

# DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



## **Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at the Memorial Hall, The Borough, Downton at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Brentor (Chair) and Cllrs Cordell, Mace, Pearce, Ricketts and Saxby. Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

No members of the public were present.

### **Public Question Time:**

**01.17 To resolve to elect a Chair of the Committee for 2017/18:** Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Brentor be elected as Chair of the Committee for the 2017/18 civic year.

**02.17 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Brentor advised that Cllrs Sutcliffe and Watts were absent due to holiday and work commitments.

**03.17 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017:** Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 be approved and signed.

**04.17 To consider and make any recommendations to the Parish Council for any revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Committee:** Following a brief discussion on suggested changes regarding the Memorial Hall, the Moot Lane Pavilion and Recreation Ground and an additional clause relating to the Parish Council's responsibility for the Public Toilets, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the revised Terms of Reference be recommended for approval by the Parish Council.

### **05.17 Declarations of Interest:**

- a. To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers:**

Cllr Brentor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 10.17 as a member of the Downton Green Group.

- b. To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.**

The Clerk advised that no dispensation requests had been received.

**06.17 To resolve to note the matters arising and actions taken from the Minutes:** : Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair that the progress of the following matters raised at the last meeting be noted:

**Amen 40.16 Parking report & Actions:** The Committee was awaiting information about the cost of dropped kerb in the High Street by the fish and chip shop. The Clerk and Roger Yeates will be meeting with Julie Wharton to look at the site and also to discuss the change to the sequencing of the traffic lights on Lode Hill to enable cyclists to have time to climb up the hill before cars descend into Downton.

**Amen 32.16 Awards For All lottery grant:** An application has been completed but held in abeyance while decisions are made about the purchase of play equipment with the monies from Britford Parish Council.

**Amen 42.16 Bridge project:**

- Cllr Brentor had met with Alasdair Jones-Perrott (Longford Estate manager) and he was quite relaxed about the whole project. The Estate would be willing to help with some hardcore/scalplings plus machinery for the paths. He did not commit to a length of lease but said that, when the Council applied for a grant, if the granting agency specifies a length of lease, then he would be happy to comply.
- Cllr Brentor had met with Julian Haines (WC bridge engineer), Nick Cowan (WC footpath officer) and Will Dickson to again walk the site to consider the revised route (route Bb). The concrete 'bridge' at the end of the South Lane would have to be replaced.
- Cllr Brentor also met with Will Dickson again, at his request. Although he remains willing to be fully cooperative and has always been very accommodating, he did want to point out the impact of having a division in the middle of the field upon which he farms his cattle.
- Cllr Brentor had also met with Ian Campbell who was willing to adapt the document which he had previously completed.
- Cllr Peter Quarmby had contacted the Environment Agency which came back with information about access routes that they used when creating the flood defences.
- The Clerk had investigated possible funding sources. Those granting bodies which had previously been in a position to offer funds were significantly reduced and, where they were available, the sums seem in the order of £10k or less.

**Amen 49.16 Toilet doors:** The problem has not persisted, and in discussion with Martin Easterbrook, the Clerk has agreed that no further action will be taken at this time.

**Amen 51.16 Risk Assessment insurance information regarding the Memorial Hall extension:** The Clerk was currently in email correspondence with Came & Co regarding a quote for insuring the Hall and work once construction starts in August 2017.

**Amen 52.16 Moot Lane noticeboard:** Cllr Brentor met with housing officer who had confirmed that Wiltshire Council Housing had no problem with the installation of the noticeboard on their land but raised a query about other permissions which the Clerk was investigating.

**Amen 39.16 Trees in Joanna Close and Marie Avenue:** The yew tree in Joanne Close has been removed and the Clerk has met with the resident of Elizabeth Close and emailed photographs of the chestnut trees to Shane Verrion again to ask him to action their pruning.

**Amen 30.16 Trees and undergrowth along the boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground:** The Clerk has agreed the date of 31st July with from Active Tree Care to carry out the further work to remove the lower branches of the Leylandii trees on Moot Recreation Ground boundary.

**Amen 50.16: Play Inspection Reports:** Bob Moody will be removing the graffiti from the Moot Lane Recreation Ground on Thursday 25th May. He'll also be painting the telephone box in Charlton shortly.

#### **07.17 With regard to the newly approved Circular Path around Downton to:**

##### **a. Resolve to agree on the plans for its launch:**

It was RESOLVED and all agreed that the details of the launch should be left to the Footpath Working Group and Ms Susan Barnhurst-Davies. The Clerk was asked to suggest to the Working Group that perhaps the Hon. Peter Pleydell-Bouverie be considered as the person to open the Path as he did with the Heritage Trail. Cllrs Brentor and Saxby agreed to attend the launch on behalf to the Parish Council. Cllrs Saxby and Pearce said that they would be happy to be part of the Footpath Working Group.

##### **b. Resolve to agree an amount from the footpath budget which can be submitted as recommended expenditure to the Parish Council for the purpose of funding the launch:**

Following a brief discussion and the suggestions of purchasing a banner and advertisement materials for the launch, Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the sum of £200 be recommended to the Parish Council as allocated expenditure on the launch.

#### **08.17 To receive a short verbal report from the Clerk and to resolve to agree on any actions to be taken with regard to identified repairs to be made to existing paths in South Lane and on footpath 66 from the Moot to Millennium Green:**

Following a brief explanation from the Chair, Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Saxby seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following actions be taken:

1. The Clerk should obtain 2 quotes from the recommended contractors provided by the Environment Agency for the repairs to footpath 66 in preparation for making an application for a Path Improvement Grant.
2. The Clerk should contact Mr Bob Moody to carry out repairs and re-erection of the footpath sign in South Lane for the Dennetts Drove footpath.

**09.17 To consider recent reports of dog fouling in the Memorial Gardens and to resolve to agree on any actions to be taken:** Following a brief discussion and information that a number of residents were using the Memorial Gardens to exercise

their dogs, Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Saxby seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should obtain a quote for several clear Parish Council signs stating that dogs were not permitted in the Memorial Gardens and they should be affixed to all the gates to the Memorial Gardens.

**10.17 To receive a short verbal report from Cllr Brentor with regard to a review of the actions requested by the Downton Green Group in 2016 and to resolve to agree on any further actions to be taken:** Cllr Brentor reported that the following actions/achievements had taken place over the last year. Cllr Saxby proposed, Cllr Mace seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Committee continue to support the activities of the Group.

<b>Activity identified in initial report</b>	<b>Achievements or progress</b>	<b>Ongoing actions</b>
Encouraging renewable energy projects in the village where viable	Solar panels on the Memorial Hall were considered but viewed as financially unviable Energy from water has been investigated and not currently achievable	Renewable energy projects will continue to be challenged and supported where possible
Holding quarterly 'Reuse, Repair, Recycle'	Liaison with Southampton Repair Café has demonstrated that this may not be viable for Downton.	However, twice yearly events are held each having a 'repair, reuse, recycle activity included. Annual Seedy Sunday events continue and a planned Bee Hotel building event will be held in September
Organising a twice yearly village litter pick	DGG has supported the Wiltshire Spring Clean and the Clean for the Queen	A litter pick in Autumn 2017 is planned to be hosted by DGG
Using the Parish Council website to facilitate car sharing opportunities	Action considered but agreed that the PC website not really suitable for this purpose	DGG will encourage use of Downton Deals Facebook pages to facilitate care sharing
Working with the Allotment Association to maximise the use of the allotments	Since the new committee took over the DALGA has been more vibrant. Reps from the committee attended Seedy Sunday and plan to continue to use DGG activities to promote use of the allotments	DALGA will be considered for invitation to all future events
Encouraging environmentally friendly planting on Parish Council owned land	No progress as yet	Still to be considered
Coordinating garden clearing/maintenance to support Southern Area Board's wellbeing proposals,	Two reps from DGG are included in the Intergenerational project in association with The Southern Area Board and Trafalgar school and support for intergenerational gardening is still to be considered	Maintain attendance and promote gardening scheme

**11.17 To receive a short verbal report from Cllr Brentor with regard to recent requests from residents to provide suitable play equipment for older children in the western part of Downton and to resolve to agree on any further actions to be taken:** Cllr Brentor gave a brief report and explained that discussions were at an early stage and quotes would be sought from Mant Leisure and others when clear ideas had been put forward. These would come to the Committee in due course for consideration. Cllr Mace suggested that the goalposts in the play areas should be painted rather than replaced.

**12.17 To consider a proposal from the Downton Society to make improvements to the shelter located close to the southern entrance to the Memorial Gardens and to resolve to make any recommendations to the Parish Council:** Cllr Brentor reported that the Downton Society had been in touch with her to ask if they could submit ideas on how to improve the look of the shelter. Cllr Cordell proposed, Cllr Saxby seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Committee would welcome practical ideas which did not involve ongoing costly maintenance.

**13.17 To receive a short verbal report from Cllr Watts of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground Working Group on any progress in setting up the Working Group's first meeting:** In Cllr Watts's absence, Cllr Brentor advised that this was the third time this item had been added to the Agenda without any report being forthcoming. Following a brief discussion, Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was RESOLVED that this project be put on hold until the Parish Council gets back to a full complement of councillors.

**14.17 Next meeting:** Cllr Brentor confirmed that date of the next meeting as Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.