



Donhead St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton
on **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** at 7:15pm

Present:

Cllr. Roger Brake (Chairperson)	
Cllr. Paul Dewey	Cllr. Thomas Rossiter
Cllr. Lin Walker	Cllr. Eric Adams
Cllr. Phoebe Fortescue	Cllr. Ros Rogers

In Attendance:

Cllr. Gerry Murray (Wiltshire Councillor)
Mr Simon Pritchard (The Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public in Attendance: Three

Public Comments:

Two members of the public had attended to be considered for co-option. A third was attending to represent the Sports Club and their application for a £5,000 grant.
There were no public comments.

Report from Cllr Murray, Wiltshire Council:

A copy of Cllr Murray's report has been emailed to councillors before the meeting

- A significant year-end overspend will have consequences for this year's spending at Wiltshire Council.
- The Government's spending review will see more money spent in the North of England, so less for the South.
- Wiltshire Council's 5-year land supply is far short of target, so this gives proposed development the assumption of approval.
- Shaftesbury household recycling centre: Dorset Council vote on 10th July on the notion of bringing in a booking system for Shaftesbury. Original proposal for all Dorset centres has now been changed to just 4, this includes Shaftesbury. The new system would also introduce a charge for non-Dorset residents. Members of the Parish Council expressed concern that this will see fly tipping in the Donheads increase. Also, not clear how it will save Dorset money if they receive less materials that can be sold on for recycling.
- Planning application for two homes next to the Grove Arms pub: Have asked for it to be called into committee. Some required reports are yet to be submitted by the developer.
- A question was asked about the overspend and why this isn't picked up on the audit. It was stated that Wiltshire Council hasn't been audited for 3-years.

Item no:	
17	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</u></p> <p><u>A. To Receive any Apologies for Absence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr. Bruce Hibbert – away <p><u>B. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:</u> It was proposed by Cllr Rossiter to accept the apologies received, seconded by Cllr Rogers and resolved unanimously.</p>
18	<p><u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:</u> None.</p>
19	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes:</u> The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2025 had been presented for adoption. It was proposed by Cllr Rogers to adopt the minutes, seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved unanimously.</p>
20	<p><u>CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:</u> The Parish Council has two vacant seats, these had been advertised in the Donhead Digest mag, on all four noticeboards and on the website. Two valid applications received from: Mr John Feltham and Mr John Wright</p> <p><u>A. Interview of the Candidates:</u> Both candidates were well known to the council as they had both been council members up until the May local elections but, had chosen not to stand in the hope that new people would come forwards to serve. Both had been keeping in contact with the Parish Clerk, and both felt an obligation to step forward once more to serve the Parish now that it has become apparent that no one else has come forwards. Both stated they had enjoyed their time on the council before and would be pleased to reengage if the council would welcome that.</p> <p><u>B. Election of New Members:</u> It was proposed by Cllr Walker that the Parish Council co-opt John Feltham onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Fortescue and resolved unanimously. It was proposed by Cllr Dewey that the Parish Council co-opt John Wright onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Fortescue and resolved unanimously.</p> <p><u>C. Declaration of Acceptance of Office:</u> Both new councillors signed their Acceptance of Office and joined the rest of the Council for the remainder of the meeting.</p>
23	<p>This item was brought forwards as the Treasurer of the Sports Club had attended the meeting</p> <p><u>Donhead Sports Club - Release of £5,000 Grant:</u> The Parish Council had agreed 'in principle' to make a grant of £5,000 in January 2023. The Sports Club had now applied to drawdown on that money for the repair of the club house roof. The treasurer was able to give an outline of what had been going on since January 2023. The actual cost of repair had moved from £27,000 to over £50,000. A £5,000 grant had been secured</p>

	<p>from Wiltshire Council. A £25,000 grant from the Football Association and up to £20,000 coming from the Village Fate. It has been very difficult to get confirmation on any of these grants, and to drawdown on them but with the works now complete and contracts wanting to be paid, it is hoped that they will start to come through. It has been a very long journey.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Walker that the Parish Council grant £5,000 to Donhead Sports Club, seconded by Cllr Rogers and resolved unanimously.</p>
21	<p>TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE PARISH:</p> <p><u>A. A30 (Rising Sun Area) - Traffic Calming Scheme:</u> (Wiltshire Council issue number: 14-24-09 originally raised July 2024) Councillors Brake and Dewey had attended the June meeting of Wiltshire Council's LHFIG committee. It was confirmed that Wiltshire Council Highways have issued a works order to M Group in May 2025, but there is no start date. Wiltshire Council have agreed that the works will be completed within 6-months. The Parish Council is paying the full cost of up to £6,284.09. There was general complaint from all the Parishes that attended the June LHFIG meeting that the contractor is too slow and is not keeping to the promised timetables. Cllr Murray stated that attempt would be made to call the contractor into the Wiltshire Council Scrutiny Committee as the delays have been unacceptable.</p> <p><u>B. A30 (Rising Sun Area) - Speed Monitoring:</u> Cllr Dewey talked through the latest speed statistics from the two SID's and ANPR camera on the A30 (Rising Sun Area) and the third at Charlton crossroads. All give similar stats as you would expect. 130,000 moments over the course of the month. Highest speeds recorded, 119mph going to Shaftesbury, 91mph towards Ludwell. 36-37mph is the average speed. 12,000 vehicles each way are breaking the speed limit; the percentage is not enough for Police action. Looking to move the crossroads SID to Birdbush to gather some stats from there. Aware that some councils have been using their ANPR camera to spot sign written vehicles and if they are shown to be persistent offenders, to then write to the company. Need to have a bit more of a look at this to see if it would be practical as it would take up much more time.</p> <p><u>C. A30 (Lower Ludwell) - Proposed New Traffic Calming Scheme:</u> (Wiltshire Council issue number: 14.24.17 originally raised November 2024) It was confirmed at the June LHFIG meeting that measurement has been taken but that the results had not been analysed. It wasn't known when the measurements were recorded, or from what location. The Parish Council will await the results before asking any further questions. General discussion was held around the habit of the Lower Ludwell Residents of blocking the pavements by parking on them, and that if they were to park on the road this would have the effect of slowing the traffic by narrowing the Highway.</p> <p><u>D. A30 (Salisbury Road) Request for Speed Limit Assessment on 50mph zone:</u> (Wiltshire Council issue number: 14.24.16 originally raised November 2024) The Parish Council has made a formal request to LHFIG (Wiltshire Council) to have the 50mph zone between Charlton Lane and the border of Dorset assessed for appropriateness with a view to having the speed limit reduced. The cost of a speed limit assessment is £3,250 (LHFIG</p>

contribution £2,437.50 / Parish Council contribution £812.50). This request was originally triggered by a member of the public rather than the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Dewey that the Parish Council contribute £812.50 towards the formal speed assessment, seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved – 4 in favour – 3 against – 2 abstentions.

E. Request for 7.5t Weight Limit on Dennis Lane:

(Wiltshire Council issue number: 14.25.04 originally raised May 2025)

The update from the June LHFIG meeting was that the LHFIG committee will not support installing a weight limit until a traffic assessment has been carried out. The Parish Council would now need to formally request a traffic assessment report if it wanted to pursue.

It was proposed by Cllr Wright that the Parish Council make a formal request for a traffic assessment report, seconded by Cllr Feltham and resolved – 8 in favour – 1 against.

The Parish Clerk expressed disappointment that the Wiltshire Council Highway Officers had known that a speed assessment was the first step, but rather than reporting this back in May, they had waited to the LHFIG meeting to say this.

F. A350 Speed Limit Assessment (with East Knoyle and Sedgehill & Semley Parish Councils): (Originally raised May 2024)

A350 speed limit assessment has been completed and recommended no changes to the existing speed limits on the A350 but did recommend considering the provision of additional warning signs. No one from East Knoyle or Sedgehill & Semley Parish Councils had attended the LHFIG June meeting, so not known what their thinking is. It is possible that all three councils could work together to put forwards a proposal. It was noted that the change in signage (agenda item G) had still not happened, and that the council should wait until this had taken place before any further action is considered. It was further noted that the part of the A350 that was in St Marys Parish area has different issues to the other parts of the A350, with St Marys concerns being around the safety of the Semley/St Marys turn and the 50mph speed limit going down the hill, as the road is very windy. The assessment says that 50mph is appropriate for this stretch.

G. A350 Safety Improvements at the Junction of the A350 and Wincombe Lane:

(Wiltshire Council issue number 14-23-23 originally raised November 2023) (agreed to in August 2024 by LHFIG) Noted as still not having been installed and that the installation date keeps being moved back.

22 **Planning, Tree & Licensing Applications:**

Application No:	PL/2025/04992
Application Type:	Full planning permission
Proposal:	Conversion of Ground Floor of Barn into Supplementary Shoot Bedrooms
Site Address:	Ashgrove Farm, Higher Ashgrove, Ashmore, Salisbury, SP5 5AW

The Parish Council resolved it had: No objection.

	<p>Ludwell Development to the West of the Grove Arms - PL/2025/02555 Erection of two dwellings:</p> <p>a) To resolve if the Parish Council will give further consideration of this application in light of information that wasn't available at the April 2025 meeting: Much debate took place on this matter centred around what information had been available at the time of the April meeting and what further information was now available. It was noted that there was still missing reports that should normally form part of an application of this nature. It was suggested that it was too early to revisit if more reports may still be to come. Others felt that they had had all the information they had needed at the April meeting and that the Parish Council's decision didn't require revisiting. It was proposed by Cllr Feltham that the Parish Council should revisit the decision, seconded by Cllr Fortescue. The motion fell – 4 in favour – 5 against</p> <p>b) To further consider the planning application (if resolved to do so): This item wasn't taken in light of the council not agreeing to revisit the matter.</p>
24	<p><u>Shaftesbury Household Waste and Recycling Centre:</u> Dorset Council is still pressing ahead with its plans to introduce a booking system and to charge to non-Dorset residents to use the facility. The proposal has been changed to now only include four centres in Dorset (that include Shaftesbury), meaning that they will have a two-tier system across the County. Many members could not see the new system working and that it would be difficult to implement. It was known that Dorset Council derive an income from selling on the recyclable materials, so why would they want to risk reducing this income? Conversations had taken place between Shaftesbury Dorset Council Councillors and Wiltshire Councillors; it seems now that the only thing to do is wait until the Dorset Council meeting on the 10th of July to see what is voted for.</p>
25	<p><u>Coronation Drive Play Area Lease:</u> The Parish Clerk reported that the 25-year lease had been ready to sign when at the last minute, Wiltshire Council had realised that its tenant on the field below needed vehicular access over the land. The lease could either be redrafted to include this right of access, or the area of land being leased could be reduced to not include the access track. It was agreed to continue with the original plan of leasing all of the land and let Wiltshire Council update the lease to grant a right of access for the tenants of the field below.</p>
26	<p>PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE:</p> <p>A. <u>Payments to be Approved:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. S. Pritchard – Exps/WFHA March to May 2025 - £81.15 2. AutoSpeedWatch - Annual Software Subscription - £214.80 3. Cllr Rossiter - Dumpy bags for logs; charity auction - £43.20 4. S. Pritchard - Microsoft 365 subscription - £104.99 <p>It was proposed by Cllr Walker to make the four payments, seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>B. <u>List of Payments Made:</u> The list had been circulated and was received.</p>

	<p>C. Budget Vs Spend to Date: To latest budget information had been circulated and was received.</p>
72	<p><u>PLAYGROUNDS: Latest Inspections Reports & Updates:</u> Nothing of high risk to report.</p>
61	<p><u>Members Portfolios – Verbal Reports:</u></p> <p>a) Parish Council Chair’s Updates:</p> <p>b) Parish Clerk’s Updates:</p> <p>c) Wiltshire Council Area Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr Brake said that he would try to attend the Area Board meeting when able. <p>d) New Remembrance Hall Committee Representative – Cllr Adams</p> <p>e) The Sports Club – Cllr Dewey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Club are being much more careful with their outgoing now and have eliminated some unnecessary expenses. <p>f) Memorial Fields Representative – The Chairman & Cllr Dewey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr Feltham reported that he was happy to continue on this committee if Cllr Brake didn’t want to take up a seat. It was agreed that the constitution of the committee needed to be looked at, as it may say that it must be the Parish Council Chair (and one other). <p>g) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Rogers</p> <p>h) Highway Matters / LHFIG – Cllr Hibbert</p> <p>i) Flood Warden - Cllr Walker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr Wright reported that the Middle Coombe highways flooding issue has finally been resolved, with a local landowner installing a grip to allow drainage across their land. <p>j) Snow Warden – Cllr Rossiter</p> <p>k) National Landscape Matters – Cllr Fortescue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Chase & Chalke partnership has no more funding, 5-year project is coming to an end. <p>l) Additional Play Equipment Working Group - Cllrs Adams, Rogers and Fortescue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group has yet to meet. <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Closed at 21:12</p> <p>Cllr Rossiter reported that Fairview house, on the A30 in Ludwell was keeping bins on the highways and should be written to.</p>