

# DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Brentor (Chair) and Cllrs Cornell, Hall, Jones, Mace, Randall, Roberts and Watts.

**In attendance:** Mrs Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk

**Also present:** Six members of the public.

Cllr Watts made a brief statement before the start of the meeting which he asked to be minuted. He apologised to councillors that he may have appeared to have ignored them when they addressed questions to him at recent meetings. He said he had had a problem with his hearing which had now been rectified so any ignoring by him of councillors' questions had been unintentional.

### **72.21 Public Question Time**

A member of the public expressed significant concern about the Council's response submitted to Wiltshire Council on the planning application for 23 Lode Hill which he advised was a significant and important Grade II listed building and for which the Conservation Officer had recommended refusal. He asked that the Council set up a dedicated Planning Committee.

### **73.21 Apologies**

Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that an apology received from Cllr Jalland due to a health matter be accepted.

### **74.21 Minutes**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **75.21 Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests**

- 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 Mace declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in tree works application PL/2021/05651 and did not vote.

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

The Clerk confirmed that no dispensation requests had been received.

#### **76.21 Business Raised During Public Question Time**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to note the matter raised by a members of the public and the Chair advised that the Downton Society's request to set up a Planning Committee would be considered by the Council at the meeting to be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

#### **77.21 Planning and Tree Works Applications**

**PL/2021/05651 Gardeners Cottage, Long Close, Downton Yew Tree - Remove to ground level:** Downton Parish Council resolved, with two abstentions from Cllrs Jones and Mace, to object to the removal of the tree and asks that a tree preservation order be put on it. It is a prominent tree within the street scene and Conservation Area and it is the Council's view that whilst it is possible to repair or replace the old wall, which has been in disrepair for some time, it is not possible to replace the tree.

#### **41.21 Topiary Cuckoo Sculpture**

Following consideration of a statement from the Chair of the Downton Society and a report from the Clerk, Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to give permission in principle to the installation of a Topiary Cuckoo Sculpture on the Borough Greens for a period of 2 years. This approval was subject to an appropriate agreement and risk assessment being put in place to enable the required conditions of ownership, insurance, stability, safety and ongoing maintenance being met and to permission being given by Longford Estates as the owner of the Borough Greens.

#### **42.21 Internal Audit**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to note the report from Fair Account on the Annual Internal Audit. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond providing confirmation that the recommendations contained in the report will be acted upon by the Council.

#### **43.21 Annual Governance Statement**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 3 for the year ended 31st March 2021 for submission to the Parish Council's External Auditors following completion of the Internal Audit.

#### **44.21 Accounting Statements**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements contained in the Annual Return and Statement of Variances within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 3 for the year ended 31st March 2021 for submission to the Parish Council's External Auditors following completion of the Internal Audit.

#### **45.21 Exercise of Public Rights**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 3 for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Cllr Hall proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for her work on the Council's Annual Accounts for 2020/21.

**46.21 Housing Needs Assessment**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the submission of a request to Wiltshire Council to carry out a Housing Needs Assessment for Downton parish following a recommendation from the Neighbourhood Plan Review Working Group.

**47.21 Independent Person**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to appoint Mr Lawrence Burr as an independent person to attend a meeting between the Council and Persimmon Homes South Coast.

**48.21 Date of next meeting**

Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to note the date of the next meeting as Monday 12th July 2021 at 7.30 pm to be held in the Bonvalot Room at the Downton Memorial Centre.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

*Members of the Council considered the foregoing in the matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities, (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, and Human Rights.*