

# Donhead St Andrew Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7pm  
St Andrew's Church, Donhead St Andrew.

## Present:

- 8 Members of the Public (inc 7 members of the parish council)
- Chairperson of the Parish Council – Simon Barkham
- Wiltshire Councillor – Gerry Murray
- Parish Clerk – Simon Pritchard

## Minutes:

### 1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence:

The Chair, Cllr Barkham welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. Apologies had been received from Patricia Maxwell-Arnot

### 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024:

Last year's Annual Parish Meeting was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024, minutes were circulated at the time and have been available on the Parish Council website all year. It was agreed to adopt the minutes.

### 3. Report from Parish Council Chairman:

The Chairman gave a brief report of the Parish Council's activities over the last year:

- Jonathan Mason stood down as a councillor when he moved out of the area. Only 8 residents stood for election on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, the council has 9 seats. Looking to co-opt someone at the July meeting.
- Project to replace stiles with gates to create accessible circular walks has stalled as permission from all landowners has yet to be obtained.
- Trees in the cemetery were lifted and deadwooded. The edges were cut and maintained last year, giving the whole area an uplift.
- The MP, John Glenn visited the parish in February to look at the poor condition of the local highways for himself.
- The Parish Council has now been sent a copy for the road maintenance inspection reports that Highways Engineers at Wiltshire Council carry out every year. The reports show that the Engineers consider the highways to be in satisfactory condition each time they were inspected.
- Noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> of May elections has seen a change of the Tisbury Division Wiltshire Councillor for the area. Gerry Murray was elected to serve a 4-year term. Would like to pay tribute to retiring Wiltshire Councillor Richard Budden for all of his work over the previous two years in trying to tackle local issues, not least the poor condition of the highways.

### 4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor - Gerry Murray:

The Chair formally welcomed Cllr Murry to the meeting and congratulated him on his election win, this sentiment was echoed by the meeting.

Cllr Murry had spent quite some time before the meeting talking to residents and giving an informal update of what is happening at Wiltshire Council

- The 1<sup>st</sup> of May local elections have left no political party with overall control of the authority. Not clear at this time if the Lib-Dems will win the leadership vote, with support from independent councillors, or if the Conservatives will win the vote with support from the Reform Councillors.
- The Wiltshire Council Full Council meeting where the leadership vote will take place will be broadcast on the YouTube channel. Election for council chair first, then leader. Chairs of the Area Boards will take place the same day.
- LHFIFG funding will be reviewed.

#### **5. Reports from local groups and organisations:**

None received.

#### **6. Reports from Members of the Parish Council with Portfolios:**

##### **Parish Flood Warden – Cllr Hartley:**

- There have been 8 flood alerts and 2 warnings over the last 2-months. March was a very wet month.
- The new flood action group met 2 weeks ago.
- Feedback received that the accessible gates the parish council is installing, are not welcomed by all.

##### **Local Highways (Inc The Parish Steward ) - Cllr Burrows**

- The Highways are in the worst condition that they have been for years. Neglect and poor maintenance by Wiltshire Council. Think the message has now got through. The Bobcat has been in the parish resurfacing some roads.
- The one network website is listing a few resurfacing roadworks in the parish over the coming months.
- The Parish Steward offers a good service although his time is shared with other duties and there is no cover while he is on holiday.
- Wardour lane traffic speed has increased since the road was fixed.

##### **Wessex Internet: Nick Martin –**

*Mr Martin gave an update on the Wessex Internet connection. The full report is on the Parish Council's website and on Village Noticeboards*

The Chair thanked Nick for all his work.

#### **7. Open Public Parish Forum:**

Residents were invited to discuss any matter affecting the Parish.  
Nothing further was covered.

**Closed 19:57**