

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Donington with Boscobel Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th July 2023 at the Methodist Church Hall, Albrighton at 7pm

In attendance: Cllrs David Beechey, Lee Chatburn, Christine Jones, Robert Parry, Virginia Sankey, Phil Ogle, David Williams, the Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey), and one member of the public

2023.33 Welcome by the Chair

The Chairman, David Williams, welcomed everyone to the meeting

2023.34 Apologies for absence and reasons:

The Council is received and accepted the following apologies for absence:

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

2023.35 Declarations of Interest: a) Pecuniary b) Personal

There were none at this time

2023.36 Public Session:

PC Amanda Cooper had sent in her apologies for the meeting as she had been sent to another job.

A Melville Club trustee gave an update on the mini-bus service. The mini-bus has taken over from the former Albrighton Flyer, and is seeking a financial contribution from the Parish Council. It will cost about £17,000 to run each year. With existing grant commitments, including a Community Transport Grant of £9000 from Shropshire Council and £5,000 from Albrighton Parish Council, it is anticipated that there will be shortfall of £3 to £4 that will be sought from neighbouring Parish Councils. A grant of £1,000 would help significantly. Running costs will be less than the Albrighton Flyer as the driver will be working on a contractual basis and will not be an employee. The accounts will be kept separate from the Melville Club. It will operate as a Community Transport Scheme and will be open to non-members of the Melville Club for a £6 annual membership fee in addition to fair costs. It will be run by Melville Club Trustees. It was noted that the number of Melville Club members from Donington with Boscobel Parish fluctuates, but is normally about 20 members

It was questioned why Councils should subsidise the Melville Club when it has significant funds and interest rates are at 5%. The answer was that the Melville Club is a club for over 55s and it can't subsidise a service for non-members, and that some non-member users may be under 55.

Cllr David Williams, Chairman, said that as budgets and precepts are put under consideration from November, it would be helpful to know what kind of figure would be requested of the Parish Council for the next financial year, a six monthly review would be helpful.

2023.37 Minutes:

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th June 2023 as a true record

2023.38 Matters Arising

a) St Cuthbert's Meadow

An update was given on disability access to St Cuthbert's Meadow and the purchase of a disability gate. Cllr Lee Chatburn explained the options for a plain railed or part-meshed galvanised gates with delivery costs. Shropshire Council's Countryside Manager will arrange to get it fitted. The options were discussed by the Parish Council, including factors relating accessibility, appearance and durability.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, to purchase a plain railed galvanised gate from Centre Wire for the cost of £551 and £155 delivery cost, excluding VAT.

b) St Cuthbert's Bridge

An update was given regarding replacement of the bridge. Cllr Lee Chatburn said that he had spoken to a Shropshire Council representative regarding its quote for the works. This had previously been discussed by the Parish Council as one of the three quotes included in the report from Shropshire Council's countryside manager (*minute 22.164 b*). It was considered possible to get the work done this year. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should request a copy of the original quote.

Cllr Robert Parry expressed his concern at the need for an urgent repair, Cllr Lee Chatburn agreed with this and said that it will soon be school holidays and there is no other option. Cllr Parry had agreed to lend a joist, the Parish Council would therefore need to buy fixings and pay for labour, the estimated overall cost being approximately £190.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, to accept up to £250 costs to pay for the works.

It was agreed that Cllr Robert Parry should oversee the works.

2023.39 New Business

a) Councillor retirement

In accordance with Local Government Act 1972 UK Public General Acts 1972 c. 70 Part V Acceptance, resignation and vacation Section 85:

"If a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority."

The last apology received and accepted from Cllr Hugh Kirton was on January 17th 2023, and he does not realistically expect to be returning to the council. Regretfully therefore it is time to allow him to retire, with our thanks and praise for all his hard work over many years. We wish Hugh a long and happy retirement and we look forward to seeing him out and about again in the near future.

b) St Cuthbert's Meadow Working Party

Cllrs Lee Chatburn and Robert Parry met with Shropshire Council's Countryside Manager, and matters under discussion included the sluice gates in the weir, and upcoming works.

Members received and considered a report from the St Cuthbert's Meadow Working Party including the following items:

- The Environment Agency has confirmed that the sluice gates are not to be touched.
- It has been requested that a handrail is put on the platform by the dipping pool as a safety feature.
- It was agreed that looking at the soak away would best be undertaken when there is some serious flooding.
- Several small jobs that will require a digger will be undertaken at the same time.
- Both the Countryside Manager and the Parish Clerk have contacted Highways about the need for double yellow lines on Rectory Road as a safety feature.
- Temporary health and safety signs regarding pool use have been put in place. Quotes for permanent signs will be discussed by the working party.
- Ownership signs for the meadow including signs to indicate where access is restricted have been suggested and will be discussed further.

The Working Party intends to ask a member of the Nature Reserve Management Committee to join it as part of a collaborative effort. It will come back to the Parish Council with a plan and a working timetable.

The Chairman, Cllr David Williams, thanked the Working Party for all its work.

c) St Cuthbert's Car Park

Members discussed the Car Park including its maintenance, and anti-social behaviour issues. It was noted that PC Mandy Cooper had advised that she had spoken to a resident about drug dealing in the car park, details had been taken and it will be one of the police priorities for the area. The Chairman, Cllr David Williams, said that this was a watching brief, and that pressure should continue to be applied to the police.

Keeping the car park area well maintained was considered to be a deterrent for anti-social behaviour, particularly fly-tipping. Cllr Robert Parry noted that it had been cut every two to three weeks and that the hard standing in the car park has now settled down.

Concerns were expressed about the letting of the field, and that on the 11th July a motorbike had been driven around it for several hours, causing noise nuisance to neighbours. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should raise this matter with Balfours, the letting agent.

d) Nature Reserve Grant request

Consideration was given to the request from the Nature Reserve Management Committee to receive its grant as included in the Parish Council's budget

Cllr Robert Parry said that consideration of the grant should be deferred until a five year plan had been discussed. Cllr Christine Jones noted that this plan had not been formally adopted and was at this time Cllr Parry's suggestion of a five year plan.

Cllr Christine Jones proposed that the precepted amount of £3,000 was awarded in a grant to the Nature Reserve Management Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Lee Chatburn.

Cllr Robert Parry proposed an amendment that the awarding of a grant is deferred until his five year plan is discussed by the Nature Reserve Management Committee. This proposal was not seconded and so did not stand.

Cllr Robert Parry left the meeting

It was resolved to award £3,000 grant to the Nature Reserve Management Committee.

e) Melville Club

Consideration was given to the request from the Melville Club to support the running costs of the club's mini bus. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk requests that a grant form is completed, as the Parish Council is minded to approve a six month grant to the end of March 2024. The Melville Club Trustee is to be thanked for taking the time to come and explain the project.

f) Proposal for an Amentity Area and Wildflower lawn

Members considered Cllr Robert Parry's proposal for initiating a joint project to install an amentity area and wildflower lawn on the north side of the churchyard and car park.

It was agreed to defer this item until the Chairman (Cllr David Williams) has spoken with Rev. Mary Thomas about the pros and cons of the project.

2023.40 Correspondence: For Action

There was no correspondence requiring action received between the publication of the agenda and the meeting of the 18th July

2023.41 Correspondence: For Information

There was no correspondence requiring noting received between the publication of the agenda and the meeting of 18th July

2023.42 Planning

a) Applications:

23/02960/DIS: Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, Airbase Avenue, Neachley, TF11 8UR
Discharge of Condition 8 (Biodiversity Management Plan) attached to planning consent
20/04521/FUL

Noted

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

2023.43 Finance

1 Payments

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

Clerk	Clerk's salary & expenses (June)	£650.90	LGA 1972 s 112 (2) LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC	Tax	£0	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk	Travel Expenses (July)	£13.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£18	LGA 1972 s.112

2 To formally approve a grant to the Albrighton St Mary Beer and Food Festival

The Albrighton St Mary Beer and Food Festival requested £420 towards the costs of putting on the festival in April. This money will be spent on equipment, and not alcohol. This was agreed in principle in minute 2023.8, a transposition error has recorded the sum requested as £402.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, to formally approve the grant of £420 to the Albrighton St Mary Beer and Food Festival.

3 Payments made following a decision made at the meeting of June 20th 2023:

The following were noted:

RAF Cadets - £220
Swimming Pool Club - £800
Albrighton Insurance - £280 to reimburse Robert Parry

4. Income received

The following was noted:

Dividend – £364.57 to the Public Sector Deposit Fund

5.

It as proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to approve the following:

- a) **Bank Reconciliation** –until the end of June 2023
- b) **Spend to Date** –to the end of June 2023

2023.44.Reports:

- (a) SALC** (Cllr D. Beechey): none at this time
- (b) RAF Cosford** : 85th Anniversary photographs had been taken on the day of this meeting
- (c) Nature Reserve Report** (E.Byrne): a written report had been filed by the Chairman in advance of the meeting
- (d) Clerk's Report:** none not otherwise covered in the meeting
- (e) Royal British Legion** (Cllr D. Williams): none at this time
- (f) Footpaths** (Cllr V Sankey): the kissing gate at Boscobel continues to cause issues, including ownership and it leading through the garden at Boscobel House
- (g) RAF Cosford Cadets:** it was noted that the Cadets did well at the fayre.
- (h) Albrighton Fayre** (Cllr R.Parry): none at this time
- (i) War Memorial Working Party** (L Chatburn): a statutory notice has been received regarding listing building status. A draft programme has been drawn up, the memorial will be in place for Remembrance Sunday, with works beginning in late November and being completed by the end of March:
- (j) Any other reports – Chairmans meeting:** Cllrs David Williams and Lee Chatburn had met up with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Albrighton Parish Council, where they had discussed improving joint project working. There is a potential that there will be a future meeting with the Civic Society. Members received and considered a report from the St Cuthbert's Meadow Working Party. Members received and considered a report from the St Cuthbert's Meadow Working Party.

2023.45 Training

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

2023.46 Date of the Next Meeting 19.9.23

Items for the agenda to be notified to the clerk by **11.09.23**