

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 20th November 2017 at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton at 7.30 pm.

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

No member of the public was present.

Public Question Time: No questions or statements were received.

41.17 To receive apologies for absence: The Clerk advised that an apology had been received from Cllr Sutcliffe due to illness.

42.17 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th September 2017: Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th September 2017 be approved and they were signed by the Chair.

43.17 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:**
No declarations of interest were received.

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.

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

21.17 Awards for All Application: *This action by the Clerk was still pending due to workload.*

32.17 3 Year Strategy: The revised actions from the Amenities Committee were approved by the Parish Council. The Committee was awaiting of review of the remaining whole Council actions.

33.17 Dog Waste Bin in Charlton: This has been installed and the Parish Council's contractor, Idverde, has been advised that it requires weekly emptying.

34.17 Basketball net relocation: The Clerk had ordered and was awaiting delivery of the new base into which the existing pole would be attached in the agreed location.

36.17 Emergency Action Plan: The Clerk will be meeting shortly with Cllr Pearce and she will also be touring the parish with Cllr Richard Clewer and the Wiltshire Council Drainage Engineer on 1st December to highlight areas of concern.

37.17 Moles: The moles in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground were treated over a week at the end of October but have been seen again. However, there is nothing more to do this year with only one more grass cutting.

38.17 Lowering of Kerb at Fish & Chip Shop: Information received from Wiltshire Council's Highway Engineer about the potential cost of white lining the pavement by the Fish & Chip shop indicates that this is not viable as the cost outweighs the potential gain especially as it is known that there are services close to the surface of the pavement.

45.17 To consider a request from Mrs Jenny Saxby to prune or remove the overgrown silver birch tree located adjacent to her property in the Memorial Gardens and to resolve to make a recommendation to the Parish Council:

Following a discussion and the consensus from councillors to resist the removal of any more trees in the Memorial Gardens, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should seek quotes to prune significantly the two silver birch trees which can be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

46.17 To consider and make a recommendation to the Parish Council following a request for action to be taken regarding the overgrown and overhanging willow trees beside the Noticeboard on Tannery Bridge in the light of there being no known owner for the land: Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council that it should not take on the maintenance of the willow trees for the following reasons:

- a. The potential for it to set a precedent that the Parish Council should take on the maintenance of any trees and hedges which it does not own or for which it has no responsibility; and
- b. The financial impact of the requirement to carry out work to the trees on a two-yearly basis on the Parish Council's budget and precept which will impact on the taxpayers of the parish.
- c. There was not considered to be a health and safety risk to residents of housing in the vicinity.

47.17 To receive a report from Cllr Gentle on the progress of the World War I tree planting project, the views of the Working Group and to resolve to make any recommendations to the Parish Council: In Cllr Gentle's absence, Cllr Pearce gave a detailed report on the discussions held with members of the Royal British Legion. She said it had been agreed that the Parish Council should apply to receive 45 trees which were free from the Woodland Trust, with 44 commemorating the fallen soldiers and one tree to commemorate those who fought and returned home. There were ongoing discussions with organisations in the village and the trees may be planted in the Moot, the Millennium Green, Downton Cemetery and in the new

roads on the Charles Church development but would require planting in nursery beds on arrival and before planting out in the autumn/winter of 2018.

Cllr Pearce also advised that there were no current recommendations for the Parish Council but the Working Group was considering whether to produce a map of the locations of the trees and several commemorative plaques for the groups of trees planted rather than a plaque for each tree. It was also considered that a pamphlet giving a short history of each of the fallen might be produced to be held in the library.

48.17 To receive a report from Cllr Watts on the progress of the Moot Recreation Ground Working Group and to resolve to make any

recommendations to the Parish Council: Cllr Watts gave a brief report on a recent meeting which was attended by three people and said he was awaiting the ideas of how the recreation ground could be used from all members of the Working Group before making recommendations to the Parish Council.

49.17 To receive a short verbal update from Cllr Brentor on the progress of the Bridge project and the work to be carried out to restore a section of Footpath

66 from the Moot to Millennium Green: Cllr Brentor gave a detailed report on progress made by the Working Group and said that the Clerk had obtained funding from the Area Board to carry out the required restoration works to Footpath 66 between the Moot and Millennium Green. She said that once this had been carried out it would improve access to the potential bridge location and then further work would be required to some willow trees which could be carried out by volunteers. She also said that she would be arranging another meeting of the Working Group in the New Year to consider progress and next steps.

50.17 To receive a short verbal update from Cllr Brentor on the Circular Path

project: Cllr Brentor advised that the launch of the Circular Path had been delayed until the Spring and it was to be opened by a resident who had a long history of using and maintaining the footpaths. Jeremy Parsons and Susan Barnhurst-Davies had done some work to put up the signs and would be carrying out more works over the winter to improve access over a stile and repairs to a kissing gate. She said she had also been in discussion with the Alzheimer's Society who had advised her that the route was not suitable for people with dementia as it was too long and would require the installation of several benches so it had been agreed that it would not be promoted as a path for people with dementia.

51.17 Next meeting: Cllr Brentor confirmed that date of the next meeting as Monday 22nd January 2018 at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.