

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 22nd July 2019 in the Bonvalot Room of the Downton Memorial Centre, The Borough, Downton at 7.30 pm.

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

Three members of the public were present.

Public Question Time:

A member of the public spoke on behalf a resident who was not able to be present regarding their letter to the Council expressing concern about the dying willow tree on Tannery Bridge.

Cllr Brentor thanked the resident for her statement and advised that it would be taken into account when councillors considered the item on the agenda.

17.19 To receive apologies for absence: The Clerk advised that no apologies had been received.

18.19 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th May 2019: Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th May 2019 be approved and they were signed by the Chair.

19.19 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.

20.19 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:

28.18 Bus Shelter repairs: Redlynch and Landford agreed to apply for quotes to two bus shelter companies and the Clerk was awaiting two quotes coordinated to be all done on the same day/2 days.

38.18 a. Church Hatch and Gravel Close: *This work will be approved at the September meeting of the Community Area Transport Group as it was not on the agenda for the July Area Board meeting.*

b. Borough Cross: *The Clerk is awaiting a revised quote for the lighting but has chased Wiltshire Council for the further information needed before the quote can be provided.*

48.18 Emergency Plan: *The Clerk should be completed for adoption in September.*

58.18 Defibrillator in Charlton: *The electricity supply in the telephone box needs to be checked and the Clerk has asked the Council's electrical contractor to carry this out.*

09.19 Basketball net and other work in Moot Lane Recreation Ground: *The Clerk is still awaiting a visit by Ava Recreation to quote for numerous works in the Moot Lane Recreation Ground.*

10.19 Flagpole: *The Memorial Hall Committee has considered this matter but does not consider it to be a priority at the moment.*

12.19 Facebook page: *The Downton Parish Council Facebook page was launched in June.*

14.19 Parish Emergency Scheme: *The Clerk has submitted requests for salt and hi-vis jackets and a sign which will be collected from the High Post depot on 1st November and put in the Council's store at Newcourt Farm.*

21.19 To consider a request from several parishioners for the Parish Council to pay for the removal of the dying Willow Tree and maintain the other trees on Tannery Bridge: Following a detailed discussion and understanding that the tree had the potential to be a risk to pedestrians and drivers if limbs were to fall off, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Committee should make a recommendation to the Parish Council that it should fund a portion of the cost of the removal of the dying Willow Tree and to cut back the other trees from overhanging the footpath at Tannery Bridge.

22.19 To consider a request from two parishioners to repair the fence on the southern boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground and to relocate the picnic benches: Following a report from Cllr Brentor and a discussion, she proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was RESOLVED that the fence be repaired by the Parish Council's contractor and the picnic benches should not be moved as their only location would be closer to the Doctors Surgery which councillors considered would impact and disturb the running of the surgery in an unacceptable way.

23.19 To consider the issues raised and work to be carried out during the site visit to the Memorial Gardens and to resolve to agree on the recommendations to be made to the Parish Council: Following a site visit and discussion, Cllr Cornell proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following actions be recommended:

1. A graduated area built from railways sleepers be installed around the area of the new drains to reduce the risk of the drains being a hazard for users of the play area.
2. The basket swing be reinstated behind the toddler swings and in front of the Memorial Centre side wall at a distance prescribed by the Council's playground inspectors.

3. The metal seat moved to a location which will enable parents/carers to have adequate site of children using the basket swing and other nearby equipment.
4. The outside 'Fire Assembly Point' sign on the shelter to be replaced by a smaller sign to reduce its negative impact on the newly refurbished shelter and conservation area.

24.19 To consider new items to be included in the revision of the Amenities section of the Parish Council's 3 Year Strategy: Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council that a Finance and Strategy Standing Committee to enable councillors and members of the public to consider properly in open session the future plans of the Parish Council and how these will be funded. It was also agreed that councillors would consider items and ideas for the strategy and submit them to the September meeting of the Amenities Committee.

25.19 To consider the costs of the refurbishment and replacement of the public bins located in The Borough and Moot Lane in partnership with Wiltshire Council and to resolve to agree on a recommendation to be made to the Parish Council: Following a discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the cost of the installations be recommended to the Parish Council for approval and that Cllr Brentor and the Clerk carry out an audit of the bins to establish which existing bins can be retained and which replaced.

26.19 To consider whether to convert the accessible public toilet to a 'Stoma Friendly' toilet: Following an explanation from the Clerk and guidance from Colostomy UK, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the conversion be recommended to the Parish Council for approval.

27.19 To consider a request from the Council's public toilet contractor to install a gate across the front of the entrance to the toilets to deter access when the toilets are closed: Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should obtain quotes for a gate from Wylve Valley Forge which made the existing railings and Time2Display for a sign to erect on the gate stating the toilets were closed.

28.19 To receive a brief report from the Clerk on the potential costs for the re-painting of Iron Bridge and to make recommendations on how it should proceed to the Parish Council: Following a report from the Clerk, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council that the Clerk should investigate the further costs of re-painting the Iron Bridge and the costs of employing temporary traffic lights which Cllr Watts said he was qualified to assist with their installation and management.

29.19 To resolve to approve that Cllr Brentor and the Clerk should commence the recruitment process to employ a Litter Picker following the recent resignation of the current post-holder: Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that this be approved.

30.19 Working Group Reports:

Bridge Project: Cllr Brentor gave a detailed report on the progress of the project and the feasibility report provided by CTS Bridges which had included an assessment of how a bridge could be brought in and installed at the western end of Avon Meadow and examples of bridges and their costs which could be installed. She said there was a significant amount of work still to be done including the funding to be raised and a planning application to process but there was the potential for the cost of bridge to be reduced significantly to less than £200k.

Moot Recreation Ground Working Group: Cllr Watts reported that the group had discuss the need for signs at the skatepark which could not be vandalised and proposed that they be affixed to the skatepark concrete but which would not impede its use. He also proposed that the existing posts be removed. He also reported that the group had discussed which pieces of adult exercise equipment it proposed to purchase and install with the £10,000 Awards for All grant and these would be installed in November.

World War I Tree Planting Project: Cllr Brentor advised that packs of 30 native trees were still available to order from the Woodland Trust. She proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that 2 packs be ordered and that a site for them to be over-wintered be considered prior to their delivery.

31.19 Next meeting: Cllr Brentor confirmed the date of the next meeting as Monday 23rd September 2019 at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.