

Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council

**Minutes of a Full Council Meeting held at
Turreff Hall
on 14th January 2008 at 7.00pm**

Present:

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

Also Present: Fiona Moore (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator), Mrs J Broadbent, Mr N Dugmore, Mr & Mrs Harris, Mr D Latham, Mrs P Millard, Mrs F Taylor, Mr D Thompson, Mr J Thompson, Mrs R Warner.

Public Session

The Chair invited questions/comments from the members of the Public present. Mrs S Harris stated that she, her husband and their acquaintances did not want an independent Lilleshall Parish Council and were concerned the effect it would have on the Parish Council's support of Lilleshall Memorial Hall. Mrs Harris requested that the Parish Council continues to assist the Memorial Hall as it has done over the past number of years. Mrs Harris also stated that she was very pleased with the recent standard of grass cutting in the Churchyard and asked that her thanks be passed on to the Estate Manager.

Mrs J Broadbent requested that, on behalf of all the parishioners, the Parish Council looks kindly on the request for the renewal of the fencing surrounding the Talbot Centre Tennis Courts. She explained that they were in a poor condition and once renewed they should last for approximately another twenty years.

The Chair thanked Mrs Harris and Mrs Broadbent for their comments.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs P A Green (Ill).
Resolved – that the apology is accepted.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** As per Register. Also Mrs E A Clare – Item 5a and Item 20 and Item 22.
3. **Casual vacancy on Parish Council.**
The Chair informed the Council that as no request has been received from the requisite ten electors for an election to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Councillor Cindy Mason, in accordance with the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules 1986, this Council is now required to fill the vacancy by co-option as soon as possible. The Chair then read letters from Mr N Dugmore and Mr J Thompson requesting that they be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council as Councillor. The Chair then asked the members of public present if there was anyone that would also like to be considered for co-option onto the Council. Mr D Thompson requested that he also be considered.

Resolved – that the voting take place by secret ballot and not by show of hands.

Resolved – that as a result of the votes taken, Mr J Thompson is co-opted onto the Parish Council as a Councillor. The Chair welcomed Mr Thompson to the Parish Council and thanked Mr N Dugmore and Mr D Thompson for taking part. Mr J Thompson then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his seat on the Council.

Resolved – that as representatives from the Lilleshall Tennis Club were present, item 14 on the agenda is moved forward to item 4.

4. **Talbot Centre Tennis Courts.**

The Chair informed the Council that due to the poor condition of the fencing surrounding the Talbot Centre Tennis Courts, the Clerk had obtained quotes for its replacement. Two options were provided; angle iron section fencing and tubular fencing. During discussion suggestions and concerns were raised. These being: that the Clerk investigates whether or not it would be possible to hand the Talbot Centre over to Telford and Wrekin Council; that the Parish Council has a duty of care regarding the condition of the tennis courts and as such should replace the fencing; concerns over how the replacement of the fencing would be financed.

Three propositions were then tabled:

- a. Proposed by Councillor C Mason, Seconded by Councillor J Thompson that the matter is deferred until the Clerk investigates the possible transfer of ownership of the Talbot Centre to Telford and Wrekin Council and report his findings back to full Council.
- b. Proposed by Councillor Mrs E A Clare, Seconded by Councillor P Norton that the matter is deferred to item 18 and discussed together with the setting of the budgets and the Parish Council precept.
- c. Proposed by Councillor A Baker, Seconded by Councillor J Hockin that the Council proceed with the purchase of tubular fencing at the best quote available.

Item (a) received four votes for and ten against, item (b) received eight votes for and six against therefore item (c) was not voted on due to the passing of proposition (b). **Resolved** – that this matter is deferred to item 18 on the agenda and discussed together with the setting of the budgets and the Parish Council precept.

5. **Minutes**

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

- a. Staff and Personnel Committee of 12th November 2007.
Resolved - that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.
- b. Full Council of 12th November 2007.
Resolved - that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.
- c. Halls and Environment Committee of 26th November 2007.
Resolved - that the amended minutes are confirmed and signed as a true record.
- d. Planning Committee of 10th December 2007.
Resolved - that they be confirmed and signed as a true record.
- e. Finance Committee of 10th December 2007.
Resolved – that the amended minutes are confirmed and signed as a true record.

6. Matters Arising for Information

Councillor Mrs E A Clare informed the Council that work outside LEA Autos, Oakengates Road, should have been completed by 7th January 2008. Work repairing the wall has only just commenced as Telford and Wrekin Council are still holding discussions with the Coal Board regarding this matter. Mrs E A Clare stated that she would continue to monitor the situation.

Councillor C Mason stated that he had spoken to Councillor A Eade and D Allen regarding obtaining the piece of land earmarked for allotments in the hope of getting it at a cheaper price. The Clerk informed the Council that he had received an email from Councillor A Eade stating that he is investigating the request.

Councillors Mrs E A Clare and C Mason informed the Council that a site meeting had been held at Donnington Wood Way to discuss traffic issues and residents concerns regarding the vibration from Heavy Goods Vehicles and the effects on their properties. Telford and Wrekin Council have stated that they will install a noise meter and would monitor the situation and report back to the Councillors and residents.

7. Expenditure Transactions

Each Councillor received a copy of the following expenditure transactions:

- a. October 2007.
Resolved - that the expenditure transactions for October 2007 are accepted as a true record.
- b. November 2007.
Resolved - that the expenditure transactions for November 2007 are accepted as a true record.
- c. December 2007.
Resolved - that the expenditure transactions for December 2007 are accepted as a true record.

8. Bank Reconciliations

Each Councillor received a copy of the following Bank Reconciliations as at:

- a. 31st October 2007.
Resolved - that the bank reconciliation as at 31st October 2007 is accepted as a true record.
- b. 30th November 2007
Resolved - that the bank reconciliation as at 30th November 2007 is accepted as a true record.
- c. 31st December 2007
Resolved - that the bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2007 is accepted as a true record.

9. Parish Council Meetings.

The Chair informed the Council that the Halls and Environment Committee meeting scheduled for 24th March 2008 falls on a public Bank Holiday and proposed that the meeting is rescheduled to Monday 31st March 2008. The Chair also proposed that the full Council Meeting on 10th March 2008 scheduled to be held in Muxton is now held in Turreff Hall, Donnington due to the fact that there is no suitable venue available for hire in Muxton on this date.

Resolved – that the Halls and Environment meeting scheduled for 24th March 2008 is now rescheduled to 31st March 2008 and that the full Council meeting on 10th March 2008 is now held at Turreff Hall, Donnington.

10. Membership/Subscription Fees.

The Council discussed the renewal of Membership/Subscription Fees to the following bodies:

- a. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) at a cost of £203.

Resolved – to renew the Parish Council's Membership to the SLCC at a cost of £203.

- b. SALC at a cost of £1,389.36. This cost will increase should Members wish to continue receiving a personal copy of the Parish Pump. Two copies are currently included free of charge with the subscription whereas additional copies are provided at a cost of 60p per copy.

Resolved – to renew the Parish Council's Membership to SALC and provide each Councillor with a copy of the Parish Pump at a total cost of £1,397.76 (£1,389.36 membership plus £8.40, 14 copies of Parish Pump at 60p each).

- c. Telford and Shropshire Marketing Partnership (TSMP) at a cost of £50 plus VAT (Total £58.75)

Resolved – not to renew the Parish Council's Membership to TSMP as it saw no benefit to being a member.

11. Allotments

The Council considered the decision to purchase land for allotments from Telford and Wrekin Council at a cost of £6,000 as discussed at the Halls and Environment Committee meeting held on 26th November 2007. The Clerk informed the Members that a Planning Application would have to be submitted to Telford and Wrekin Council for change of use from garden license to allotments at a cost of £132.50.

Resolved – that the Clerk applies for planning permission for change of use from garden license to Allotments at a cost of £132.50. If permission is given then the Clerk is to proceed with the purchase of the land at a maximum cost of £6,000.

12. West Mercia Police Authority.

The Chair informed the Council that a response had been received from West Mercia Constabulary regarding the Police Resources in Muxton. The Chair informed the Council that from 21st January 2008 PC Duncan White will be the new Local Police Officer for the areas of St George's, Priorslee and Muxton. PC Nikki Scott will accompany PC White to the next full Council meeting to introduce him to the Councillors. The Chair also informed the Council that the draft policing priorities for 2008 will be available on their website from the end of December. Meetings for a representative to attend to discuss these proposals further will be held on Tuesday 15th January in Worcester and Wednesday 16th January in Shrewsbury. Any Councillor wishing to attend these meetings is to inform the Clerk.

Councillor P Norton thanked PC Nikki Scott for all the hard work that she and her team had undertaken in Muxton. Councillor C Mason thanked Councillor P Norton for his endeavours in pushing for a new Local Police Officer.

13. Parish Council Surgeries.

Each Councillor received a copy of the proposed dates for the forthcoming Parish Councillor Surgeries in 2008.

Resolved – to accept the dates for the forthcoming Parish Councillor Surgeries in 2008.

14. Community Bus.

The Clerk informed the Council that over the three month period of October to December 2007 only 32 people had used the bus despite a free bus service beginning in December. Councillors then discussed the future of the Community Bus.

Resolved – that the Donnington Community Bus Service will cease to operate as from 1st April 2008. This is due to the high cost and low usage of the service. The Clerk is to ensure that notices informing the public of the cancellation of this service are placed on the buses.

15. Adoption of Smiths Crescent

The Chair informed the Councillors that Telford and Wrekin Council has now adopted Smith Crescent, Wrockwardine Wood as a public highway.

16. Pensioners Vouchers

The Clerk informed the Council that all 1,000 vouchers were distributed to pensioners residing within the parish prior to Christmas. As a result there had been a complaint that there were no vouchers left on the last day for those eligible to have them. Councillor Mrs E A Clare had requested that the Clerk informs the Council of how many over 65's resided within the parish. Whilst being unable to determine this figure, the Clerk was able to inform the Council that there were 1,169 people over the age of 70 within the parish.

Resolved – that as a result of this it was decided to review the Pensioners Vouchers at the next Finance Committee meeting.

17. Managing Biodiversity

The Chair informed the Parish Councils that it is invited to submit its views on the management of biodiversity and the natural environment in Telford and Wrekin. Councillors should submit their views to the Clerk so that they can be presented at the next meeting.

18. Budget Comparisons for all Committees and Precept

Each Councillor had received a copy of the Budget Comparisons as at 31st December 2007 as well as the proposed budgets for the forthcoming financial year 2008/2009.

It was **Resolved** that:

1. The recommendations made at the Finance Committee meeting of 10th December 2007 are agreed.
2. The recommendations made at the Halls and Environment Committee meeting of 26th November 2007 are agreed.
3. The budgets for each Committee are agreed.

The Precept for the year 2008/2009 is increased to £187,000 to cover any additional costs that may occur due to the increase in utility bills and to help maintain the Parish Council reserves. Councillor C Mason requested that his vote against this be recorded in the minutes.

The Council then discussed the fencing for the Talbot Centre Tennis Courts as previously agreed.

Resolved – to proceed with discussing the replacment of the fence around the Talbot Centre Tennis Courts. Councillors C Mason and J Lavery requested that their vote against this is recorded in the minutes.

The Chair informed the Council that as the meeting was about to pass 2hrs in length a resolution was required to continue the meeting as per Parish Council Standing Order 80.

Resolved – to continue the meeting.

After discussing the quotes obtained by the Clerk it was:

Resolved – that the Parish Council purchases the Tubular Fencing System for all four sides of the tennis courts.

Resolved – that Company D is awarded the contract to supply and fit the tubular fencing at a cost of £6,998.10 + VAT. The Clerk is to inform them that any damage to the tennis courts surface or edging is to be completely reinstated. Also that the contract requires that the north gate be hinged on a reinforced support on its eastern side and the gate opens inwards to the tennis court.

The Clerk was asked to include this in the next newsletter to keep the public informed of events.

19. **Bus Passenger Consultation Body**

Each Councillor received details of a consultation on whether a standalone bus body is the best approach or whether the role might be given to an existing body such as Passenger Focus. Councillors were asked to provide comments to the Clerk for further discussion.

20. **Planning Applications**

The Councillors discussed the following planning applications:

a. W2007/1704

Telford and Wrekin Council, Land at junction of Bradley Road/Ash Lea Drive, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire.

Renewal of outline Planning Permission W2004/1258 for residential development.

Resolved – to have no objection to this application.

b. W2007/1662

Mr & Mrs M Vickers, Land adjacent to Mount View, Hillside East, Lilleshall, Shropshire.

Erection of a detached dwelling (Outline planning permission).

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

- i. Access. The Parish Council is concerned about the narrow access to the proposed site and any plant trying to access the site would completely block the road.

- ii. Overdevelopment of Site. Outline Planning states that a house of up to five bedrooms will be developed on this site. The Parish Council is of the opinion that this is too large for this proposed site.
- iii. The design would be out of character with the surrounding Duke of Sutherland style housing within the area.
- iv. There is a Public Right of Way running through the site and there are concerns that this will be diverted without the permission of the Borough Council or lost altogether.

21. Correspondence

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

- a. SALC will be holding a workshop on Tuesday 26th February 2008 on “Being a Good Councillor” Modules 1 & 2.
- b. Telford and Wrekin Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document – To inform Councillors that notification has been received of the adoption of the aforementioned document together with copies of the Inspectors Report, the adopted Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal.
- c. Street Naming and Numbering. A proposal had been received that the postal address for the new properties being built on the land at Church Walk, Donnington is 1-24 Summercroft, Church Walk, Donnington.

22. Staff Salaries

Resolved - to ratify the decision regarding the new staff salaries as recommended at the Staff and Personnel Committee meeting held on 12th November 2007.

The meeting closed at 2120hrs.

Signed:

Date: