

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Donington with Boscobel Parish Council Tuesday 15th September at 7pm Held on Zoom Video - Meeting ID: 863 2579 4371

Present: Cllrs Christine Jones, Hugh Kirton, David Williams, David Dale, Chris Wilson, Robert Parry, David Beechey. In attendance: R.Eades (English Heritage) V.N.Voysey (Parish Clerk)

20.39 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman, Cllr Christine Jones, was experiencing problems connecting to the meeting.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Cllr David Williams be elected Chairman for the meeting until Christine Jones was able to join it.

Cllr David Williams welcomed Rebecca Eades from English Heritage, and thanked her for joining the meeting

20.40 Apologies for absence and reasons:

Apologies were received from

Malcolm White – Health reasons, no internet connection
Don Hickman – Family commitment

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to accept the above apologies

20.41 Declarations of Interest: a) Pecuniary b) Personal

There were none at this time

20.42 Public Session:

Rebecca Eades from English Heritage updated member of the Parish Council about the project at Boscobel House

20.43 Boscobel House

During the lockdown period, work did continue in the garden and the house although most staff were furloughed. The gardener has been watering the plants and trees, and has created a vegetable patch. Hand-sanitising stations have been put on site and walk throughs have been created. Contractors have refurbished the toilets and tea rooms, and have completed the pig sty areas.

An application has been put in for play areas. English Heritage intends to do a Zoom consultation session to show the designs and to answer questions. It would like to liaise with the Parish Council on dates and times and seek its help to advertise it.

It was suggested that 28th September to 2nd October would be a good time, and that the Parish Clerk would liaise with English Heritage about it.

Cllr Robert Parry raised the suggestion of sponsoring something to do with the project. It was suggested that a bench with a plaque on it to go in the Willow Tunnel area would be a good idea. Cllr Parry suggested an oak bench with acorn motif.

Christine Jones joined the meeting

English Heritage has been running a booking system in hourly slots, incorporating a one-way system. Six sites are open. It is aimed to open Boscobel House by the end of February, beginning of March. Space has been prepared for volunteers, with the hope of recruiting in the New Year.

A return to visit the Parish Council with updates in three months' time was suggested.

20.44 Minutes:

Cllr Christine Jones resumed the chair

Cllr Robert Parry that the draft minutes in 20.31 g) read 'he also has Royal Oak saplings that could be planted' but more accurately should read 'there are four Royal Oak saplings planted in 2002 for the Golden Jubilee that are planted in the car park'.

Subject to this amendment, it was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2020 as a true record

20.45 Matters Arising

a) Memorial Bench

The Parish Clerk said that she had spoken with the design company and that a reworked draft design was being work on.

b) Noticeboards

Cllr Christine Jones (Chair) thanked Cllr David Dale for the splendid job he has done of refurbishing the noticeboard on Station Road.

Cllr Chris Wilson joined the meeting

Cllr David Dale said that the Rectory Road noticeboard was best left alone and a new top be put on it when required. This is because it is green oak and is designed to be left.

c) Churchyard Maintenance

A representative from St Cuthbert's Church had written to Cllr Christine Jones and the letter was read out by the Parish Clerk. It requested that the Parish Council consider a one-off grant of £3000 to assist towards the cost of mowing the churchyard.

The Parish Clerk said she had spoken to the church representative and he had said that the

Church would normally make £3000 to £4000 in weddings, christening and funeral fees but that this had not happened this year. It was still obliged to pay the Parish Share to the Diocese and this was £13,000. The cemetery is mowed by a contractor but a lot of the work is done by the congregation on a voluntary basis, this includes gardening and the cost of the plants.

Cllr David Dale questioned if this sum would be additional to the amount included in the budget. Cllr David Williams said that it should be considered as a one-off donation to assist in what has been a difficult year.

Cllr Chris Wilson questioned why the Diocese was still charging fees and questioned why the Parish Council is relieving the church, although he appreciated that the churchyard is a community asset. He also pointed out that a lot of people in the Parish are not religious.

Cllr Robert Parry said that is a community asset and that anyone can be buried in the churchyard. It is a community responsibility. The Parish Share goes on salaries and pensions which will continue needing payment.

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to offer a one-off £3,000 grant to the diocese, with six voting for and one voting against.

d) Community Fund

The Parish Clerk updated the Council regarding the Community Fund. CCLA has sent a Contract Note this month with interest of 85p.

e) Highways

The Parish Clerk reported that to date she had not heard anything in regards to the issues that had been raised with Shropshire Council Highways about Long Lane and Rectory Road. Cllr Robert Parry mentioned that he had raised an issue about road signs, but the Parish Clerk said that unfortunately there was no update on this issue as yet, either.

f) Casual Vacancy

Cllr David Dale raised the matter of the casual vacancy and his concern that the Parish Council was getting low on numbers with two members unable to attend due to health issues and a third position vacant.

The Parish Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the public had not requested an election. There was some discussion on co-option. Cllr Robert Parry pointed out that with elections due six months there might not be many people interested, however Cllr Christine Jones said that both she and Cllr David Dale had joined the Parish Council with six months to go before elections.

It was requested that the Parish Clerk draft an advert for the vacancy. Cllr Chris Wilson agreed to pass this around RAF Cosford.

g) Environmental Concerns

David Williams said that he had not had an update from Shropshire Council regarding a planning enforcement issue.

It was requested that the Parish Clerk contact Shropshire Council on the Parish Council's behalf.

20.46 New Business

a) Committee Representation

Cllr Christine Jones had requested this item and suggested that the status quo be kept for now.

Cllr David Williams requested that he step down from the Village Fayre and instead offered to deputise for Cllr Don Hickman if this was required.

The following list was agreed:

SALC	David Beechey
Schools	vacant
Nature Reserve	Don Hickman
Footpaths	Malcolm White, Hugh Kirton
Crime Prevention	David Williams, David Beechey
Albrighton Fayre	Robert Parry
Air Corps	Robert Parry, David Williams
Royal British Legion	David Williams, Hugh Kirton
Civic Society	David Beechey
Emergency Planning	Malcolm White, David Williams
Relief in Need	David Beechey, Robert Parry
AFLAG	Don Hickman, David Williams, Christine Jones
Swimming Pool	David Dale

b) Complaints policy

It was agreed to defer this item until October's meeting

c) Place Plan Review

Cllr David Beechey said that there was an issue with 36 acres being taken out of the green belt adjacent to RAF Cosford in order to provide space for the MAAC (Midlands Air Ambulance) HQ. He expressed his concern about the need for 36 acres to accommodate it and said that it could not be justified by Shropshire Council. He said that he could not see the reason to take it out of green belt and that it left it open to other development purposes.

Cllr Chris Wilson said that if helicopters are taking off it will limit what is built around it.

Cllr David Williams said that the actual application was for 20 acres. There was no need for the amount of 36 acres as on Shropshire Council plans. 20 acres includes the flight path.

Cllr Beechey said that there had never been a problem with development at Cosford. He welcomed the MAAC move to Cosford but saw no reason for removing this amount of green belt.

Cllr Hugh Kirton said that the Air Ambulance gives a very important service and that surely we can find a sensible agreement?

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, to file a response in support of the Midlands Air

Ambulance plans but to question the removal of 36 rather than 20 acres from the Green Belt.

d) Painting of Donington Pool

Cllr Christine Jones reported that the Parish Council had received a donation of an oil painting of Donington Pool from a former resident and that the Parish Clerk had collected it.

It was suggested that the Parish Clerk write to the donors and thank them for their generosity.

e) Benches Repair

Cllr David Williams reported that the bench by the Railway Bridge on Rectory Road and the bench in Shackerley Lane are both in very poor condition and that the bench on Shackerley Lane is buried amongst trees.

Cllr Robert Parry suggested that the Shackerley Lane bench could be moved forwards and replaced. If it was in better condition and better placed it would get used. He also said that tidying-up the area would make it less likely to be used for fly-tipping.

It was agreed that Cllr Robert Parry come back to the next meeting with a feed-back report including possible costings.

20.47 Correspondence: For Action.

a) Long Lane sign

A member of the public has contacted the Parish Council via its website to comment that the sign at the end of Long Lane, Kilsall, obscures the view to the left when merging from Long Lane and turning right. The sign is about 3 meters wide.

Cllr Christine Jones advised the Parish Council that the Parish Clerk had reported this to Shropshire Council and that this was being dealt with by the Planning Department.

b) Albrighton Library

Albrighton Parish Council has requested a contribution of £5,125 towards the upkeep of the library during the period of 1/4/19 to 31/3/20 on a 28% share basis.

Cllr David Beechey said that it had been said that the Parish Council would support it. Cllr David Dale said the Parish Council should support services in the area.

Cllr Christine Jones and Cllr David Williams said that the Parish Council's contribution shouldn't go over the budgeted amount of £2100.

There was some discussion on the basis of the contribution. The percentage contribution in respect of the tax base had not been assessed year on year. There is no service level agreement in place between the two parish councils.

Cllr Robert Parry said on the same principle Albrighton Parish Council should paying 72% towards the Nature Reserve.

Cllr David Dale suggested a meeting with Albrighton Parish Council to discuss this matter and agree away forwards. However, Cllr Christine Jones said that this might not be possible in the current situation (pandemic restrictions).

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, that the Parish Council does not pay any more money to Albrighton Parish Council until there is a discussion between the Chairmen and the legal position ratified. [proposed by David Dale]

c) Albrighton Flyer

The request by Albrighton Parish Council that the Parish Council contribute £2,283 towards the flyer service during the period 1/4/19 to 31/3/20 was deferred in light of the decision made in 20.47 b)

d) Village Planters

The request by Albrighton Parish Council that the Parish Council contribute £152 towards village planters during the period 1/4/19 to 31/3/20 was deferred in light of the decision made in 20.47 b)

20.48 Correspondence: For Information.

a) A41 Albrighton Bypass

Cllr Ed Bird requested comments on the proposed road safety scheme for the A41 Albrighton Bypass by the 4th September. This was sent by email. This was noted.

b) Housing Draft Strategy

Shropshire Council is conducting a formal consultation process that is due to run until 16th September (sent via email). This was noted.

c) Shropshire Fire and Rescue

A draft integrated Risk Management Plan (IRM) 2021-2025 has been sent out and view have been sought in a consultation. This was noted.

d) Donington and Albrighton Nature Reserve Management Committee

A report on the work done by volunteers will be circulated by email. This was noted.

e) Road Closure

There will be a temporary 24 hour road closure of County Lane, Albrighton, on 25th September 2020 promoted by Western Power Distribution. This was noted.

f) Road Closure

There will be a temporary road closure on Bowling Green Lane, Albrighton on 11th October 2020 between 8:00 and 11:00 promoted by B.T

20.49 Planning.

a) Applications:

20/03288/FUL

Proposal: Formation of playground within wooded scrubland area with new ground finishes and minor tree removals.

Boscobel House, Boscobel Lane, Shackerley, Bishops Wood

Support

b) Permission Granted:

20/02362/FUL Donington CP

RAF Cosford, Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering, Leeming Road, Cosford, Albrighton, WV7 3EX

c) Permission Refusals: None at this time

d) Any other planning matters:

A consultation session has been planned with Air Ambulance for the 1st weekend of October. Members are waiting for confirmation.

20.50 Finance.

20.50.1 To approve the following payments

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to approve the following payments:

Shropshire ALC	Affiliation Fees	£560.17		LGA 1972 s.111
Balfours	Car Park Rent	£250		RTRA 1984 s.57
Shropshire ALC	Training fees (chairmanship)	£75		LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk	Clerk's salary and expenses (August)	£701.57		LGA 1972 s.112(2) LGA 1972 s.111 LGA
Clerk	Clerk's salary & expenses (September)	£497.37	£449.37 <i>£48 Home allowance July - September</i>	LGA 1972 s 112 (2) LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC	Tax	<i>Not due</i>		LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
Clerk office expenses	Postage to CCLA (special delivery)	£11.04		LGA 1972 s. 112 (2)

20.50.2

a) Bank Reconciliation

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation until the end of August 2020

b) Spend to Date

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to receive and approve the spend to date to the end of August 2020

20.51 Reports:

(a)SALC: Cllr David Beechey updated on news from SALC (Shropshire Association of Local Councils). The main issue has been Shropshire Council's Local Plan.

(b) RAF Cosford: Cllr. Chris Wilson reported that business continues but both the annual reception and the bonfire has been cancelled.

(c) Local Nature Reserve: a written report has been sent which will be circulated.

(d) AFLAG – Albrighton Flood Action Group: none at this time

(e) Clerk's Update: the Parish Clerk reported on the implications on LGA 1972 s.137 to the Parish Council's spending limits where there is no other power to make payments

(f) Village Hall Trust: Cllr Hugh Kirton reported that income is down this year. Only the main hall can be used and a lot of work has gone into trying to facilitate people under the current restrictions.

(g) Albrighton Fayre Committee: it was requested that the Parish Clerk thank the outgoing Chairman for all her work. Cllr David Williams said he would send contact details.

(h) Royal British Legion: Cllr David Williams said that Remembrance Day this year will be limited in scope. There will be no formal parade but there will be a short memorial service at the church.

20.52 Training

Training information is available on

www.alcshropshire.co.uk/training

20.53 Date of the Next Meeting: 20.10.20

Items for the agenda to be notified to the clerk by **05.10.20**