

## **Donhead St Mary Parish Council**



### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025** at 7:15pm**

**Present:**

Cllr. John Feltham (Chairperson)	
Cllr. Paul Dewey	Cllr. Thomas Rossiter
Cllr. Roger Brake	Cllr. Bruce Hibbert
Cllr. John Wright	Cllr. Ros Rogers
Cllr. Lin Walker	

**In Attendance:**

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

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

Before the public comments, the Chair reminded members of the public of the Parish Council's role, its limitation of powers and the fact that there is local election in May and it would be welcome for others to put themselves forward for election.

**Public Comments:**

**Lower Ludwell:**

- A member of the public highlighted a residents' campaign in lower Ludwell for slower speeds. Weight of traffic also a problem. Wants to see the Parish Council purchase more SIDs for use in lower Ludwell. Would like to see roundels indicating speed limit painted onto the road.
- Seems that a speed assessment has just been carried out by Wiltshire Council, metro counter seen on the highway, but this was in the location that the last speed assessment of some years ago was in and that returned a false result. The assessment needs to be near the start of the 30mph limit at the bottom of the hill.  
It was noted by the Parish Council that Wiltshire Council would be unlikely to place the equipment so close to the start of the speed limit change.
- Another member of the public wondered if average speed cameras could be installed.

**Dennis Lane:**

- A member of the public highlighted the problem with Dennis Lane and its use by HGVs. The road was once quite a backwater and now is being used as a main HGV route to avoid the A350. The speed restriction is not enforced. The signage needs to be relocated 100 yards south of where they are now. It is a deathtrap waiting to happen. There is no pavement for some of the houses. Want to see a legal weight restriction put in place by Dorset Council.
- The Parish Council noted that 10-years ago there was an offer by Wiltshire Council to put a no right turn sign in place on the A30 for HGV, but there was concern that this would push

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

HGV's onto smaller roads around the Charlton lanes. There was no support from Dorset Council at the time. There was speculation that Dorset Council has removed weight limits in the area over the last decade.

**A30 – Rising Sun Area:**

- A resident report a bad accident had taken place by Wren Cars over the weekend. Have been asking for multiple improvements for 2-years now. 10 meetings attended over 20 months for no action to have taken place by Wiltshire Council during this time, this is really very poor.

**Coronation Drive Play Area:**

- Feedback from a resident that the Children that use the coronation drive play area would like a roundabout.

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

- Have been talking to a local farmer who is in support of action being taken over Dennis Lane.
- The last (Wiltshire Council) LHFIF meeting was attended by 3 members of the Parish Council. All the funds for this year have been spent, so no new projects can be approved until the new financial year. The councillors will be consulted upon their priority for next years limited funding. So, no money for the rising sun project and it's not been agreed to for now. Appears to be no mythology in the rating of priorities.
- HVG matters should be raised with the Wiltshire Council department that is consulting upon the new Local Transport Plan 4, this is due to be adopted at the Full Wiltshire Council meeting next week. Will highlight this issue at the meeting, but there is probably little chance of getting anything changed.
- Highlighted at the (Wiltshire Council) Area Board meeting that there is no feedback from the police to Town/Parish Councils
- Made representation at the Area Board meeting as to the differences in highways spending in this area of Wiltshire compared with higher spending in others. Also highlighted this with the MP (John Glenn) during his visit to the parish a few weeks ago. Needs to be better monitored by Councillors, but a lot of investment (road repairs) has gone in over the last few months.

20:02

Item no:	
62	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>A. To Receive any Apologies for Absence:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cllr. Mark Matthews – work commitments</li> <li>○ Cllr. Eric Adams – family commitments</li> <li>○ Cllr. Phoebe Fortescue – family commitments</li> </ul> <p><b><u>B. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:</u></b></p> <p><b>It was proposed by Cllr Brake to accept the apologies received, seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved unanimously.</b></p>
63	<p><b><u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interests &amp; Dispensations:</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>

64	<p><b><u>Adoption of Minutes:</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on <b>Wednesday 8th January 2025</b> had been presented for adoption.</p> <p><b>It was proposed by Cllr Walker to adopt the minutes, seconded by Cllr Hibbert and resolved unanimously.</b></p>
65	<p><b>TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE PARISH:</b></p> <p><b><u>A. A30 (Rising Sun Area) - Traffic Calming Scheme:</u></b></p> <p>A proposed scheme has been drawn up by Wiltshire Council Highways. 25% of the cost of the scheme would have to be paid for by the Parish Council (£1,571.02). It was suggested that the Parish Council offer to pay the whole cost to get this scheme done (£6,284.09).</p> <p>The Parish Clerk wondered if that would really make that much difference, as it appears that money is not the only problem that Wiltshire Council Highways has, there is also an issue with capacity, with approved, fully funded schemes seemingly taking years to deliver.</p> <p>It was noted that the SID evidence shows that there is quite clearly a speeding problem.</p> <p>The last meeting of LHFIG indicated that the rising sun scheme was a high priority for funding, the next LHFIG meeting is in June, and this is when a decision could be made.</p> <p><b>It was proposed by Cllr Feltham that the Parish Council pay the full cost of the approved scheme (£6,248.09) if Wiltshire Council can deliver the scheme in a reasonable time (not stipulated but felt to be around 6-months), seconded by Cllr Rogers and resolved 7-for, 1-against.</b></p> <p><b><u>B. A30 (Rising Sun Area) - Speed Monitoring:</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Dewey had already circulated the latest speed statistics from the SID and ANPR camera on the A30 (Rising Sun Area). Overall, the speeds have dropped a little. Wiltshire Police haven't managed to register the SID location on their system, currently cannot upload the stats to them and 3-months' worth of data has been rejected.</p> <p><b><u>C. A30 (Ludwell) - Proposed New Traffic Calming Scheme:</u></b></p> <p>This will be on the LHFIG agenda in June, the stats from the speed assessment will be crucial as if the area does not reach the required percentage of speeding traffic, then LHFIG will not fund any scheme at all. Noted that there is no commitment from the Parish Council to fund any scheme either at this point, further information and costs would be needed from Wiltshire Council before any decision is made.</p> <p><b><u>D. A30 (Salisbury Road) Request for Speed Limit Assessment on 50mph zone:</u></b></p> <p>No response/ update received from LHFIG/ Highways Engineer.</p> <p><b><u>E. A30 Purchase of Additional Speed Indicator Devices:</u></b></p> <p>It was suggested at the last Parish Council meeting that a further SID be purchased to look towards Shaftesbury as you come into the 40mph limit at the rising Sun. Since the last meeting some private land has been assessed as suitable for the installing of a SID post.</p> <p>In addition to this, there has been a call for a SID device in lower Ludwell.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk suggested purchasing a smaller mobile modal that he was aware of for lower Ludwell, this could be moved around for best effect.</p> <p>Concern was expressed that it was overburdening on Cllr Dewey to voluntarily have to manage up to 5 SIDs; the Parish Clerk offered to take charge of the smaller mobile unit.</p>

	<p>It was proposed by Cllr Rogers that the Parish Council purchase a further two SIDs, one the same modal as the two purchased last year, the second a smaller mobile modal. With a nominal budget of £5,000, seconded by Cllr Dewey and resolved unanimously.</p> <p><b>F. <u>A350 Speed Survey (with East Knoyle and Sedgehill &amp; Semley Parish Councils):</u></b> No update received and no action seen on the Highway.</p> <p><b>G. <u>A350 Safety Improvements at the Junction of the A350 and Wincombe Lane:</u></b> No update received and no action seen on the Highway.</p>																								
66	<p><b><u>Planning, Tree &amp; Licensing Applications:</u></b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application No:</td><td>PL/2025/00564</td></tr> <tr> <td>Application Type:</td><td>Full planning permission</td></tr> <tr> <td>Proposal:</td><td>Erection of bat roost</td></tr> <tr> <td>Site Address:</td><td>Well Cottage, Higher Coombe, Donhead St Mary, Salisbury, SP7 9LR</td></tr> </table> <p>The Parish Council resolved it had: No objection.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application No:</td><td>PL/2024/10181</td></tr> <tr> <td>Application Type:</td><td>Full planning permission</td></tr> <tr> <td>Proposal:</td><td>Conversion of top floor of modern barn into supplementary shoot bedrooms</td></tr> <tr> <td>Site Address:</td><td>Ashgrove Farm, Higher Ashgrove, Ashmore, Salisbury, SP5 5AW</td></tr> </table> <p>The Parish Council resolved it had: No objection.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application No:</td><td>PL/2025/01158</td></tr> <tr> <td>Application Type:</td><td>Removal/variation of conditions</td></tr> <tr> <td>Proposal:</td><td>Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans) and 5 on 19/12204/FUL - to regularise the revised access point retrospectively</td></tr> <tr> <td>Site Address:</td><td>Hillside Cottage, Higher Coombe, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, SP7 9LS</td></tr> </table> <p>The Parish Council resolved: No objection – with comments. There is a concern about the entrance being moved nearer the neighbouring property.</p>	Application No:	PL/2025/00564	Application Type:	Full planning permission	Proposal:	Erection of bat roost	Site Address:	Well Cottage, Higher Coombe, Donhead St Mary, Salisbury, SP7 9LR	Application No:	PL/2024/10181	Application Type:	Full planning permission	Proposal:	Conversion of top floor of modern barn into supplementary shoot bedrooms	Site Address:	Ashgrove Farm, Higher Ashgrove, Ashmore, Salisbury, SP5 5AW	Application No:	PL/2025/01158	Application Type:	Removal/variation of conditions	Proposal:	Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans) and 5 on 19/12204/FUL - to regularise the revised access point retrospectively	Site Address:	Hillside Cottage, Higher Coombe, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, SP7 9LS
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67	<p><b><u>MP's Visit to the Parish – Debrief:</u></b></p> <p>John Glenn MP had visited the Parish on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February to view the condition of the local highways. A group of around 10 Parish councillors from both St Andrew &amp; St Mary Parish Councils had met with him. John has undertaken to write to Wiltshire Council to encourage the Council to invest more into highways repairs in the area.</p>																								
68	<p><b><u>CPR Wiltshire – Best Kept Village Competition:</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed not to enter the competition.</p>																								

	<p>20:49 – Cllr Budden left the meeting.</p> <p>Before he left, goodbyes were said, as this was to be Cllr Budden's last Parish Council meeting as the Wiltshire Councillor. He is not standing in the May elections. Member expressed their sincere thanks for all his efforts over the last two years and round of applause was given.</p>
69	<p><b><u>Cemetry Fees Review:</u></b></p> <p>The Parish clerk had circulated a report with the Church of England Fees, and St Andrew's Parish fees.</p> <p><b>It was agreed increase the fees to match St Andrew's for 2025</b></p>
70	<p><b><u>Coronation Drive Play Area Lease:</u></b></p> <p>The draft lease had been circulated, and Cllr Hibbert had offered a summary of the requirements, while emphasising that he was not a lawyer. The Parish Clerk felt that the other town/parish councils would be receiving the same 'off the shelf' lease and that it was not worth spending a lot on legal fees making alterations if what had been offered was acceptable.</p> <p>It was noted that the lease reads as if the grant money has already been paid over to the Parish Council, this needed to be changed as the money has not been received.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that the Parish Clerk and Cllr Hibbert would continue to work together and finalise the lease, with the specified people (the Chair &amp;/or Clerk) to sign it on behalf of the Parish Council when required.</b></p>
71	<p><b>PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE:</b></p> <p><b>A. <u>Payments to be Approved:</u></b></p> <p>1. S. Pritchard – Exps/WFHA Dec 24 to Feb 25 - £84.30</p> <p><b>Payment noted.</b></p> <p><b>B. <u>List of Payments Made:</u></b></p> <p>The list had been circulated and was received.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Budget Vs Spend to Date:</u></b></p> <p>To latest budget information had been circulated and was received.</p> <p><b>D. <u>Appointment of Internal Auditor:</u></b></p> <p><b>It was agreed to re-appoint Mrs Nicola Phillips for the 24/25 year.</b></p> <p><b>E. <u>Community Donation – Wiltshire Ramblers Association:</u></b></p> <p><b>It was proposed by Cllr Rogers to donate £250 to the Wiltshire Ramblers Association in appreciation of their work on the steps of DSTM34 right-of-way in the parish.</b></p>
72	<p><b><u>PLAYGROUNDS: Latest Inspections Reports &amp; Updates:</u></b></p> <p>The damaged sign on the report has been removed. Nothing of high risk to report.</p>
61	<p><b><u>Members Portfolios – Verbal Reports:</u></b></p>

	<p><b>a) Parish Council Chair's Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Would still like to see the large Leylandii tree taken down at the front of St John's Church. It provided no ecological benefits and is getting so big it is blocking the view of the front of the architecturally interesting building. There was general support for this notion.</li> <li>○ Will not be standing for election at the may local elections, so this was his last meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Parish Clerk's Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reminder of May Elections (Thur 1st May)</li> <li>○ Reminder of Planning Training (Wed 12th March @7pm)</li> </ul> <p><b>c) Wiltshire Council Area Board – Cllr Matthews</b></p> <p><b>d) New Remembrance Hall Committee Representative – Cllr Adams</b></p> <p><b>e) The Sports Club – Cllr Dewey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A grant has now been obtained to replace the roof.</li> </ul> <p><b>f) Memorial Fields Representative – The Chairman &amp; Cllr Dewey</b></p> <p><b>g) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Rogers</b></p> <p><b>h) Highway Matters / LHFIG – Cllr Hibbert</b></p> <p><b>i) Flood Warden - Cllr Walker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attended a meeting of the Flood Group on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, seems that you can only request help with flooding if flooding has already happened.</li> <li>○ Wiltshire Council has a discretionary gully clearing service, will compile a list of gulleys to be cleared.</li> </ul> <p><b>j) Snow Warden – Cllr Rossiter</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting Closed at 21:16</b></p>
	<p>Once the meeting had closed, Cllr Wright also said that he would not be standing at the May elections. Cllr Feltham acknowledged Cllr Wright's efforts over many years across two different spells on the Parish Council.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was given for the departing Chair, Cllr Feltham, with members expressing their sadness that both Cllr Feltham &amp; Cllr Wright &amp; would be leaving the Council.</p>