

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the virtual¹ meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 26th May 2020 at 7.30 pm.

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

No members of the public were present.

Public Question Time:

No questions or statements were received.

- 01.20 Election of a Chair for 2020/21:** Cllr Cornell proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Brentor be elected as Chair of the Committee for 2020/21.
- 02.20 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Mace as ex officio Vice-Chair for the month.
- 03.20 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020:** Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020 be approved and they were signed by the Chair.
- 04.20 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 Hall declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in item 07.20 and said he would not be voting on it as he was the Joint Secretary of the Downton Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association.
- 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.
- 05.20 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:

¹ In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

28.18 Bus Shelter repairs: Completed.

b. Borough Cross: The Clerk has chased the Council's contractor about this again and asked another electrician to look at the site and at the telephone box in Charlton, although for a defibrillator to be installed it requires a BT approved electrician.

23.19 Memorial Gardens restoration: This is delayed and won't be able to be completed until after August 2020.

25.19 Public Bins: These will be installed once lockdown is lifted.

26.19 To consider whether to convert the accessible public toilet to a 'Stoma Friendly' toilet: This is still outstanding and is now a priority.

17.19 Installation of a gate across the front of the entrance to the toilets to deter access when the toilets are closed: The Gate was installed in December and the sign is ready for installation once lockdown is lifted.

37.19: Signage: The signs are ready for installation once lockdown is lifted.

42.19: Play Inspection Memorial Gardens: Ava Recreation has yet to carry out inspection of cross bars to swings and hence the existing swings and chains can't be replaced.

- 06.20 To consider a request from the Downton Allotment Gardeners Association Committee to install two new taps by plots 36 and 18 on the Downton allotments site:** Cllr Pearce proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the request be supported.
- 07.20 To consider and resolve to agree on whether the Downton in Bloom planters should be ordered for this year or delayed:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that any decision be deferred to the next meeting.
- 08.20 To consider and resolve to agree on the compilation of a list of street names signs which need replacing to enable the Wiltshire Highways Engineer to provide a cost prior to a submission being made to the Community Area Transport Group for a contribution towards their fabrication and installation:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that any decision be deferred to the next meeting to enable residents to advise of any street signs which they consider need replacing. Residents were to be consulted via the Downton social media pages.
- 09.20 To resolve to agree on the location of the WWII Memorial Bench ahead of VJ Day on 15th August 2020:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Pearce proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the bench should be installed, subject to permission being given by Longford Estates, on the corner at the rear of the Green opposite the Memorial Hall.
- 10.20 To consider a risk assessment for play areas and play equipment and the purchase of any equipment ie hand sanitisers for installation in the play areas once the restrictions are lifted by HM Government:** Following a brief report from the Clerk that insufficient information and guidance was currently available to proceed to draft assessments and purchase

equipment, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair that this be deferred to the June meeting of the Parish Council, subject to more information being available by then.

- 11.20 To resolve to agree on the purchase of enhanced PPE to enable to the Council's litter pickers to return to work:** Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council that enhanced PPE be purchased for the litter pickers in accordance with guidance received from HM Government and the Health & Safety Executive. The Clerk advised that she would also be liaising with the clerks of neighbouring councils who also were working to open their play areas and support their litter pickers.
- 12.20 To resolve to recommend that the Parish Council should submit a planning application for the bridge over the Avon project once drawings, topographical and ecology reports are received:** Following a discussion, Cllr Cornell proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED, with 1 abstention from Cllr Hall, that a recommendation be made to the Parish Council to submit a planning application once drawings, topographical and ecology reports were received.
- 13.20 To consider a request from several residents to write to the owner of the hedge which is blocking the footpath from Iron Bridge to the watermeadows and currently making it impassable:** Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the resident to request that the hedge be cut and to give them a deadline of the end of June, after which the Council will take the matter up with the Rights of Way Officer.
- 14.20 To consider a request from Cllr Hall to investigate the cost of adding the maintenance of the piece of ground on the corner of Marie Avenue and Elizabeth Close to the Parish Council Grasscutting contract:** Following a detailed discussion, Cllr Hall proposed, Cllr Watts seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Hall would investigate the ownership of the land prior to any decision being taken and that any recommendation on this item be deferred to the next meeting or until more information was available.
- 15.20 Next meeting:** Cllr Brentor confirmed the date of the next meeting as Monday 27th July 2020 at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 8.57 pm.