

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Donington with Boscobel Parish Council on Tuesday 20th April 2021 on Zoom - Meeting ID: 850 1300 1984

Present: David Beechey, David Dale, Hugh Kirton, Christine Jones, Philip Ogle, Robert Parry, David Williams. Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey)

20.138 Welcome by the Chair

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting

20.139 Apologies for absence and reasons:

Cllr Chris Wilson – work commitment (received in writing after meeting)

Cllr Donald Hickman – personal commitment

Cllr Malcolm White – no internet connection

SC Cllr Edward Bird (apologies received in writing after the meeting)

The above apologies were noted

20.140 Declarations of Interest: a) Pecuniary b) Personal

There were none at this time

20.141 Public Session:

Boscobel House

Rebecca Eade, representing English Heritage, gave an update on Boscobel House. The grounds re-opened on 12th April after the successful completion of its outdoors project including the planting of trees and picnic areas being placed in front of the refurbished tea room. The next stage will be the re-opening of the house and this is anticipated to be on May 17th according to Government guidelines. It will be done in a Covid secure way including changing the entrance point and including two meter spacing.

Hugh Kirton joined the meeting

The offer of an evening visit for Parish Councillors was made, details to be agreed upon at a later date. Parish Councillors present remarked upon the excellence of the publicity including a news article on Midlands Today. Rebecca Eade informed the Councillors that there had been articles in the national press, and also a news article on Good Morning Britain. Cllr David Dale offered his congratulations, saying that the team had done well to get everything done during the Covid pandemic.

Donington Nature Reserve Management Committee

Bob Watson, Vice Chairman of the Donington Nature Reserve Management Committee,

gave an update on the Nature Reserve. Progress has been made despite the difficulties faced during lockdown. Trees that were planted by the primary school have been maintained by watering parties, there is also a volunteer day coming up. Cllr Robert Parry has repaired the bridge but it might need a replacement in a few years' time. Heightening of the main fence and gate to the Woodland has been completed, and unwanted visitors to the bird hide have not returned to the site. A dangerous tree has been felled.

There is a proposal for better access for disabled visitors, where the aim would be for electric wheelchairs to be able to use a radar key to enter the gate. This needs to go through the committee. There is a long term need for silt to be removed from the dripping pool but it needs to be undertaken in autumn because of the frog season. Drainage by the pool is relevant for disabled access.

Regarding the Parish Council's Grant Policy and the claw-back clause within it, it was mentioned that rolling funds would be needed for the Nature Reserve as large expenses do come in. Cllr David Dale said that the claw back clause was more aimed at one-off grants, he suggested a joint discussion after the election outside of a Parish Council meeting to discuss future-proofing of the grant policy and the NRMC's constitution

The Chairman, Cllr Christine Jones, thanked both Rebecca Eade and Bob Watson for attending the meeting.

20.142 Minutes:

It was proposed, seconded, and agreed to accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th March 2021 as a true record

20.143 Matters Arising

- a) **Flooding** – the Chairman, Cllr Christine Jones, said that she had not yet heard of any confirmation of sign-off from the Ministry of Defence and SC for the work done on Newport Road. The Parish Council noted that the M.O.D and Shropshire Council had got together and sorted out the problem and that thanks should be given for this work.

Cllr David Williams joined the meeting

- b) **Donington Church Centre Car Park and Rights of Way** – there were no updates from the Church Centre Car Park and Rights of Way Working Party at this time
- c) **Memorial Bench** – the Parish Clerk advised Councillors that she had contacted the Doctor's Surgery about placing a memorial bench at the Surgery
- d) **St Mary's Nursery** – Cllr David Williams advised Councillors that at the present time there is no further information on the project to install outdoor flooring at St Mary's Nursery. Guidance had been offered on the grant application process.
- e) **Dog fouling** – there was some discussion on possible action that may be taken regarding placing signs. Newport Road was suggested as one suitable location. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should seek advice from Shropshire Council on

wording, and to look into the cost of 6 to 8 signs.

20.144 New Business

- a) **Staff Appraisal Policy** it was proposed, seconded, and agreed to approve the Staff Appraisal Policy
- b) **Lone Worker Policy** it was proposed, seconded, and agreed to approve the Lone Worker Policy
- c) **Communications Policy** it was proposed, seconded, and agreed to approve the Communications Policy
- d) **Meetings for the year 2021/2022:** it was agreed to meet on the following dates for the year of office 2021/2022:

18th May 2021

22nd June 2021

20th July 2021

21st September 2021

19th October 2021

23rd November 2021

21st December 2021

18th January 2022

21st February 2022

21st March 2022

18th April 2022

20.145 Correspondence: For Action

- a) Planning Enforcement at Shropshire Council has replied to the Parish Clerk regarding the narrowing of the road at Shackerley Lane. The Parish Clerk confirmed that a form relating to this query has been completed filed with Shropshire Council.
- b) Red House Trust has contacted the Parish Clerk to request written confirmation of Cllr Hugh Kirton as the Parish Council's appointee. The Red House Trust renews its appointed Trustees every three years. It was proposed, seconded and **agreed**, that Cllr Hugh Kirton be returned as the Parish Council's appointee.

20.146 Correspondence: For Information.

The following were noted:

- a) The Chariman of Albrighton Medical Practice Patients' Group has requested that all Parish Councillors receive a copy of her correspondence asking Albrighton Parish Council for details of the future of the Albrighton Flyer.

It was requested that the Parish Clerk thank the Chairman and advise her that this has been noted

- b) Road closure: there will be a road closure and diversion in the Shackerley Lane area between 26/04/2021 and 28/04/2021.

20.147 Planning.

a) Applications:

Reference: 21/01354/FU (validated: 16/03/2021)

Address: Nursery Garden Centre , Newport Road, Albrighton, WV7 3EE

Proposal: Erection of warehouse/storage building, 2No canopies and associated hardstanding and fencing

Support: the Parish Council would prefer it to blend in as much as possible with the surrounding environment.

Reference: 21/01576/CPE(validated: 29/03/2021)

Address: 2A Sandy Lane, Albrighton, WV7 3ES

Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of stationing of a mobile home on the site for residential use in breach of Condition 1 of permission 03/0503 for more than ten years continuously

This was noted

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

c) **Permission Refusals:** none at this time

d) **Any other planning matters:** none at this time

20.148. Finance.

20.148.1

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

Clerk	Clerk's salary & expenses (April)	£497.37 £449.37 (home allowance £48 January to March)	LGA 1972 s 112 (2) LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC	Tax	£0	LGA 1972 s.111
Ian Henery Solicitors	Legal Fees	£585	LGA 1972 s. 112

20.148.2

a) Bank Reconciliation

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to receive and approve the bank reconciliation

until the end of March 2021

b) Spend to Date

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to receive and approve the spend to date to the end of March 2021

20.149 Reports:

- (a) SALC** (Cllr D. Beechey): no updates at this time
- (b) RAF Cosford** (Cllr. C. Wilson): no updates at this time
- (c) Nature Reserve Report** : a written report was filed in advance of the meeting
- (d) Albrighton Village Halls Trust** (Cllr H. Kirton): grants have been received easing the financial challenges faced by the trust
- (e) AFLAG** – Albrighton Flood Action Group (Cllr D. Hickman): this was discussed in an earlier agenda item
- (f) Clerk's Report:** the annual audit is underway, the internal auditor has sent a checklist to the Parish Clerk

20.150 Training

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

20.151 Confidential Session

Exclusion of Public and Press: in accordance with Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters. It is therefore recommended, pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded.

20.152. Correspondence

An update was given on correspondence received by the appointed solicitor regarding land ownership and access to land

20.153 Staffing matters

An update was given on a staff appraisal conducted by Cllr David Williams and Cllr Christine Jones, and recommendations based upon the appraisal.

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to increase the Parish Clerk's payscale to point 20 on the NALC scale due to completion of the CiLCA examination, for excellent performance and after a review of the appropriateness of the payscale.

20.154 Date of the Next Meeting 18.05.21

Items for the agenda to be notified to the clerk by **8.05.21**