

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 27th July 2015 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Mace (Chairman) (from 7.55 pm) and Cllrs Cordell, Ford, Lacey, Pearce, Quarmby, Sutcliffe, Whitmarsh, Yeates and Watts.
Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Six members of the public were present.

Cllr Sutcliffe welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that he would be chairing the meeting until the arrival of the Chairman, Cllr Mace, who had been delayed.

15/110: Apologies: Cllrs Chandler, Dean, Dickinson, Hayward and Ross.

15/111: Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Ford seconded by Cllr Cordell and agreed by the meeting.

15/112: Public Question/Statement Time –15 minutes to receive any questions or statements from members of the public:

Mr Bryan Morris said he had some difficulty in understanding and accepting the continued presence of members of the Primary School on the New Housing Development Committee, particularly in view of the lack of fulsome information put out by the school in its newsletter, which had been approved by all governors, and the need for the Parish Council to spend £300 of taxpayer money so that it could provide residents with the facts. He also said that other members of the community with planning applications were required to speak to the Council from the public section of the meeting and the Primary School's planning application was probably the most well known and well aired application of recent years.

Cllr Sutcliffe said that the Chair of Governors and Headteacher would only be in place as co-opted members of the New Housing Development Committee for the next 4-8 weeks until the Primary School's planning application had been resolved.

Mr Rick Ladds said that the neighbours had decided against taking action even though they had been defamed by the school and expressed concern that the school's notices and newsletters were still displayed around the village and had not been removed.

Cllr Sutcliffe asked the Clerk to write to Mr Fishlock to request that all newsletters and notices be removed.

In response to a question from Mr Jeremy Parsons on whether the Council had met recently with the Primary School, Cllr Quarmby said that he had met the school prior to the Parish Council meeting and would be reporting on it to the Council at item 10 on the Agenda which was his report on the New Housing Development Committee meeting.

15/113: Declarations of Interest: Cllr Sutcliffe declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Minute 15/116.

15/114: Matters arising from the Minutes:

15/82.2 Sport England and Primary School's Planning Application: The Vice-Chairman reported that the Clerk had received a response from Sport England to her letter

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both providing clarification on its response to the plans for the Memorial Gardens and lifting its objection to the requirement for public access to the proposed MUGA.

Cllrs Ford and Quarmby asked that the Parish Council's thanks to the Clerk be recorded for her work in resolving the issue with Sport England which they considered should have been done by the Primary School and Wiltshire Council Education some six months before.

15/115: Planning and Tree Works Applications:

15/06446/FUL - 8 Squarey Close, Downton - Raise roof of existing side extension and install side dormers: Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Quarmby seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that no objection be raised.

14/06561/FUL - Charles Church - for Land to the West of Salisbury Road, Downton, Wiltshire - Erect 99 dwellings (83 houses and 16 flats) together with garages, timber pergolas, garden sheds and refuse/cycle stores and associated works – To consider and agree on a response to the amended plans and a final response to the application: Following a summary given by Cllr Quarmby on the rationale for the recommended response devised by the New Housing Development Committee, he proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was approved by the meeting with one minor amendment.

15/116: In relation to the Parish Council's powers under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, to consider a proposal from Cllr Mace to approve a grant of £1,000 to the Brian Whitehead Sports Centre Association as a contribution towards its project to replace the lights in the indoor Sports Hall and Tennis Hall. The total cost will be £28,818 and the replacement lights will be more efficient and of longer life as well as being more environmentally friendly. This to be done by viring £400 from this year's 'Odd Job Contractor' budget line and taking £600 from reserves: Following a brief report from Cllr Mace, he proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was approved by the meeting.

15/117: To consider a letter from Wiltshire Council regarding the forthcoming consultation on Public Conveniences and to consider whether to:

- register an interest in owning and running the facility in Downton;
- conduct research amongst other Town and Parish Councils in Wiltshire which have already taken on ownership of their public conveniences;
- to take any other actions:

Following a discussion, Cllr Whitmarsh proposed, Cllr Lacey seconded and it was agreed by the meeting that the Clerk should confirm the Parish Council's interest in finding out more information in running the facility and to request a Schedule of Condition. The Clerk also advised that she would contact the clerks of parish and town councils who had taken on ownership of their public conveniences in 2011.

15/118: To reconsider a request from Downton Baptist Church to use the Moot Lane Recreation Ground on Sunday 13th September 2015 for a Christian themed community family event entitled "Create" with the aim of being inclusive and providing family activities and music: Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Lacey seconded and it was approved by the meeting.

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15/119: Committee Reports:

New Housing Development Committee: Cllr Quarmby gave a detailed report on the recent meeting at which the response to the Charles Church application and the policies for the Downton Neighbourhood Plan had been considered at length. He also reported that the Business Case for the Campus room in the Memorial Hall had been submitted for support to the Southern Wiltshire Area Board.

Cllr Quarmby then gave a brief report on the meeting held with the Chair and Vice-Chair of governors and Headteacher of Downton Primary School at which several options for revised plans had been considered. He said:

- the school was now under pressure to agree the plans by September prior to Wiltshire Council's requirement to determine the Charles Church application. Although their preference was for The Bunny watercourse to be culverted to use the full area for playground/games area, they were progressing their third preference that did not involve culverting;
- no plans were tabled for the lowering of the roof which had led Cllr Sutcliffe to ask that the school gives serious consideration to providing revised plans;
- the Clerk would continue to be proactive in ensuring that the revised plans complied with the agreements made at the meeting held on 3rd July with Wiltshire Council.

Several councillors expressed their concerns that the positive outcome from the 3rd July meeting was not being implemented by either the school or Wiltshire Council.

15/120: Representatives' Reports:

Passenger Transport Workshop: Cllr Yeates gave a report on a recent meeting at which the requirement for a 60 percent cut in the passenger transport budget of £4.653 million had been explained. He encouraged members to complete the consultation which would be online shortly with the aim of implementing the outcomes in September 2016. He also said that the X3 was a viable bus service which did not receive any support from Wiltshire Council.

15/121: Correspondence

- 1 Wiltshire Council – A letter from Tim Woolford advising of the forthcoming consultation on the public convenience service and asking parish and town councils to consider whether they wish to take on the management of the public conveniences in their parish.
- 2 Southern Wiltshire Area Board – An email from Mrs Karen Linaker attaching the minutes of the recent Community Opportunities Board (Campus Project).
- 3 Sport England – A letter from Ms Vicky Aston confirming that 'As the playing field can continue to accommodate this layout, the proposed development is considered to meet exception 3 of our Playing Fields Policy which states: 'The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site.' Sport England therefore withdraws its objection.'
- 4 Mrs S Morris – An email expressing concern about the proposed extension to the double yellow lines at The Bull which may have safety implications if more parking spaces are not found in the centre of the village.
- 5 Mr Ben Bennett – An email regarding the proposed expansion of the Primary School.
- 6 Wiltshire Highways – An email from Mr Graham Axtell advising on various highway issues in Downton and what was being done about them.

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- 7 Downton Baptist Church – An email from Mrs Katy Ulyatt responding to several questions sent by the Clerk in relation to the use of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground.
- 8 Downton Primary School – An exchange of several emails between the Clerk, Messrs Fishlock, Emerson, Sutton, Freer and Mrs Small regarding the response from Sport England.
- 9 Downton Primary School – Four emails to the Clerk and to Cllr Quarmby asking for changes to be made to the minutes of the New Housing Development Committee and asking for an explanation as to the reason why the co-opted of Mrs Small was not on the 20th July Agenda.
- 10 Wiltshire Council – Three emails from Ms Emma Dragge regarding various activities available to young people over the school summer holidays.
- 11 Remap Disability Charity – An email from Mr Cliff Leach asking for a meeting in order both to explain in more detail our activities and services and to understand how and where they can make a greater contribution to the lives of people with disabilities in Wiltshire.
- 12 Mrs J Philp and Mrs B Carter – Four copy emails to Mr Warren Simmonds and Mrs Mary Noyce regarding the approval of the planning application for 16 Downlands Close and the need for a frosted window overlooking their properties as well as the use of the R2 funds.
- 13 Mrs J Saxby – An email stating that In the light of the rhetoric from the school in their Newsletter to the village and Petition letter and the needless scaremongering and inaccuracies portrayed, could the Parish Council please explain why a member of the school still has a place on the committee in which they are able to lobby, influence and put pressure on the Parish Council as they have done since the outset of the school's planning application and asking that the Parish Council rescinds this privilege.
- 14 Wiltshire Council, Legal Services – An email from Ms Beryl Maddison seeking information on the proposed area of land to be leased.
- 15 Wessex Water – An email from Mr Matt Wheeldon enclosing a copy of Wessex Water's Infiltration Reduction Plan for Downton.
- 16 South Wiltshire Paths Group – An email from Abby Sullivan asking for a notice be added to noticeboards providing information on the Group.
- 17 Southern Wiltshire Area Board – The agenda and paper for the meeting on Thursday 30th July at 7 pm at Coombe Bissett Village Hall.

15/122: Date of next meeting: Monday 17th August 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall, The Borough, Downton.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.04 pm.