

Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council *Annual Report 2014/2015*



Chairman's Report 2014/2015

It was a great privilege to be elected as Chairman to this Parish Council at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2014. As a Councillor, I represent the Muxton Ward on both the Parish Council and Telford & Wrekin Council.

One of the most notable events to occur during my Chairmanship was the decision by Telford & Wrekin Council to allow Lilleshall to split from this Parish Council to form its own Lilleshall Parish Council, the result of a Community Governance Review. A Shadow Council was formed to oversee the transfer, of which, I was also elected as Chairman. Without the economy of scale that a

larger Parish Council brings and in order to keep services for the 2015/16 to the same standard, this regrettably means an increase of 61% in the 2015/2016 precept for Lilleshall residents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lilleshall Ward Councillors, Andrew and Carol Baker and Pam Millard for the hard work that they did and their contributions to discussions representing Lilleshall as part of this Parish Council and, together with the maiden Councillors for the new Parish Council, wish them all the very best for the future.

The year 2014 marked the centenary of the start of World War 1. To commemorate this and remember those that gave their lives during this conflict, the Parish Council held a Centenary Commemoration Event on Broadoaks Field, Donnington on 7th June. Despite the poor weather it was a great success and I would like to thank all those that took part and helped organise the event.

Planning applications appear to have dominated the Council this year beginning with the publication of Telford & Wrekin Council's "Shaping Places" Local Plan 2011–2031 which highlighted large plots of land available for development in the Muxton and Lilleshall Wards. There were proposals for housing development on land off Muxton Lane by Gladmans Development Ltd which, as a result of pressure from the local community and Parish Council was refused by the Borough Council. Unfortunately, an application for housing development on land at The Croft, Lilleshall was granted despite a campaign by residents to oppose it. A pre-application consultation was also received from Davidsons Developments regarding proposals to build a residential development on land off Station Road to the rear of Wyevale. To date, a formal application has not yet been submitted. There was also excellent news for the area when Leidos was selected by the Government as the preferred bidder to run the procurement and inventory management of commodity items from MOD Donnington. The programme represents a significant investment into the area.

The Council continues to actively seek measures to reduce speeding on Wellington Road, Muxton and impose weight restrictions on St George's Road/Wrekin Drive, Donnington. This is as a result of complaints received from local residents.

I would like to thank all the Councillors, the Parish Clerk Ralph Morgan, Angela Jordan (Assistant Clerk) and Helen Whitehouse (Caretaker) for their support and hard work throughout the year.

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Annual Report 2014/2015

“Shaping Places”

In 2014, Telford and Wrekin Council published its draft “Shaping Places” Local Plan 2011-2031 and commenced with its consultation process, the first phase of which ended on 7th June 2014. It highlighted areas where development will be encouraged and within their plans for this Parish which, if fully implemented, would amount to the development of 3,168 homes. These proposals amount to a very significant enlargement of the Muxton area. The Parish Council held a public meeting on 2nd June 2014 at which strong feelings were expressed by residents against the Plan. The Council voted unanimously to object to the Plan and support residents in their opposition to it.

Community Governance Review

Telford & Wrekin Council’s Boundary Review Committee met on 23rd June and decided to grant the creation of a separate Lilleshall Parish Council with seven Councillors. A shadow council was created to oversee the initial setting up of the new council to ensure it is ready to commence business after the elections in May 2015. The residual Council of Donnington and Muxton will consist of four wards; Donnington West returning 5 Councillors, Donnington East returning 1 Councillor, Muxton returning 5 Councillors and The Humbers returning 2 Councillors.

World War 1 Centenary Commemoration Event

On 7th June 2014 this Parish Council paid tribute to the fallen heroes of the First World War with a special event held on Broadoaks Field, Donnington. The stormy weather meant a slow start to proceedings although things did pick up in the afternoon. The event commenced with a short memorial service which included reading out the names of those that gave their lives contained on the Role of Honour, members from the British Legion with their standards and the playing of last post and reveille by Mark Douglas, a former Light Infantry bugler. There was memorabilia from the war on display, including medals from the late Harry Trumper and William Trumper. Teenagers from 83 squadron St George’s Air Cadets impressed with their tribute to the Red Arrows, which they called the Red Barrows as they used adapted wheelbarrows to imitate the formation display reminiscent of the famous RAF display. Volunteers from the Donnington Partnership made cakes using recipes from the era and also provided tea, sandwiches and hot meals. Serving soldiers from Parsons Barracks in Donnington were present with some military police vehicles and equipment. A historical WW1 air battle was provided by members of the Strategic Tactical Adventure Gaming Society (STAGS) and there was a WW2 jeep owned by local resident Mr Wilding.



Guest Speakers at Council Meetings

During 2014/2015 this Council invited guest speakers to its Council meetings. These included: Mr M Barker and R Taylor (Telford & Wrekin Council Planning Officers) to discuss the “Shaping Places” Local

Plan 2011–2031; Mr N Kitchen (T&Wr Senior Traffic and Street Works Engineer) to discuss speed limit repeater signs on Marshbrook Way, speed restrictions on Wellington Road, Muxton and weight restrictions for St George’s Road/Wrekin Drive, Donnington; K Swallows (Service Delivery Manager for School Organisational Services) to inform Council about the Assisted Travel to Newport Schools; and H Jutla to discuss the NHS Future Fit Programme with Councillors.

Street Lighting

2014 saw the start of this Parish Council’s five year street lighting renewal programme. It 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 total 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. This Council also agreed to install another street light in Ash Lea Drive, Donnington as a result of a direct request from a resident residing there.

St Michael’s and All Angels Church, Lilleshall

In 2014 the Church was invited to enter the Churchyard Awards Scheme and this Council was delighted when it won the SILVER Award. Congratulations to all those that worked extremely hard to achieve this including the current Parish Council’s contractors TWS.

Grants Awarded

During 2014/2015 this Parish Council awarded grants to the following organisations: Lilleshall Village Tennis Club, Friends of Granville Country Park, Mark’s Pit Stop, Age UK Donnington Day Centre, Walkabout Wrekin, S.T.A.B.L.E., Kids Independent Trust, Telford Sea Cadets, Barclay Gardens, Telford & Wrekin Council Sports Development, Lawndale, Millward Close and Barclay Court, Kids Crazy Klub, Home-start Telford & Wrekin, Newport (Shropshire) Carnival, Severn Hospice Telford.

Staff Qualifications

During 2014/2015 all three members of this Parish Council’s staff qualified in the FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work.

BA (Hons) Degree

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the Clerk has recently gained the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Honours Degree in Community Engagement and Governance with the University of Gloucestershire. The Clerk attended the Graduation Ceremony in November 2014. This Council would like to congratulate the Clerk on his achievement.



Staff and Personnel Committee and Planning Committee 2014/2015

Staff and Personnel Committee



Committee Members: Chairman P Norton (pictured), Mrs C Baker, Mrs L M Dugmore, N Dugmore, J Haigh, C Mason, J Thompson.

Its membership consists of no more than seven members of the Council (Vice-Chair only included). This is to ensure that any redress against decisions made by 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 Staff and Personnel Committee met twice during 2014/2015 to discuss a grievance received from the Clerk regarding accusations made about him by a resident during the Community Governance Review process 2013/2014. The Committee investigated the matter and concluded that these allegations are completely unfounded and unsubstantiated. The Clerk, in the Council's opinion, has undertaken his duties professionally during the process.



Planning Committee

Committee Members: Chairman A Baker (Pictured), Mrs C A Baker, N Dugmore, B Green, J Lavery, A Lawrence, C Mason, Mrs E P Millard and P Norton.

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 seventeen times during the year 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015.

The Committee's objective is to make every effort to en-

sure 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 2014 to March 2015 the Council received a total of 77 planning applications for discussion and comments, up seven on last year. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 37 applications (the same as last year)

Lilleshall 22 applications (up 1 from last year)

Muxton 18 applications (up 6 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 the Exotic Zoo based in Bradley Road for a solar dome for the purpose of developing a sensory garden with classroom. There were applications made by the Wrekin Housing Trust to demolish the flats at The Common, Glebelands and build 20 dwellings and to build 29 dwellings on the site of the former Coddon Club.

Muxton

Following the demolition of the Sutherland Arms and erection of 8 dwellings, another application was made to erect 9 dwellings on the site of The Cottage, Wellington Road which is next door to the Sutherland Arms site. An extremely controversial application was submitted by Gladmans Development to build 110 dwellings on land off Muxton Lane. Residents got together with the Parish Council and strongly objected to it resulting in Telford & Wrekin Council refusing the application.

Lilleshall

The application to build a total of 18 dwellings and 4 bungalows on two pieces of land adjacent to The Croft caused consternation amongst the village. Also, there was a pre-application consultation by Davidsons Developments undertaken for a proposed residential development on land off Station Road, Donnington.

Other

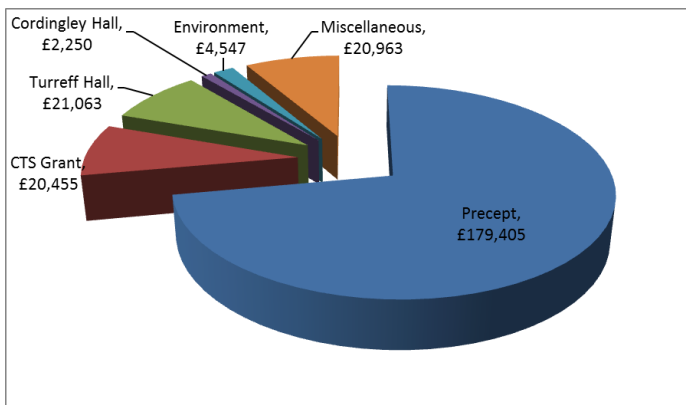
An application not in the parish boundaries but on which this Council was consulted, was for the outline planning for a sustainable urban extension including up to 1,100 dwellings, a commercial/employment centre, a primary school, local centre, a retirement village; strategic landscaping, attenuation areas, open space, highways and other associated infrastructure between Castle Farm Way (A4640) and Watling Street (A5).

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

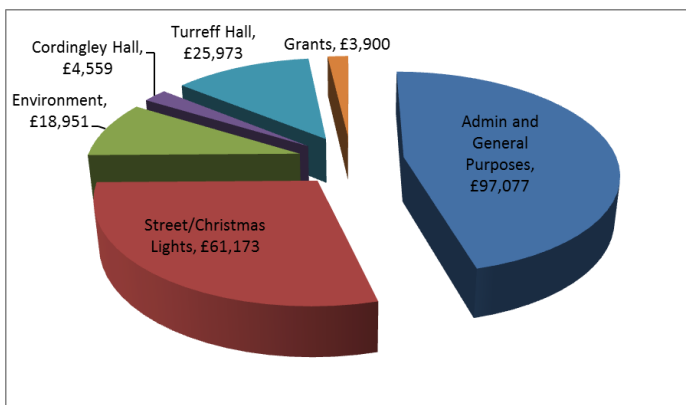
Finance

The Council's precept for 2014/2015 was set at £179,405 (this does not include the CTSS grant from Telford & Wrekin Council of £20,455). This meant a cost of £44.71, a reduction of £1.21 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" equivalent properties in the parish which was given at 4012.90.

Income 2014/2015



Expenditure 2014/2015



Grants totalling £3,600 were awarded to 15 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 £300 (grant) to the Donnington Police Beat Managers Vehicle.

The Parish Council has received its Annual Return for the year ended 2014 back from its Auditors, Mazars LLP based in Southampton which, once again, has been successfully signed off.

For Christmas 2014/2015 the Council, through a split vote, decided not to provide vouchers at Christmas for the pensioners residing in the parish.

Parish Council: Councillors 2014/2015

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
Assistant Clerk
Caretaker
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@donningtonmuxtonpc.org
Website address is: www.donningtonmuxtonpc.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.donningtonmuxtonpc.org or find us also on Facebook.

Parish Council Assets

The assets held by the Parish Council are as follows:

<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Estimated Value (£) as at March 2015</u>
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 £17,569.05 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 to St John's Church, Saltwell's Drive, Muxton.
Land for allotments adjacent to 78 Wellington Road, Lilleshall.

Land for allotments at Donnington Recreation Ground

There are, however, various covenants restricting the sale of the buildings and land.

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 publication; however, no liability can be accepted for loss or inconvenience caused as a result of error or omission.