

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Donington and Boscobel Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at the Methodist Church Hall, Albrighton at 7pm

In attendance: Cllrs David Beechey, Lee Chatburn, Suzy Francis, Christine Jones, Robert Parry, Virginia Sankey, Phil Ogle; two members of the public, and the Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey)

2023.76 Welcome by the Chair

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2023.77 Apologies for absence and reasons:

The following apologies for absence were accepted:

Cllr Dawn Harper – work commitment
Cllr Adrian Robinson – work commitment

2023.78 Declarations of Interest: a) Pecuniary b) Personal

There were no declarations of interest at this time

2023.79 Public Session:

A resident addressed the Parish Council regarding flooding on his property on Woodland Close. He explained that he had sought the advice of the Environment Agency regarding shoring up the bank where he has riparian rights, but had not found them helpful as their concerns had focused on being environmentally friendly rather than the impact on his home. A willow hedge had been suggested but he had concerns about the maintenance aspect given his age. Cllr Lee Chatburn questioned if the Environment Agency could not be requested to look at the property and suggest other ways to shore up the bank.

There was a discussion about flooding that included mention of the impact on household insurance; decisions being made that properly consider the impact on residents living in Woodland Close; block drains exacerbating flooding issues; increased storm patterns and the potential impact on the area.

2023.80 Minutes:

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 2023 as a true record

2023.81 Matters Arising

a) St Cuthbert's Meadow Working Party

Cllr Lee Chatburn updated the Parish Council regarding the purchase of a replacement bridge. Details have been obtained about VAT numbers for a Purchase Order, and this will be sent next week to Shropshire Council.

Cllr Robert Parry updated the Parish Council on his attempts to get three quotes for the Nature Reserve signs.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to accept the quote for 7 information signs of 500mm by 400mm at £80 each, with the wording as agreed on the paper draft design

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, to accept the quote for 7 warning signs of 200mm by 225mm at £20 each, with wording to be agreed.

b) Asset Register

Councillors reviewed the Asset Register and noted the following

- i) Removals: Beehives
- ii) Inclusions:
 - Silent Soldier
 - Fencing and Gate at the Woodland Car park
 - Kissing Gate
 - Land with Land Registry numbers
- iii) Amendments: Nature Reserve benches condition to be changed to good

c) Councillor Surgeries

Consideration was given to setting up a marquee in the Garden Centre once a year. It was agreed that Cllr David Williams will speak to the management of the Garden Centre about this proposal.

2023.82 New Business

a) Nature Reserve Legal Agreement 1999

Councillors discussed the legal agreement regarding the Nature Reserve, and agreed that it needs to be brought up-to-date. Cllr Lee Chatburn that there were some inconsistencies, and that is Donington being spelt incorrectly in it. It needs to be clear that Shropshire Council has overall responsibility for it as per the original intent.

Cllr Robert Parry questioned if Donington Pool, the Willow Carr and the Woodland should be taken out of the agreement. Cllr Lee Chatburn expressed concern that this would raise questions about who holds responsibility and is liable for the associated costs.

It was agreed to request that Shropshire Council's Countryside Manager and Shropshire Council review the agreement with a view to updating it.

b) Freedom of the Parish

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to offer the Freedom of the Parish to retired Councillor Hugh Kirton. Cllr David Williams informed Councillors that he had looked into the process, and that there was no legal basis for it, and that a certificate could be presented to Mr Kirton. It was agreed to follow this suggestion, and to make suitable arrangements to present it.

c) Grant request – St Cuthbert’s Church

A grant request was received from St Cuthbert’s Church requesting financial assistance towards the cost of cutting the grass in the graveyard. It was agreed to contribute 50% of the costs.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to grant £1,632 towards St Cuthbert’s Churchyard upkeep.

2023.83 Correspondence: For Action

BT consultation on plans to remove phoneboxes: the telephone box on Newport Road has been put on the list for removal. The views of the Parish Council have been requested by Shropshire Council (*email 26th October*).

It was agreed by all present that the Parish Council is happy to let the telephone box go, it was noted that there is now a 24/7 garage in close proximity there is less need for it. It was also noted that as it is a modern telephone box it does not carry the same significance in retention as the red telephone box in the Parish Council’s ownership on Old Shackerley Lane.

2023.84 Correspondence: For Information

A resident has contacted the Council regarding the conditions on Long Lane: blocked drain, raised kerb not visible when the road is flooded, and water being pumped onto the road (*email: 28th October*).

Cllr David Williams noted that there have been two meetings on the Cosford based investigating drainage, and the advice has been given that there are no problems. AFLAG is aware of issues involving water eing pumped onto the road.

2023.85 Planning

a) Applications:

The following were noted with no comment to file:

23/04594/FUL (validated: 23/10/2023)

Cosford Water Treatment Works, Cosford, Albrighton, Shropshire

Proposal: Installation of 1 No. Dosing Kiosk

<http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S2UA8TTDKWV00>

23/04690/VAR (validated: 08/11/2023)

5, 7 8 Shackerley Lane, Cosford, Albrighton, Shropshire,

Proposal: Removal of Condition No.3 (agricultural occupancy) attached to planning permission 75/67/851 dated 17/05/1967

<http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S378Q0TDL2400>

b) **Permission Granted:** none at this time

c) **Application Withdrawn:** none at this time

- d) **Permission Refusals:** none at this time
- e) **Any other planning matters:** none at this time

2023.86 Finance

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

Shropshire Council	Funding support from DALNR 2023-2024	£2000	
Clerk	Clerk's salary (November)	£650.90	LGA 1972 s 112 (2) LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC	Tax	£6	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk	Travel Expenses (November)	£13.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Hugo Fox	Website (November)	£11.99	LGA 1972 s.111
R.Parry	Fuel expenses	£34.96	LGA 1972 s.111
Parish Magazine	to be collected from church centre	£15	LGA 1972 s.111

- **Grant payments made following a decision made at the meeting of October 17th 2023:**
It had been agreed to pay £250 towards the cost of Remembrance Day. Invoices are to be provided, the cost is anticipated to be £115.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to offer £50 to the Royal British Legion.

- **Income received**
The following was noted:
Dividend – £384.36 to the Public Sector Deposit Fund (October)
- **Bank Reconciliation** – it was proposed, seconded and resolved to receive and approve the bank reconciliation until the end of October 2023
- **Spend to Date** – it was proposed seconded, and resolved to receive and approve the spend to date to the end of October 2023
- **Draft budget** – consideration was given to the draft budget prepared by the Parish Clerk as a starting point for setting the budget for the financial year 2024-2025

It was agreed to pay rent for the Methodist Church Hall one year in advance and to retain it as the Parish Council's meeting venue.

- **Local Government Services Pay Award 2023** – it was proposed, seconded, and resolved agree the implementation of the agreed award for 2023

2023.87 Reports:

- (a) **SALC** (Cllr D. Beechey): nothing to note at this time
- (b) **RAF Cosford** (Sq. Ldr. C. Wilson): tickets for next year's Air Show have gone on sale. Shropshire Council has been approached regarding excess growth along the footpath running next to the A41.
- (c) **Nature Reserve Report:** there is a new Chairman in place
- (d) **Clerk's Report:** a letter of response has been sent to the Red House regarding the complaint made to the Parish Council
- (e) **Royal British Legion** (Cllr D. Williams): the Remembrance Day parade went well with an excellent turnout. It was the first turnout of the new Standard.
- (f) **Royal British Legion – 2023 Poppy Appeal & Remembrance Day** (Cllr D Williams): takings have been lower than normal, with more credit card takings
- (g) **Footpaths** (Cllr V Sankey): there was nothing to report at this time
- (h) **RAF Cosford Cadets** (Cllr R. Parry): there are now 95 in the Squadron. The cadets cleaned the War Memorial before Remembrance Day. Fundraising is underway for another flight simulator.
- (i) **War Memorial Working Party** (L Chatburn): a replacement is being sought for Jubb-Clews.
- (j) **Any other reports:** Cllr Robert Parry reported that Relief in Need is looking for a new Secretary/Treasurer.

2023.88 Training

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

2023.89 Date of the Next Meeting 19.12.23

Items for the agenda to be notified to the clerk by **9.12.23**