

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Donington with Boscobel Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at the Methodist Church Hall, Albrighton at 7pm

In attendance: Cllrs David Williams, Lee Chatburn, Christine Jones, Robert Parry, Virginia Sankey, David Beechey, Phil Ogle, Dawn Harper, Suzy Francis, Shropshire Cllr Nigel Lumby, the Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey) and two members of the public

31.24 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

32.24 Apologies for absence and reasons:

There were no apologies for absence.

33.24 Declarations of Interest: a) Pecuniary b) Personal

None were declared

34.24 Public Session:

Shropshire Councillor Nigel Lumby thanked Parish Councillors who had participated in the Boundary Review Working Party, ensuring an continued representation from the Parishes when the new council is formed next May. The ward composition will be 6 from West Albrighton, 5 from East Albrighton, and 4 from Donington and Boscobel. It was noted that West Albrighton will include the Woodlands estate that is currently in Donington Parish. The proposal will be going in front of Shropshire Council for approval on 18th July, it will then require Royal Assent.

The Chairman, Cllr David Williams, said that there were a lot of questions to be answered and that concerns remained, for example, the new Boningdale Development and the impact on the numerical balance of ward composition and representation that the whole exercise was meant to address. He suggested that a cross-council working party could look at the implementation and questions about it.

35.24 Minutes:

The Chairman noted the sad news that former Parish Councillor Hugh Kirton had passed away a few days prior to the meeting. He paid tribute to the work done by Mr Kirton for the Parish Council and for his leadership.

It was resolved to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th June 2024

36.24 Matters Arising

a) Proposal for works to the Nature Reserve

A presentation was given by representative of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust explaining the proposal for wetland scrapes in the Nature Reserve. It was explained that this is one of several projects in the county, and that the proposals were looking the whole river catchment. It was stressed that nothing proposed would stop the flow of water, however, anything that is done to reduce flooding will be a positive. It was also noted that houses had been built on the floodplain in the 1960s.

The proposed works will create multiple channels and a wetland system that will create a refuge for water voles against mink. Mink are invasive and it is believed that they are present in this catchment. The proposals will have a positive impact on wildlife, including birds and insects.

Weir reduction would solve the problem but this is a complicated feat of engineering, so this alternative scheme will help alleviate the flow.

There was some discussion on the presentation and the written paper from Shropshire Council's Parks and Countryside Manager presenting the proposals. It was noted that whilst it would not alleviate all problems, even a negligible effect would be a positive. It was also noted that the Wildlife Trust had approximately £2K to spend on the project, and that if the Parish Council covered the whole £10,250 cost the Wildlife Trust would have money freed up to spend on works further upstream. This work would still be within the Parish.

It was resolved to supports the works proposed by the Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Council

It was resolved to fund the works at the full cost of £10,250

b) Standing Orders

It was resolved to approve the Standing Orders

c) Swimming Club Grant

It was resolved to confirm the Swimming Club grant of £2,000 as agreed at the meeting of 18th June

d) Nature Reserve Legacy Project:

There was discussion on the proposals for the Nature Reserve Legacy Project as presented by the Nature Reserve Management Committee in a written paper circulated prior to the meeting. It represents five years' worth of projects with an overall cost of £26,342. The projects include:

- Plants – approximately £500
- Interpretation board – approximately £2,342
- Upgrading existing and new paths - £12,200
- New edges to all path - £7,300
- Replacement bridges – approximately £4,000

Cllr Lee Chatburn expressed the view that monies should be committed before the winter or the projects will not happen. It was noted that with the impending amalgamation of Councils, both sets of reserves will no longer exist and that this was an opportunity to invest in the Nature Reserve with public money kept for this purpose.

Cllr David Williams welcomed the initiative to create easy access for everybody. Cllr Robert Parry expressed concern about digging up top soil in the meadow.

Cllr Robert Parry left the meeting

It was resolved to fund the Nature Reserve Legacy Project to the cost of £26,342

36.24 New Business

a) St Mary's Church Centre grant request

St Mary's Church Centre has provided a grant form and associated paperwork costing a plan to upgrade their kitchen facilities. The project aims to install a semi-commercial fitted kitchen for the use of the community and volunteer groups including the Men's Breakfast, St Mary's Tearoom and Cosy Café.

Councillors discussed the merit of the project to the community, and noted that the Church Centre supports a lot of groups. Cllr Lee Chatburn said that the costs for an commercial kitchen seemed good.

It was resolved to offer £10,000 towards the project

37.24 Correspondence: For Action

The Lord-Lieutenant's office has requested that an invite to its carol service be sent to the Nature Reserve volunteers, it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should forward this information to the Chairman of the Nature Reserve Management Committee.

38.24 Correspondence: For Information: there was none at this time

39.24 Planning.

- a) **Applications:** 24/02149/FUL: Extension of Front Elevation, 28 Woodland Close
No comment to file
- a) **Permission Granted:** none at this time
- b) **Permission Refusals:** none at this time
- c) **Any other planning matters:** there were no planning notifications sent after the publication of the agenda

40.24 Finance.

- i) It was resolved to approve the following payments –

Clerk	Clerk's salary (July)	£670.60	LGA 1972 s 112 (2) LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC	Tax	£23.60	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk	Travel Expenses (July)	£13.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Shropshire Council	Bridge	£25,309.54	Public Health Act 1875 section 164
Unity Bank	Bank charges	£18	LGA 1972 s.111
Hugo Fox	Website	£11.99	LGA 1972 s.111

- ii) The following payment made following a decision made at the meeting of 18th June was noted: Swimming Club Grant - £2000
- iii) The following income received was noted: Interest – £430.30 to the Public Sector Deposit Fund
- iv) **Bank Reconciliation** – it was resolved to receive and approve the bank reconciliation until the end of June 2024
- v) **Spend to Date** – it was resolved to receive and approve the spend to date to the end of June 2024

The Chairman (Cllr Williams) said that disposal of assets would need consideration before the Council amalgamates, and that he anticipated writing off the old printer, shredder, laptop and filing cabinets. The Silent Soldier could be re-located to the Nature Reserve or the War Memorial. Cllr Phil Ogle suggested that the map of Donington might be relocated to the Care Home. Cllr David Williams said that the badge of office could be framed and put in St Cuthbert's Church.

41.24 Reports:

- **Received:**

- St Cuthbert's Bridge: Cllr L Chatburn said that with the completion of the project, this would not need to be reported on in future meetings
- St Cuthbert's Well: Cllr R Parry circulated a written paper recording the history of St Cuthbert's Well prior to the meeting
- Albrighton Fayre Committee :Cllr R.Parry provided a written report that noted that credit should be given to the small group of committee members who had made the Albrighton Fayre possible
- RAF Cosford Cadets: Cllr R.Parry provided a written report that highlighted the presentation evening held on 5th July, as part of the evening the Chairman was given a Long Service Award from HQAC

Report to follow:

- War Memorial Working Party: Cllr L Chatburn reported that he had raised about the lack of progress

Nothing to report:

- Nature Reserve Report (D.Dale)
- Footpaths (Cllr V Sankey)

42.24 Training

Training information is available on: www.alcshropshire.co.uk/training

43.24 Date of the Next Meeting 17.9.24

Items for the agenda to be notified to the clerk by **7.09.24**