

Donhead St Andrew Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at St Andrew's Church, St Bartholomew's Street
Donhead St Andrew

Thursday 10th July 2025 @ 7:00pm

Present: Cllr Simon Barkham (Chairperson)
Cllr Clive Burrows
Cllr Jane Sullivan
Cllr Jeremy Hartley
Cllr Jennifer Luckyn-Malone
Cllr Patricia Maxwell-Arnot

In Attendance: Cllr Gerry Murray (Wiltshire Councillor)
Simon Pritchard: Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: Three

Questions or Statements from Residents:

No members of the Public had attended.

- Cllr Barkham noted that the Forester Pub has been closed for some time and is for sale. There is concern that if the sale is unsuccessful then an application for a change of use may be made and the pub lost forever. If the pub is not sold as an ongoing business residents are asking how it could be saved. Could it be purchased and run as a community pub, like the Black Dog in Chillmark or might a local philanthropist buy it and run it as a pub like the Talbot in Berwick St John. It was noted that the Community Ownership Fund is closed. The first step is to gauge the level of interest in both Donhead St Andrew and Donhead St Mary either through the Donhead Digest or fliers and to talk to those involved in the Black Dog and Talbot

Report from Wiltshire Councillor Gerry Murray:

Cllr Murray had issued a written report before the meeting:

- The last cabinet meeting received the financial reports from the last quarter of the 24/25 year, and these showed a large overspend on the budget. This will have a significant impact on this year's finances. Officers have undertaken to get to the bottom of the £6m overspend and report back within 3-months.
- The Government spending review will probably see more money spent in the north of the Country.
- Wiltshire Council is far off target of having a 5-year supply of housing land, meaning the National Guidelines will still have to be applied, giving the presumption in favour of development/ planning applications. This is when Neighbourhood Plans come into their own as they are still valid if less than 5-years old.
- The LHFIG Committee has had its funding restored to last year's level, but the projects in the pipeline have already matched this year's budget allowance.

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- Shaftesbury Recycling Centre: hasn't been demonstrated that introducing a booking system and charging Wiltshire Residents will actually save money, as no costing have been provided. A survey taken suggest that 20% of its users live in Wiltshire. An idea for a new centre on the Wiltshire side of the border has been floated.
- Cllr Barkham asked about Wiltshire Council's new policy on roadside signage. The Village fete has become aware that all their signs now require permission, none can be directional, they can only be put up within the parish boundary, no commercial advertising on them and they cannot be put up more than a month before the event. This adds an extra workload to the volunteers running the event and a possible loss of income. Cllr Murray reported that he was aware that the correct process in Tisbury wasn't followed and so Wiltshire Highways took down all the signs. It is also possible to be fined up to £5,000.

Wessex Fibre Broadband to Residential Homes:

Nick Martin's (Wessex Fibre Broadband Voluntary Coordinator) report had already been circulated. It will be posted onto the noticeboards and website. Nick had not been able to attend the meeting.

Agenda Item:	
19	<u>Apologies of absence:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Alistair Stoker – away • Cllr Shena Kozuba-Kozubska - unwell
20	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None
21	<u>Adoption of Previous Council Meeting Minutes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thursday 15th May 2025 - Annual Council Meeting It was proposed by Cllr Barkham to adopt the minutes of the 15th May 2025, seconded by Cllr Sullivan and resolved: 5-in favour, 1-abstention.
22	<u>CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER:</u> An application had been received from Mr Christopher Hart. The Parish Clerk informed the Council that this application had been subsequently withdrawn. <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><u>A. Interview of the Candidate:</u> N/A</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><u>B. Election of New Members:</u> N/A</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><u>C. Declaration of Acceptance of Office:</u> N/A</p>
23	<u>Planning Applications Submitted to Wiltshire Council:</u> The Parish Clerk confirmed that no applications had been received since the agenda was issued.

	The council discussed existing developments, Pile Oak Cottage, questioning why the temporary drive was still in use and noting that works that have been carried out to trees that have a protection order on them. Also, they have erected a new shed outside of the domestic curtilage. Wiltshire Council will be contacted to confirm the details of the permissions that are in place.
24	<u>Shaftesbury Household Recycling Centre:</u> This item had been covered in Cllr Murray's report and needed no further action.
25	PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE: A. <u>Approval Of Payments:</u> 1. S. Pritchard - WFHA & Exps Mar25 - June25 - £114.80 It was proposed by Cllr Luckyn-Malone to make the payment, seconded by Cllr Burrows and resolved unanimously. B. <u>Payments Made Since The Last Meeting:</u> This information had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was received. C. <u>Budget Vs Spend To Date:</u> This information had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was received. Cllr Barkham asked about the payments for the email service. This had been agreed at the March meeting. The expense has not been budgeted for this year so will show as an overspend.
26	<u>Parish Council Insurance:</u> The Parish Clerk had circulated the documents before the meeting. It was noted that a 3-year deal was being offered, the Parish Clerk recommend taking this up given the general increases nationally in insurance policy costs. It was proposed by Cllr Barkham to renew the insurance and to take the 3-year option at a cost of £302.12 per year, seconded by Cllr Sullivan and resolved unanimously.
27	<u>Verbal Reports:</u> To receive any verbal reports. a) <u>Chairperson's Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr Barkham reported that most of what he wanted to cover had been aired at the start of the meeting 1) the future of the Forester Pub 2) Shaftesbury recycling centre charges for Wiltshire Residents 3) Roadside signs for the Village fete. ○ It was noted that the Wiltshire Council Rights-of-way Officers still had possession of a gate that has been sold to the Parish Council. Further efforts need to be made to gain possession of the gate so that it can be installed. b) <u>Cemetery Update:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two tenders have been obtained for the summer strimming. One a verbal estimate to the Parish Clerk during a site visit, the second written details costing that were emailed to the

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	<p>Chair by the same company that also tendered last year. These costing were in line with what has been paid to last year's contractor. Members wondered if there were any further alternatives, the Chair encouraged Members to use their contact to gain quotes.</p> <p>c) Highways / Parish Steward – Cllr Burrows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wiltshire Council has carried out a lot of resurfacing work locally, however, there is still a lot more to do. ○ The gully emptying tanker has been in the Parish, a lot of good work done and some long-term issues addressed. ○ Parish Steward will be visiting in two weeks' time. He has been nominated for an award due to his 52-years' service. <p>d) Rights of Way – Cllr Maxwell-Arnot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DSTA:3 – Has been cut back, but not enough. ○ DSTA:1 – A lot of grazing land that isn't being used. Reported that it is to become a wildflower meadow. ○ DSTA:14 – the kissing gate at the start has been move back a bit. <p>e) Flood Warden – Cllr Hartley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nothing to report <p>f) Parish Clerk's Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-option of New Council Member: Will need to repeat the advertising of the vacancy again this winter. ○ New Chair for Donhead St Mary: Roger Brake has been elected as the new Chairperson, taking over from John Feltham ○ PC Laptop: the laptop is no longer holding its charge and have received notification that the spare parts are no longer available. Notion that St Andrew could buy a joint laptop with St Mary and split all costs including the Microsoft subscription.
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End of Formal Meeting 20:33

The part of the roadside wall at Donhead House that was removed by the electricity board has been reinstated, much to the persistence of the estate manager in pursuing the electricity board. The council should send a note of thanks.

The fingerpost at Rowberry needs restoring. Possible that it is listed in some way.