

Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council *Annual Report*



Chairman's Report 2013/2014

It was a great privilege to be elected as Chairman to this Parish Council at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2013, the first Lilleshall resident to hold this esteemed position since 1968. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Liam Mason for his brief tenure as a Councillor and welcome his replacement Councillor John Thompson, once a former member of this Parish Council. I would also like to thank Derek White who had been an employee of this Council for eighteen years until the restructuring of staff led to his redundancy and wish him the very best for the future.

During my chairmanship the Parish Council unexpectedly received notification that its street lights were soon to be obsolete and the cost of replacing these would be £158,400. Due to the cost involved the Council discussed this in great depth, taking six months to agree a five year replacement plan thus spreading the cost without having to increase this Council's precept (demand on the Council Tax). Work will commence from April 2014 onwards.

I am delighted that the parish council's allotments continue to thrive and it always impresses me how much produce can be grown from a small patch of land. The resultant community spirit occurring here is a credit to the tenants actively participating in maintaining the site, helping each other and holding social events such as a Christmas party and on-site barbeques.

Once again we are in the process of another Community Governance Review (CGR), the second in four years. Whatever the outcome which is to be decided around July 2014, I hope everyone can accept the decision that will be made and work toward whatever process is required of this decision. It is proving to be a costly and unsettling exercise.

Despite the success of last year's Christmas festival it was decided not to hold a similar event in 2013 but instead, plan toward a World War 1 centenary commemoration event in June 2014. Plans for this are in the final stages and I hope the event will be a great success. I would like to thank all those involved in its organisation.

Cordingley Hall was leased to Nicola Casey of Casey's Venues and officially re-opened on 11th July 2013. I wish them every success in their business venture and look forward to working with them for the foreseeable future.

As Chairman I have been honoured to represent the Council, accompanied by my wife and fellow Parish Councillor, on nine separate occasions attending events ranging from the RAF Association, Remembrance Day and meeting

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Annual Report 2013/2014

Councillor John Thompson

In September John Thompson was elected as Councillor thus filling the vacancy for the Donnington Ward. John has previously been a Councillor and Chairman of this Parish Council and the Council would like to welcome John back and looks forward to working with him in the future.



Talbot Centre, Tennis Courts, Lilleshall

Councillors have agreed that the footpath to the side of the Talbot Centre and tennis courts is to be dedicated as a public footpath. This was the result of a direct request from Telford & Wrekin Council's Rights of Way Officer. The Parish Council agreed to this providing written confirmation from the Borough Council is received confirming that Telford & Wrekin Council accepts liability for the maintenance of the path. Two mini tennis courts have now also been created at the Talbot Centre to the side of the building.

Estate Manager

It was with regret that, in July, this Parish Council had to say farewell to its Estate Manager, Mr Derek White, after 18 years' service. Derek was probably the most well-known member of this Council as he was constantly out and about in the Parish Council van and mowing the grassed areas for which this Parish Council is responsible. As a Councillor for Telford & Wrekin Council Derek will now be concentrating all his effort working for the benefit of the Borough. This Council would like to wish him the very best for the future.



Pensioners Vouchers

Christmas 2013 saw this Parish Council give out 987 £5 Christmas Vouchers to pensioners that were 65 years of age and over that reside within the parish.

Muxton Play Provision Project

As a result of the new developments in Marshbrook Way, Muxton money has now become available for play provision within Muxton. Currently ideas range from providing new apparatus on the children's play park, an outdoor gym and, if possible, a full size ball court. All these proposals are subject to public consultation and planning permission but it is hoped that the apparatus will be in place by April/May 2014.

Barriers, Saltwell's Drive, Muxton

Barriers have now been installed on land at Saltwell's Drive, Muxton near to the junction with Marshbrook Way. This is to prevent vehicles accessing the land and

play area by St John's Church.

Street Lighting

This Parish Council currently owns 528 lights situated throughout the parish. Due to lanterns becoming obsolete next year it is having to undergo a renewal programme at a cost of £158,400. The programme will be spread over 5 years to ensure that there will be no increase to the precept as a result of this.

The new lanterns will be LED white light which are energy saving and require less maintenance. It is estimated that energy and maintenance savings will be in the region of £288,000 over the next 25 years.

Sale of Land, Muxton

The Council undertook investigations to consider the viability of selling off some of its land in Muxton to help pay toward the cost of replacing its street lighting. However, at a meeting held on 14th April 2014, over 60 residents from Muxton were in attendance voicing their opposition to this idea. As a result of public opinion the Council has listened to residents' concerns and is no longer pursuing this proposal.

Poppies

The Council will be planting poppies to commemorate those that gave their lives in World War 1 on the roundabout situated at the junction of Wrekin Drive and Wellington Road, Donnington. Councillors will also have poppies to plant around their wards at their discretion.

Trees at Saltwell's Drive

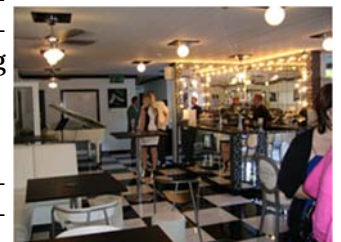
The Parish Council has recently had to undertake some major tree works on land at Saltwell's Drive to the rear of Thornton Park Avenue, Muxton. Over the years the trees have regenerated themselves and as a result were starting to inhibit the growth and health of others and were becoming unsafe.

Community Governance Review Ballot

A ballot was held inviting the residents of Lilleshall to vote on whether or not they wish to have an independent Parish Council separate from Donnington and Muxton or whether to stay as Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council. The votes were counted at the Lilleshall Memorial Hall on Thursday 20th March. Out of the 1,079 electorate 579 electors voted. 320 voted for an independent Council with 259 voting to stay with the current Parish Council. Telford and Wrekin Council's Boundary Review Committee will be considering all the factors involved in a CGR and making its decision around July 2014.

Cordingley Hall

Cordingley Hall recently reopened on 11th July 2013 under new tenancy. Casey's Venues have worked extremely hard in refurbishing the



Staff and Personnel Committee and Planning Committee 2013/2014

Staff and Personnel Committee



Committee Members: Chairman A Lawrence (pictured), Mrs C Baker, Mrs L M Dugmore, N Dugmore, Mrs P A Green, A Lawrence, C Mason, P Norton.

Its membership consists of no more than seven members of the Council (Vice-Chair only included). This is to ensure that any redress against this committee will be dealt with on a non-bias basis headed by the Chair of the Parish Council. Members are selected at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

Staff and Personnel Committee meetings are scheduled as and when the Clerk and Chair consider necessary, lasting no longer than two hours.

The Committee's objective is to ensure that any issues relating to the staff and personnel of this Parish Council are dealt with fairly and legally. Staff salaries will be discussed as and when necessary and any recommendations will be reported to and ratified at the next available full Council meeting.

The function of the Staff and Personnel Committee is to:

- Review recommendations for salary increases (with the Clerk for other staff) and make recommendations to full Council.
- Manage any staff complaints, disputes or grievances and report their decision to full Council.
- Oversee all aspects of the employment process from the initial investigation into whether a suggested position is in fact necessary through the formulation of a person and job specification, interviews, and finally to the offer of employment to the chosen individual after ratification by full Council.
- Monitor and develop members of staff and review their training needs in relation to their posts.
- Ensure matters relating to health, safety and welfare are reviewed regularly and that staff working environments adhere to Health and Safety in the workplace.
- Consult on general staff matters.



Planning Committee

Committee Members: Chairman P Norton (Pictured), Vice-Chair A Baker, Mrs C A Baker, B Green, A Lawrence, C Mason, Mrs E P Millard.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultant on planning applications. This means that it has the right and responsibility to give an opinion on all applications made

to the Borough of Telford and Wrekin that occur within its parish boundaries.

Planning Committee meetings are scheduled as and when the Clerk and Chair of Planning consider necessary. It is left to their discretion whether or not to call a planning committee meeting when there are a large number of applications to consider. Otherwise the Clerk places planning applications on the agendas of the next available full Council meeting for discussion. This is to enable the Parish Council to respond within the time limit of two weeks given by the Borough Council. The Planning Committee met eleven times during the year 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014.

The Committee's objective is to make every effort to ensure that decisions on all planning matters and other matters referred to the committee balance the wishes of the applicants against the effect of the plan on other residents of the parish and the character of immediate surrounding areas whilst preserving conservation areas, Green belt and local amenities.

From April 2013 to March 2014 the Council received a total of 70 planning applications for discussion and comments, up one on last year. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 37 applications (up 7 from last year)

Lilleshall 21 applications (up 6 from last year)

Muxton 12 applications (down 12 from last year)

Whilst the majority of applications received were for single or two storey extensions to dwellings there were some applications of specific interest:

Donnington

An application submitted by Telford & Wrekin Council for the construction of an 875,000 sq.ft and 279,862 sq.ft warehouse and distribution facility on land to the north west of existing MOD Donnington and land adjacent to Hortonwood 37.

An extension to the traveller site on land at Lodge Road, Donnington and the development of 22 houses and four apartments on land off St Matthew's Road which is currently under construction.

Muxton

The demolition of the Sutherland Arms and erection of 8 dwellings, and the siting of 19 Park Homes on land to the rear of 41 to 47 Wellington Road.

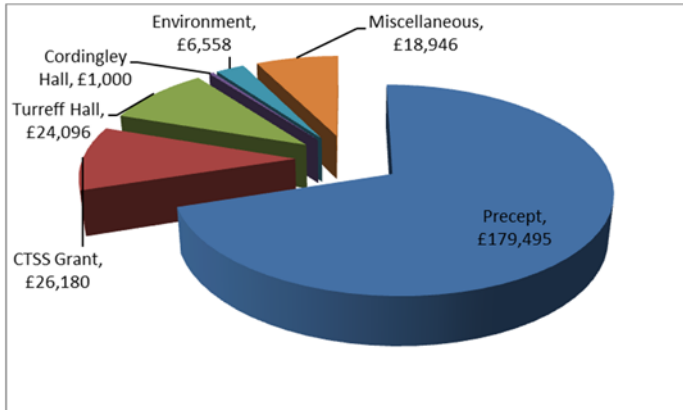
Lilleshall

The creation of two mini tennis courts at the Talbot centre tennis courts.

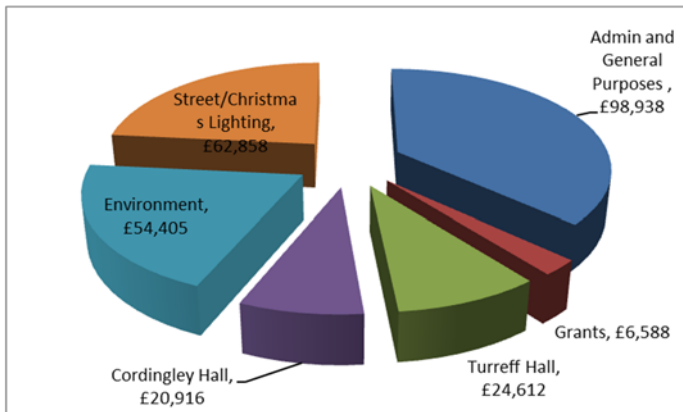
The Council's decisions regarding all applications can be found on its website www.ldmpc.org or can be obtained from the Clerk at the Parish Office.

Finance

The Council's precept for 2013/2014 was set at £205,675 (this includes the CTSS grant from Telford & Wrekin Council of £26,180). This meant a cost of £45.92, an increase of £1.00 per annum on Band D equivalent houses within the Parish as part of the Council Tax. This figure was set according to the number of Band "D" properties in the parish which was given at 3906.7.



Income 2013/2014



Expenditure 2013/2014

Grants totalling £6,588 were awarded to 10 groups and organisations that benefit the inhabitants within the Parish.

The Parish Council, working in partnership with Asda and the Wrekin Housing Trust, has again jointly sponsored the Donnington Police Beat Managers Vehicle.

The Parish Council has received its Annual Return for the year ended 2013 back from its Auditors, Mazars LLP based in Southampton which, once again, has been successfully signed off.

For the tenth year running the Council has provided vouchers at Christmas for the pensioners residing in the parish which continues to increase in popularity every

year. Last Christmas (2013) 987 pensioners claimed their vouchers.

Parish Council: Councillors 2013/2014

Donnington Ward

Elizabeth A Clare
Brian H Green
Patricia A Green
Jim Lavery
Clive Mason
John Thompson

Muxton Ward

Veronica J Brown
Lisa M Dugmore
Nigel A Dugmore
Jeremy Haigh
Adrian Lawrence
Phil Norton

Lilleshall Ward

Andrew Baker Carol Baker Pam Millard

Parish Personnel

Clerk Ralph Morgan
Assistant Clerk Angela Jordan
Caretaker Helen Whitehouse
All can be contacted at the Parish Office in Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington, Telford.
The contact telephone number is 01952 608001
Email address is: clerk@ldmpc.org
Website address is www.ldmpc.org

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council website is proving to be a great success. All Agendas and Minutes of meetings are published together with a list of Councillors, activities for young and old and links into the history of Donnington, Lilleshall and Muxton. To access the website go to www.ldmpc.org or find us also on Facebook.

Parish Council Assets

The assets held by the Parish Council are as follows:

Fixed Assets	Estimated Value (£) as at March 2014
Turreff Hall	450,159.05
Cordingley Hall	763,684.97
Talbot Centre	49,507.12
Street Furniture:	29,739.36
24 x Bus Shelters	
Benches	
Street Lights	

The Parish Council also has £6,646 of plant and equipment with which to carry out its duties.

Land

Land opposite Muxton Primary School, Marshbrook Way, Muxton
Brands Meadow Play area and woods, Muxton
Land from Muxton Primary School on Marshbrook Way to the junction of Winchester Drive, Muxton.
Land to rear of Saltwell's Drive through to play area next

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by the various contributors are not necessarily those of Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council. The inclusion of an article in this publication does not necessarily imply a recommendation of its aims, policies or methods. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this