

Donhead St Mary Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton
on **Wednesday 6th March 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
Cllr. Phoebe Fortescue Cllr. Paul Dewey

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: Four

Public Comments:

- Three members of the public attended the meeting from the Sedgehill and Semley Parish wanting to voice their concern about planning application PL/2023/05387 - Land at Littledown, Shaftesbury, SP7 9HD. This application has been objected to by both Sedgehill & Semley Parish Council and Donhead St Mary Parish Council. Cllr Budden has called it into Wiltshire Council Southern Area Planning Committee, the committee meeting is next Thursday (14th of March) in Salisbury. The three members of the public gave short appraisal of the situation and their objections. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council's objection also remains.
- A member of the public made comment as to the new lighting at Ludwell School that they live next to. It is very bright and on until 11:30pm and then comes back on at 5:30am. Now must use blackout blinds in own home. Has complained to Wiltshire Council and the Headteacher. Noted that the school is in a darks sky reserves and have informed the school of this. Can the Parish Council write to the school?
It was noted that the darks sky reserve has an advisor working for them and that the resident should try and make contact with them. The Parish Clerk agreed to send a note to the school.

Report from Cllr Budden, Wiltshire Council:

Cllr Budden had provided a written report that he referred to – This had been circulated in advance to all the Members.

- A question about the possibility of extending of community wood in Ludwell was asked about. The Clerk confirmed that this matter is still with the Officers at Wiltshire Council who are yet to determine if the land can be used for tree planting.
- Cllr Budden also referred to the information he had sent out about the A303 tunnel at Stonehenge. Possible road chaos around Wilton come the time of construction.

Donhead St Mary Parish Council: Wednesday 6th March 2024

Parish Clerk: Simon Pritchard

Email: clerk@donheadstmaryparishcouncil.org

Website: www.donheadstmaryparishcouncil.org

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Item no:

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

A. To Receive any Apologies for Absence:

- Cllr. Annie Garnett – Unwell

B. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:

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

71

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:

None.

72

Adoption of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 had been presented for adoption.

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

73

Planning, Tree & Licensing Applications:

Application No:	PL/2024/01588
Application Type:	Full planning permission
Proposal:	New agricultural building for servicing vineyard
Site Address:	NORTH DOWN FARMHOUSE, JENKINS CORNER, DONHEAD ST MARY, SHAFTESBURY, SP7 9DD

The Council resolved: No Objection with comments.

Compliance with the Dark Sky Reserve should be made a planning condition, lighting on the current building is excessive.

Application No:	PL/2024/01506
Application Type:	Full planning permission
Proposal:	Conversion of existing agricultural barn into design studio, plus car parking and associated works.
Site Address:	Church Hill Barn, Church Hill, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury

The Council resolved: No Objection with comments.

Compliance with the Dark Sky Reserve should be made a planning condition.

74

Book Exchange in Charlton - Consent to use Phone Box:

Cllr Rogers is part of an informal group of residents that would like to use the former phone box as a book exchange library. Similar use in other parishes was noted.

It was agreed to allow the former phone box to be used as a book exchange.

Costing will also be obtained for the installing of book shelving.

75	<p><u>Speeding Monitoring on A30:</u></p> <p>The results of the recent monitoring of traffic speed at the Rising Sun on the A30 had been circulated. The local Wiltshire Council highways technician has reported to the Parish Council that the average speed is not high enough to qualify the area for a police speed trap, but the Parish Council can consider other measures like paying to have 40mph painted on the road or putting up a SID.</p> <p>Cllr Budden had obtained the raw statistics from Highways and had analysed the number of speeding cars throughout the day. The statistics point at a peak during the morning and evening rush hour times. While the average speed may not qualify the area, the sheer number of cars speeding daily and the incredible high speeds of some should trigger some action from the police.</p> <p>It was agreed to write to the local Policing Inspector to highlight the issue and ask for police enforcement.</p> <p>It was also agreed to explore having a SID location post installed in the area. This must be done via Highways and may need to be agreed by the area LFIG Committee. There would be a cost to the council of 25% of the total installation cost.</p>
76	<p><u>Drainage Issue on Charlton Lane:</u></p> <p>Cllr Walker give a bit of history background. WC Highways had opened up a ditch to improve the situation, but the landowner wasn't happy as WC Highways hadn't gained consent, so it's been closed again. Rain comes off the downs over a large area and has nowhere to go, the highway then turns into a fast-flowing stream, houses have been flooded.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Council Working Flooding Group have made suggestion as to how the land could be managed in a different way to reduce the flow of water when it is raining. It is possible that the National Landscape (former AONB) will have grants for creating scrapes on the hill sides. The need to engage all the landowner was noted. Possible that the Wessex Rivers trust or Wiltshire Wildlife trust may have a resource to survey the area and offer recommendations.</p> <p>Agreed that Cllr Walker will first put together a list of landowners.</p>
77	<p><u>Condition of the Roads in the Donheads:</u></p> <p>This subject came up at the Wiltshire Council Area board Meeting again last week. Cllr Budden is compiling a list of local roads that are most urgent, this will be sent to the Area Board. Additional highways budget has been promised in the next financial year. Suggestion of a local public meeting was rejected, if the public want to attend a meeting, then they should go to the Area Board meetings to make their representations.</p> <p>Cllr Budden left the meeting.</p>
78	<p><u>New Play Equipment for Play Parks:</u></p> <p>a) Youth Equipment for Memorial Hall Area:</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Adams would lead on this project, identifying the preferred equipment and obtaining costs and bring back to council for approval.</p>

	<p>b) Coronation Drive Equipment Expansion: The extension of this area cannot proceed until Wilshire Council have decided if it will gift over the land to extend onto. It was noted that the equipment here would be for younger children, with the new equipment at the Memorial Hall being for an older age group.</p>
79	<p><u>PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Payments to be Approved:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. D'fib pads (reimburse Sports Club) - £71.94 2. Councillor Training (hosted by S. Pritchard) @£15pp X3 - £45.00 <p>The two payments were approved by the council. The Parish Clerk noted that the Council was holding a healthy balance, some of this maybe used for new play equipment in the next year or so, but for now it was in a current account that paid no interest. He suggested to the council that some of the money was moved to an interest paying savings account with Lloyds, the key thing would be not to tie the money up for a long period so that it was available should the new play equipment project progress. It was agreed to allow the Parish Clerk to find an interest paying savings account with Lloyds and move some of the council reserves into it.</p> <p>B. <u>List of Payments Made:</u> The list had been circulated and was received. Explanation as to the increased amount of pay for the Clerk for January 2024 was sought, the reply being that the January pay had included the national pay award that was notified to the Council at the January meeting and was back paid until April 2023.</p> <p>C. <u>Budget Vs Spend to Date:</u> To latest budget information had been circulated and was received.</p>
80	<p><u>PLAYGROUNDS: Latest Inspections Reports & Updates:</u> There are no items of medium or high priority on the inspection report. Fencing around the Memorial Hall play area is down as a low risk reported as starting to rot but have inspected and it is fine and steady.</p>
81	<p><u>Members Portfolios – Verbal Reports:</u></p> <p>a) Parish Council Chairman’s Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Chairman reported that he will be stepping down as the chairman at the next council meeting, this being the annual council meeting in May. Councillors needed to have a think as to who can take on the role. <p>b) Parish Clerk’s Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progression of registering Cemetery with Land Registry – Still ongoing, not had anything from the solicitors, will chase. ○ Progression with Middle Coombe Drainage – had a response from the local WC Highways Manager, landowner not cooperating with WC Highways request to drain across land, so referral to the WC Legal department will be made. Cannot see this being quick. ○ Septic Tank Upgrade Scheme Talk, With the Wessex Rivers Trust – Wed 10th Apr 7:30pm, DSM Village Hall.

	<p>c) New Remembrance Hall Committee Representative – Cllr Adams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The police have been informed that there is drug dealing in the car park. Have been told to call 999 if there is drug driving going on. <p>d) Sports Club – Cllr Dewey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Search for grants to replace roof still ongoing. <p>e) Memorial Fields Representative – The Chairman & Cllr Dewey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Trustees want to upgrade the entrance way. Plans have been made and quotes obtained. The Council have approved a grant to the Memorial Fields Chairty already, this will be used to deliver the project. The plans met with approval from the Council. <p>f) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Garnett</p> <p>g) S.I.D Coordinator – Cllr Dewey</p> <p>h) Highway Matters / LHFIFG - Cllr Walker</p> <p>i) Flood Warden - Cllr Walker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Was informed at the last working group meeting that it is not a good idea to lift manhole covers to alleviate flooding as flood water is likely to come up from the drain in certain circumstances. <p>j) Snow Warden – Cllr Rossiter</p>
82	<p><u>Confidential Session:</u> It was proposed by Cllr Brake to go into confidential session as the next agenda item relates to commercially sensitive information, seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved unanimously.</p>
83	<p><u>Awarding of the Cemetery / Churchyard Maintenance Contract:</u> The Council had advertised the contract in the Blackmore Vale Mag over two publications. Multiple contractors / companies had been in touch with the Parish Clerk, all had been supplied with a spec to tender against. Six contractors had then issued a 1- & 3-year tender. The Clerk had compiled a comparison report, the Chairman talked members through the report. It was proposed by Cllr Walker to appoint Hillcrest Landscapes on a three-year contract, seconded by Cllr Brake and resolved unanimously.</p>

Meeting Closed at 21:17