

Donhead St Andrew

Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at St Andrew's Church, St Bartholomew's Street
Donhead St Andrew

Thursday 9th November 2023 @ 7:00pm

Present: Cllr Simon Barkham (Chairman)
Cllr Jonathan Mason Cllr Alistair Stoker
Cllr Jane Sullivan Cllr Patricia Maxwell-Arnot
Cllr Jeremy Hartley

In Attendance: Cllr Richard Budden (Wiltshire Councillor)
Simon Pritchard; The Parish Clerk
Nick Martin; Wessex Fibre Broadband Voluntary Coordinator

Members of the Public: Zero

Questions or Statements from Residents: None

Report from Wiltshire Councillor Richard Budden:

Cllr Budden had submitted a written report to the council. This report will be posted onto the noticeboards and website.

- Cllr Budden drew the council's attention to the new central government dictate that all local authorities must have weekly collections of food waste for households and business by 2026. This will be difficult for Wiltshire Council to achieve as it currently doesn't collect the food waste separately and it has a long-term agreement with a company that burns the rubbish collected. About 40% of the black bin waste is food waste (by weight).
- Highways and road maintenance will be the main topic of the next Area Board meeting, in East Knoyle on 29th November, all welcome.
- **Question?** What is happening about the reported 100% increase in council tax for second homes. This needs to be publicised as many people may not be able to afford it.

Answer: Not sure, will go and find out and report back to the council, seemed to be slipped into a report that was about the council tax reduction scheme.

Wessex Fibre Broadband to Residential Homes:

Nick Martin undated Members. The report will be posted onto Parish Council's website and noticeboards.

- There is frustration that some of the homes that have signed up are yet to be connected. This has been escalated to the CEO.

Parish Clerk: Mr S. Pritchard

Website: www.donheadstandrew-pc.org.uk

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Signed Chairman:.....Date.....

Agenda Item:	
50	<u>Apologies of absence:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cllr Clive Burrows – Health reason ▪ Cllr Shena Kozuba-Kozubska – Health reason
51	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None
52	<u>Adoption of Previous Council Meeting Minutes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes of Thursday 14th September 2023 Cllr Maxwell-Arnot proposed that the minutes be adopted, seconded by Cllr Hartley and resolved unanimously.
53	<u>Wiltshire Local Plan Consultation:</u> Wiltshire Council are currently consulting on its new Local Plan, a Core Strategy involving homes, jobs and infrastructure. There is no allocation of housing in it for the parish of Donhead St Andrew as it is classified as a Small Village Members felt the question as to if residents would want to see any new housing was too much of a big question to tackle before the closing of the consultation on 22 nd of November. The general feeling was that new housing wouldn't be welcomed and the preference would be for the status quo. It was agreed that individual members could respond to the consultation if they wished, but that the Parish Council would not formally respond.
54	<u>Wessex Rivers Trust - Letter of Support:</u> Cllr Budden reported that there were three separate initiatives underway now, all concerned with the quality of water in the upper-Nadder river. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Wessex Rivers Trust & Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are looking to undertake a joint project to initially monitor the quality of the water. They need some grant funding for this and were hoping to get this from DEFRA, hence the request for a letter of support, but they have now found that the current grant funding doesn't fit with their scheme, so for now the project will not proceed. But they would still like information on flooding in the parish. 2- A local group of Farmers have set up their own initiative to monitor the quality of water run-off from their fields into the Nadder. Once they have this data, they can use it to adjust their working practices including the amount of fertilizer used, slurry runoff and decrease the amount washed into the river. 3- It has been identified that old or poorly maintained Septic Tanks in the area could be significantly contributing towards the pollution in the river. Wessex Water have the details of all homes that are not on the main sewers. It could be that Wiltshire Council fund a project to call on these properties and test their output. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support all these efforts and submit evidence of flooding and observations of water quality to the Rivers Trust.

<p>55</p>	<p><u>PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE:</u></p> <p><u>A. Approval of Payments & Payments:</u> To approve payments to be made a) S. Pritchard - Expenses and WFH allowance Oct to Nov - £69.76 It was proposed by Cllr Hartley to make the payment, seconded by Cllr Sullivan and resolved unanimously.</p> <p><u>B. Payments Made Since the Last Meeting:</u> This information had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was received.</p> <p><u>C. Budget Vs Spend to Date and Earmarked Balances:</u> This information had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was received.</p> <p><u>D. 2024/25 Parish Council Projects:</u> Members suggested some possible projects at the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Import an old red phone box and convert for community use. ▪ A defibrillator for the Overway area. ▪ Convert two more stiles into gates. ▪ Signage for the Church / More footpath signage. ▪ Funds to support the wildflowering of the Cemetery. <p>Thought was also given to the availability of electric car charging points, Cllr Mason informed the council that the Forester Pub was looking into installing two points in its car park. It was noted that if the Parish Council was to buy an old phone box, consent would need to be gained from Wiltshire Council for putting it up on the roadside. Final decisions and costing will have to be made at the next meeting in January.</p>
<p>56</p>	<p><u>Kissing Gates Installation:</u> Cllr Barkham reported that the project was now complete. All three stiles in Brickyard Field had been upgraded to pedestrian gates. Also, one over the border in Tisbury Parish at the junction of TISB50 & 65 next to Westfield Farm and a stile on DSTA1 near Donhead Lodge. In total 5 gates all updated in one day by the Tisbury Ramblers, a fantastic effort by all. Seeds of Success have pruned and cleared the entrance to DSTA1 from the road to the footbridge and have laid some hardcore which has improved the path, but it still requires a bit more hardcore to finish.</p>
<p>57</p>	<p><u>Cemetery Management (Lower Street):</u></p> <p><u>a) Cemetery Works:</u> Three additional strimming and mowing jobs have been carried out in the cemetery, two cuts all around the edges including clearing the bank on the roadside and the clearance of all the wildflower areas.</p>

	<p>It was agreed that the cemetery now looked very tidy and that the strimming works needs to be regularly undertaken throughout the year. Next year's maintenance budget will need to be increased.</p> <p>b) Cemetery Fees: The Parish Clerk had issued a report to members looking at the price charged by the Church of England and Donhead St May. The recommendation was to increase charges to match St Mary but remain cheaper than the Church of England. The increase in fees would offset to some extent the increase in the cemetery maintenance costs.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Stoker to accept the Parish Clerks recommendations, seconded by Cllr Hartley and resolved unanimously.</p>
58	<p><u>Update of Council Policies:</u> The following council policies had been checked to make sure they were based on the current model documents and had been tidied up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Standing Orders b) The Code of Conduct c) Pre-Planning Policy d) Grants Policy (New) <p>It was proposed by Cllr Stoker to adopt policies A to D on mass, seconded by Cllr Mason and resolved unanimously.</p>
59	<p><u>Donhead St Andrew Village Design Statement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The updated VDS document was already on the parish council's website. ▪ The Donhead Digest will have information in the winter edition about the update and how to make comments. ▪ Village Noticeboards will soon have information added to them, including the public meeting date. ▪ The website will carry an advert inviting residents to come to the meeting on Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7pm to make comment or to email the Parish Clerk with any feedback.
60	<p><u>Meetings Dates for 2024/25:</u> The dates were confirmed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thursday 11th January 2024 ○ Thursday 7th March 2024 ○ Thursday 9th May 2024 ○ Thursday 11th July 2024 ○ Thursday 12th September 2024 ○ Thursday 14th November 2024 ○ Thursday 9th January 2025
61	<p><u>Verbal Reports:</u> To receive any verbal reports.</p> <p>a) Chairman's Report Nothing further to report. Member of the council thanked Cllr Barkham for all his efforts in installing new fingerposts around the Wardour loop.</p>

	<p>b) Highways / Parish Steward – Cllr Burrows</p> <p>Cllr Burrows had submitted a written report to the council:</p> <p><i>I don't have much to report on Highways that is not already generally known. Wiltshire Council are clearly having a continuing challenge in dealing with potholes and the general poor state of our roads. My own road of particular interest, Wardour Lane, continues to deteriorate and is now eroding on the south-east side where overflowing water runs down the road between my bungalow and Watergate Cottage. I have reported the two blocked gullies below Watergate Cottage again, and hopefully this might produce some action. The road really needs resurfacing the whole way down from Watergate Cottage but is unlikely to be a top priority - it is an unclassified road. To be fair to Wiltshire Council, roads like Wardour Lane are difficult to maintain - too much water flowing down, and too many vehicles overrunning the verges resulting in silt and gravel washing into the drains.</i></p> <p><i>Our Parish Steward is due to be with us again on Thursday 16th November. As always, the more problems that we report on the MyWilts app, the more likely that we are to get some action.</i></p> <p>c) Rights of Way – Cllr Maxwell-Arnot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Footpath No19 which crosses the field from Barkers Hill to the Semley border. Complaint received about the new stiles that have been installed, no way of getting a dog through, would have to lift dogs over. Cllr Barkham has been to talk to the landowner, they have no interest in providing facility for dogs and are not legally obliged to. They have had livestock killed in the past. ○ Would like to see the stile on Footpath No2 upgraded. Agreed that the aim should be to upgrade stiles to gates to make little loops that have all pedestrian gates and no stiles. <p>d) Flood Warden – Cllr Hartley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ According to Wiltshire Council the only area of the parish treated as a high priority for gully clearance is West End Lane. Going to contact Wiltshire Council to see how the risk is worked out. ○ Will need more volunteers to help with the overall flood prevention efforts, from people on the ground checking ditches, to coordination efforts when things go wrong. ○ Now has the contact details for the group of residents who were flooded a few years ago. Looking to form a new action group. <p>e) Tree Warden</p> <p>No report.</p> <p>f) Local Planning & Development</p> <p>No report</p> <p>g) Parish Clerk's Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attended the WALC AGM in Devizes on behalf of the council. It was poorly attended, with only about 6 councils represented, but it did have the leader of Wiltshire Council attend and he was very interesting to listen to, main takeaway is that Wiltshire Council are looking to prosecute a lot more fly tippers. While at the meeting it was also revealed that the ability for councils to hold remote meeting will not be returning as this had been dropped from current legislation passing through parliament. ○ Reminder that the Area Bored are having a Highways focused meeting at East Knoyle village hall on Wednesday 29th November.
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End of Formal Meeting 21:15
Next Meeting: Thursday 11th January 2024

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Signed Chairman:.....Date.....