

Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council

**Minutes of a Full Council Meeting held at
Turreff Hall
on 12th November 2007 at 7.00pm**

Present:

Councillors: B Green (Vice Chair), A Baker, Mrs V Brown, Mrs E A Clare, M Edwards, Mrs R Gregory, Mrs P A Green, J Hockin, J Lavery, Mrs B Mason, C Mason, P Norton, G Platt, K Watkins.

Also Present: PC N Scott, Members of the Public.

Public Session

The Chair invited questions/comments from the members of the Public present. Mr Cox stated that he had recently attended a meeting at Lilleshall Memorial Hall called by the three Lilleshall Parish Councillors to discuss whether Lilleshall should become a self-governing Parish Council and to break away from Donnington and Muxton. Mr Cox explained that the facts and figures presented by Councillor Hockin were somewhat vague and that there were some omissions. He was concerned that by the end of the meeting the people present were asked to take a vote and many were confused as to what they were voting for, whether it was for a stand alone parish council or to give the opportunity to sign a petition to either go forward with the proposal or not. Mr Cox pointed out the financial and political help that Lilleshall had received from the Parish Council over the last twenty years or so in dealing with planning applications which threatened to destroy the character and identity of the village. He stated that he felt that the whole issue had been badly handled and poorly organised. He requested that the Parish Council sends a letter to all the residents of Lilleshall listing all the facts and figures stating clearly the pros and cons of self-governing, so that they are properly informed as to the severity of this action. Then, if required, the Parish Council should call a public meeting to discuss this issue in an informed manner.

The Chair thanked Mr Cox for his comments and stated that this would be discussed in the meeting as it was included on the agenda.

1. Election of Chairperson

Nominations were requested for Chair of this Parish Council due to the resignation of Councillor Ms C Mason. Councillor B Green was nominated. No other nominations were received.

Resolved - that the Chair for this Parish Council is now Councillor B Green. Councillor B Green then signed the Declaration of Office.

2. Vice-Chair of the Council

Nominations were then requested for Vice-Chair of this Parish Council with the election of the previous Vice-Chair to Chair. Councillor P Norton was nominated. No other nominations were received.

Resolved - that the Vice-Chair for this Parish Council is now Councillor P Norton.

Councillor A Baker proposed that as the resignation of the previous Chair to the Parish Council was half way through the term of office, then the newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair remain in office for 18 months. **Resolved** – that the Chair and Vice-Chair remain in office for 18 months.

3. **Apologies:** There were no apologies.
4. **Declaration of Interest:** As per Register. Also P Norton – Item 16, Mrs E A Clare – Item 18 and Mrs B Mason and C Mason – Item 18a. The aforementioned were asked if they would leave the room prior to these items being voted upon.

Resolved – that as residents from Lilleshall were present, item 11 on the agenda is moved forward to item 5.

5. **Independent Lilleshall Parish Council.**

The Chair informed the Council that discussions had been held in Lilleshall to decide whether or not the residents would prefer to have its own independent Parish Council. The Councillors then discussed this issue.

Councillor A Baker stated that he concurred with the concerns raised by Mr Cox during the Public Session. However, he was also concerned with the way in which it had been organised. Whilst agreeing to proceed in helping gather information regarding the advantages and disadvantages, and evaluate the next step before going public, he had been somewhat surprised to find that whilst he and Councillor G Platt had been away on holiday, Councillor J Hockin had proceeded without their knowledge to distribute a letter around the village regarding this issue. Councillor Baker stated that he had serious concerns regarding going public until all the facts had been obtained and consequently felt that this matter has been badly handled from the beginning. Whilst recognising that everyone has a democratic right, the residents should have all the facts and financial information prior to being asked to vote on something as important as this. He requested that the Parish Council produces a leaflet to be distributed to all residents in Lilleshall containing this information, together with the ballot form which in itself is unusual due to the fact that there is no closing date stipulated on it.

Councillor J Hockin stated that he had been elected for Lilleshall and Councillors had a right to confer with the electorate that they represented. In his opinion, as there seemed to be a lot of support for an independent Council, he had acted upon it. He admitted that the financial figures were difficult to substantiate and that other aspects needed to be looked at more in depth.

Councillors present stated that they were disgusted by the fact that this was the first time it had come before the Parish Council and found it an insult, especially as it follows on from a large grant awarded to the Memorial Hall. They were of the opinion that Councillors are elected to serve the entire parish and it is wrong that no other Councillor was informed about this matter. It has also caused animosity amongst the residents of Lilleshall and it is wrong to expect the Parish Council to now provide officer time and stationery costs in creating and distributing leaflets in Lilleshall to sort out this dilemma. Councillors felt that this should have been discussed at a full Council meeting to enable better consultation amongst Members prior to this issue going public.

Councillor P Norton stated that he had attended the meeting in Lilleshall and was concerned that the information presented had been economical with the truth.

Councillor G Platt informed the Council that out of over 900 members of the electorate residing in Lilleshall only 49 had attended the meeting and this mainly consisted of elderly people. He stated that he would prefer it if the quest for an independent parish council in Lilleshall ended now.

Councillor Mrs E A Clare suggested that the Parish Council publishes an article in the next Parish Council newsletter highlighting the advantages, disadvantages and costs of an independent Lilleshall Parish Council. The Parish Council should then take no further action.

Resolved – that the Clerk publishes an article in the next Parish Council newsletter due out in February highlighting the costs, advantages and disadvantages of an independent Lilleshall Parish Council.

Resolved – that as PC N Scott would have to leave the meeting early that item 12 on the agenda is moved forward to item 6.

6. Police Resources within the Parish.

Councillor Norton explained to the Council that since the Muxton Beat Manager had been reassigned, the Police resources for Muxton had been stretched with the Donnington Beat Manager and CSO's also having to cover this area. Whilst PC N Scott and her team are doing a superb job Councillor Norton requested that the Parish Council writes to Acting Chief Superintendent Robinson asking when the Beat Manager for Muxton will be returning and, if not in the immediate future, then when is a replacement going to be found. PC N Scott informed the Council that Sergeant Rebecca Harper would be commencing work at Donnington Police Station as from 1st December 2007.

Resolved – that the Parish Council writes to the Acting Chief Superintendent requesting information regarding the Beat Manager for Muxton.

7. Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on:

a. Full Council of 8th October 2007.

Resolved - that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.

b. Tree Management Sub-Committee of 29th October 2007.

Resolved - that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.

c. Planning Committee of 29th October 2007.

Resolved - that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.

8. Matters Arising for Information

Councillor A Baker informed the Council that the Tree Officer for Telford and Wrekin Council would be revisiting the land adjacent to “Tan-y-Bryn”, Hillside, Lilleshall to review the Tree Preservation Orders recently placed at this site due to some inconsistencies regarding the Order.

9. Oakengates Road, Donnington

Each Councillor had received a copy of an email received from Telford and Wrekin regarding the complaint raised at the last meeting concerning the state of the footpath outside LEA Autos. Whilst some of the mess has been cleared up the fencing cannot be removed for health and safety reasons.

Councillors Mrs E A Clare and C Mason stated that they were meeting with Carl Longland, Head of Mobility and Development, Telford and Wrekin Council and would discuss this matter with him and report back to Council at the next meeting.

10. Expenditure Transactions

Each Councillor received a copy of the expenditure transactions for September 2007.

Resolved - that the expenditure transactions for September 2007 are accepted as a true record.

11. Bank Reconciliations

Each Councillor received a copy of the Bank Reconciliation as at 30th September 2007.

Resolved - that the bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2007 is accepted as a true record.

12. Issue of Christmas Vouchers

The Chair informed the Council that the Pensioners Christmas Vouchers will be distributed between 12th November and 17th December 2007.

13. Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust consultation to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

Each Councillor had received a copy of a letter and a list of consultation meetings from the NHS Trust explaining the forthcoming consultation process regarding the proposal to become an NHS Foundation Trust. The Chair stated that if Councillors had any comments to make regarding this matter then either send them directly to the NHS Trust or pass them on to the Clerk.

14. Switching on of Christmas Lights.

The Chair informed the Council that the Parish Council Christmas lights will be switched on at The Parade, Wrekin Drive, Donnington at 6pm on Monday 3rd December 2007.

15. Public Rights of Way

Councillor J Hockin informed the Council of the problems regarding Public Rights of Way currently listed on the Definitive Map. As the map is old and has not recently been updated, problems arise when trying to locate any documents or applications made that support any deviations made to these Rights of Way. He was concerned that if the Rights of Way are not included on the Definitive Map in 2026 that it would not be listed and lost. He proposed that the Parish Council actively protect the Rights of Way in pursuit of getting the footpaths listed on the Definitive Map.

Councillor K Watkins informed the Council that the North Telford Rights of Way action group (NTRoW) were currently making a new map and agreed that the Parish Council should become more active in this field. Suggestions were made to invite the Rights of Way Officer from Telford and Wrekin Council to come to the next Halls and Environment Committee meeting and discuss this issue with them.

Resolved – that at the next Halls and Environment Committee meeting, two Councillors from each ward within the parish are selected to help list the Rights of Way in their area and prepare the necessary documentation in preparation for inclusion on the Definitive Map. This will ensure that a proper record of the Rights of Way is maintained.

16. Donnington Wood Way

Each Councillor received a copy of a letter from a resident concerning the effects of traffic on houses in Ash Road, Donnington. Vibrations from vehicles travelling along Donnington Wood Way were causing cracks to appear in the structure of the buildings. Councillors Mrs E A Clare and C Mason stated that whilst they were meeting with Carl Longland, Head of Mobility and Development, Telford and Wrekin Council and Kevin Price, Highways, Telford and Wrekin Council they would discuss this matter with them and report back to Council at the next meeting.

17. Donnington Community Bus

Each Councillor received a copy of a report on the usage of the Donnington Community Bus.

As a result of the low numbers of people using this facility, despite an active advertising campaign, the Council considered options regarding its future.

The options presented were:

- a. Continue to provide the bus as it was currently operating.
- b. To cancel the bus altogether.
- c. To run the bus free of charge.

Resolved – to provide a bus free of charge until 1st April 2008 but to review its usage in January prior to discussing the Parish Council's precept. The Clerk was also to advertise the Community Bus on Shropshire Radio.

18. Planning Applications

To discuss the following planning applications:

- a. W2007/1414

Mr & Mrs D Haywood, 60 Baldwin Webb Avenue, Donnington, Telford.

Erection of an attached garage to side of property.

Resolved – that there is no objection to this application.

- b. W2007/1417

Les Stephan Planning Limited, The Bell Inn, The Fields, Donnington, Telford.

Erection of 5 dwellings following demolition of existing public house (outline planning application).

Resolved – to object to this application for the following reasons:

Access – The Council were of the opinion that the access is unsuitable for such a development.

Overdevelopment of Site – The Council were of the opinion that the site was too small for the erection of five dwellings.

19. Correspondence

The Chair informed the Council that the following correspondence had been received:

- a. **Invitation to the Borough of Telford and Wrekin Annual Civic Carol Service at The Place, Oakengates on Wednesday 5th December 2007.**
- b. **Local Development Framework (LDF) Shop Fronts and Signage Design guidance in Conservation Areas – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Early Consultation Draft.**
- c. **Invitation to attend Training Opportunities at Telford and Wrekin Council.**

The Chair informed Councillors that the following training opportunities were available:

An Information Evening – An introduction to the Community Services Portfolio, which will take place on Wednesday 14th November in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Code of Conduct – this will take place in the Reception Suite on Tuesday 20th November between 12noon and 3.30pm.

d. SALC Chairmanship Training

Councillors are invited to attend Modules 1 and 2 of Chairmanship Training which will be held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury on Monday 26th November between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2040hrs.

Signed:

Date: