



## Donhead St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held in The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton  
on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024** at 7:15pm

**Present:** Cllr. John Feltham (Council Chairman)  
Cllr. Roger Brake Cllr. Thomas Rossiter  
Cllr. Lin Walker Cllr. Eric Adams  
Cllr. Ros Rogers Cllr. John Wright

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Richard Budden (Wiltshire Councillor)  
Mr Simon Pritchard (The Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public in Attendance:** Zero

**Public Comments:** None

### **Report from Cllr Budden, Wiltshire Council:**

Cllr Budden had provided a written report that he referred to - This will be published on the website.

- The Cabinet meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> dealt with:
  - Fleet Strategy 2023 to 2030, the replacing of the council's vehicles.
  - Home Upgrade Grant Scheme 2 (HUG2), homeowner grants for improving insulation.
  - Setting of the Council Tax Base for 2024/25
  - Provision of Education Learner with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs
- Since the Area Board meeting in November that focused on Highways, have been pushing senior management as to what is going to be done about the appalling state of the highways in the Donheads.
- River Nadder, water quality: There is a meeting planned for the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> January between Tisbury Parish Council and Wessex Water, in the Victoria Hall, Tisbury, to which members of other local Parish Councils will be welcome.
- **Q:** Is Wiltshire Council being inundated with compensation claims for damage to cars that have been hitting potholes? **A:** don't know, will ask the question and get back.
- Change of use of Barn at Littledown: Has requested that this application be called into committee as both Donhead St Mary and Sedgehill & Semley Parish Councils have objected. Shaftesbury Town Council supports. Planning Officer cannot see a reason to refuse – the council indicated their continued dissatisfaction – will go back to have another chat with the Planning Officer, but likely to go through.
- Dennis Lane: have received a few complaints about HGV's using this road. It would be for the Parish Council to request restrictions to Wiltshire Council (it quickly became apparent that members of the parish council were completely split on this matter with strong feeling on both sides. Some would like to see restriction put in place, others pointed out that it just moves the problem to another road and that no roads locally are suitable for HGV's).

Donhead St Mary Parish Council: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Parish Clerk: Simon Pritchard

Email: [clerk@donheadstmaryparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@donheadstmaryparishcouncil.org)

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Item no:

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**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

**A. To Receive any Apologies for Absence:**

- Cllr. Annie Garnett – Unwell
- It was noted that councillors Fortescue & Dewey were also absence.

**B. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:**

**Cllr Walker proposed that the apologies submitted are accepted, seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved unanimously.**

59

**Declarations of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:**

None.

60

**Adoption of Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 had been presented for adoption.

**It was proposed by Cllr Wright to adopt the minutes, seconded by Cllr Adams and resolved unanimously.**

61

**Planning, Tree & Licensing Applications:**

Application No:	PL/2023/10548
Application Type:	Removal/variation of conditions
Proposal:	Variation of Condition 4 of 20/11566/FUL to allow mobile home to remain in situ until 19th March 2027.
Site Address:	Greneaker, Gutch Common, Shaftesbury, SP7 9BG

**The Council resolved: No Objection.**

Application No:	PL/2023/10703
Application Type:	Householder planning permission
Proposal:	Single storey extension.
Site Address:	Coombe Hill, Middle Coombe, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, SP7 9LX

**The Council resolved: No Objection.**

Application No:	PL/2023/11056
Application Type:	Householder planning permission
Proposal:	Proposed new swimming pool, associated outbuildings and store located on existing garden terrace.
Site Address:	North Down Farmhouse, Jenkins Corner, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, SP7 9DD

**The Council resolved: No Objection.**

62	<p><b><u>Mr Chips – Street Trading Consent:</u></b>  The Clerk had emailed Officers at Wiltshire Council a few times but with not reply. The deadline for a decision was 12 December. Disappointment was expressed with the non-responsiveness of the Wilshire Council Officers dealing with the matter.  Cllr Feltham reported that the last he was told is that the Fire Service was holding matters up as they had not responded to the consultation.  Cllr Budden suggested sending a further email and copying him in.</p>
63	<p><b><u>Contractors for Cemetery Maintenance:</u></b>  The Clerk reported that the current contract was just for a year and would run out in the spring. Everyone was very satisfied with the way the Cemetery was being maintained, but the council needs to be able to show that it is obtaining value for money and so the contract should be price checked by asking other companies to tender.  <b>It was agreed to place an add in the Blackmore Vale Magazine advertising the contract and inviting tenders.</b>  In the meantime, the current contractor will be approached to ask for a tender. A decision will need to be made at the March meeting.</p>
64	<p><b><u>Cutting of Leylandii Tree – St John’s Churchyard:</u></b>  The removal of this tree had been suggested at the last meeting. The Clerk had obtained two quotes. The council was split with some not wanting to cut the tree at all, some wanting to crown and others to remove the tree and re-plant with something much smaller.  It was suggested that the tree had been planted by the Girl Guides and that there was a plaque underneath it. The Clerk warned that in the decades to come the tree would become a problem due to the size that it will grow to.  <b>It was agreed to defer a decision until the March meeting.</b></p>
65	<p><b><u>Coronation Living Heritage: Coronation Orchard:</u></b>  Details of the fund had been circulated to members. The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by a few people including Chris Harwood, Tree Council Tree Warden, who were all having the same idea that the Community Orchard in Ludwell could be extended out to include more or all of the field that it is in and even the field above it. All the land is owned by Wiltshire Council so an approach has been made to see what Wiltshire Council would be willing to allow – a formal response is still awaited.  It could be that the Parish Council will be asked to play a role, particularly if the land needs leasing from Wiltshire Council to enable the tree planning.  It was noted that the easy part is the planting of the trees, the hard part is the ongoing maintenance over the next decade until the trees are full established. It is important that any group looking to plant could commit to looking after the trees in the long-term as well.</p> <p>20:33 - Cllr Budden left the meeting.</p>
66	<p><b><u>New Play Equipment for Play Parks:</u></b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>a) Youth Equipment for Memorial Hall Area:</b></p>

	<p>As a result of the last meeting, the Clerk had spent quite some time looking at multi-sports walls, but there is already a football/basketball hard play area. Cllr Rogers had found a wall that is for solo tennis practice.</p> <p>A few other ideas were floated, a climbing wall or cycle ramps. No decision was made on what the council would focus on.</p> <p><b>b) Coronation Drive Equipment Expansion:</b> The extension of this area cannot proceed until Wiltshire Council have decided if they will gift over the land to extend onto.</p>
67	<p><b><u>PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE:</u></b></p> <p><b>A. <u>Payments to be Approved:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clerk's Exps July to Dec (Inc WFH) - £174.90</li> <li>2. Councillor Training (hosted by S. Pritchard) @£15pp X3 - £45.00</li> </ol> <p><b>It was proposed to make the payments list by Cllr Adams, seconded by Cllr Brake and resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>B. <u>List of Payments Made:</u></b> The list had been circulated and was received.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Budget Vs Spend to Date:</u></b> To latest budget information had been circulated and was received.</p> <p><b>D. <u>National Pay Award 2023/24:</u></b> The £1 increase on the national pay scales for the 23/24 year was noted.</p> <p><b>E. <u>Parish Precept 2024/25:</u></b> The RFO tabled a draft budget with a recommendation for the precept to be set at £19,995.00 – putting a Band D property at £41.49 per year, an increase of £1.12p from last year.</p> <p><b>Cllr Brake proposed that the budget and precept recommendation of £19,995.00 was adopted, seconded by Cllr Wright resolved unanimously.</b></p>
68	<p><b><u>PLAYGROUNDS: Latest Inspections Reports &amp; Updates:</u></b></p> <p>The playground at Coronation Drive had brambles growing in it, a local contractor has now dug them out and strimmed back all-round the outside by at least a metre.</p> <p>There has been no further inspection report since the last meeting.</p>

**Members Portfolios – Verbal Reports:****a) Parish Council Chairman's Updates**

- Pilgrim Cottage near the Church in Donhead St Mary is in a dreadful state, has been abandoned for years, it's a listed building and Wiltshire Council Officers have visited in the past but still it remains derelict with the thatch roof rotting.

**b) Parish Clerk's Updates:**

- Progression of registering Cemetery with Land Registry – Still ongoing
- Progression with Middle Coombe Drainage – awaiting a response from the local highways manager.
- Speeding on A30: request for a speed monitor – awaiting an install date from Wiltshire Council
- Wessex Water presentation, Tisbury - Tuesday 23rd January 2024 – Cllr Brake offered to try and attend.
- Flooding at 1 & 2 Park Cottages, Watery Lane – The Clerk has advised them to build flood wall as there seem little more that can be done to get the water away under the bridge any quicker.

**c) New Remembrance Hall Committee Representative – Cllr Adams**

- There has been a lot of vandalism around the Hall, with signage being damaged or removed. The police have been informed. It is known who the kids are.

**d) Sports Club – Cllr Dewey****e) Memorial Fields Representative – The Chairman & Cllr Dewey**

- Trustees are meeting soon.

**f) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Garnett****g) S.I.D Coordinator – Cllr Dewey****h) Highway Matters / LHFIG - Cllr Walker**

- Still having no luck in getting missing signage replaced.

**i) Flood Warden - Cllr Walker**

- Groundwater levels are very high, with more rain due. Groundwater floods the houses internally, often coming up through the loo.

**j) Snow Warden – Cllr Rossiter**

**Meeting Closed at 21:15**