Planning Inspector. She said the Referendum was likely to be held in the autumn and once it was adopted by Wiltshire Council, the Parish Council would be entitled to receive 25 percent of the Community Infrastructure Levy from future developers which would benefit the community.

Cllr Mace thanked Mrs Wilson and the members of the Steering Group for the enormous amount of work they had done to deliver a valuable Neighbourhood Plan.

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:

Mrs Ruth Webber asked when the Iron Bridge was to be repaired as the damage to the railings had occurred in the summer of 2014. Julian Johnson reported that he had been in constant touch with Wiltshire Council officers but was still unable to give a date for when it would be repaired. He said that he and the Clerk would continue to press officers to get the work done.

Mrs Judi Brown expressed concern about the parking and number of cars which were causing issues such as the erosion of the Green at the eastern end of The Borough and asked that something be done about it.

Mrs Sally Lacey said that it was about time to do some more cleaning of the bridges in the village. Cllr Mace said that this was being organised for one Sunday in early summer.

Mr Chris Hall expressed concern about the amount of glass beside the Kick Wall when had made regular visits to the Moot Lane Recreation Ground. He said he thought it was about time that the wall was removed to reduce the risk and because since it had been erected, it had hardly ever been used by the young people of the parish. On a separate matter, he said he thought the Pirate Ship was excellent and offered his congratulations to the Council.

Cllr Mace thanked Mr Hall and said the issue of the Kick Wall would be considered at the forthcoming meeting of the Amenities Committee.

As there were no further questions, Cllr Mace thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and it closed at 8.30 pm.