



Donnington and Muxton Parish Council *Annual Report 2015/2016*



Chairman's Report 2015/2016

It has been a great privilege to be the first Chairman of Donnington & Muxton Parish Council. This year was always going to be a series of firsts – our first without Lilleshall as a partner, my first as ever being chair, our first following boundary re-organisations meaning we had the new wards of the Humbers and Donnington Wood, and also our first without long standing councillors Pat and Brian Green.

I am pleased to report that we have had a very busy year. Alongside our traditional parish council meetings, we have introduced a working lunch which is held every other month. This is an opportunity for all stakeholders in the parish to come along and talk about what they are doing, offer and ask for help with projects and generally to get to know one another a little better. We have also worked in partnership with Caseys at Cordingley Hall to put on a Christmas and May Day festival which I think have both been a great success.

We have continued to work with the community with regards to planning issues. I am very pleased to say that alongside our borough ward members and a very effective residents action group, the developer Gladman was denied their application to build houses on Muxton Lane. We have, however, supported applications that were positive and appropriate for our community, made recommendations for change where we believed them to be appropriate, and of course recommended that planning permission be refused where necessary.

There is much to be proud of this year. We have been instrumental in the installation of CCTV on the Parade, we have installed a defibrillator in Donnington, and will look to place them in other areas of the Parish. We have agreed a short, medium and long term plan of projects that councillors would like to see throughout the parish, and this has led to some interesting and innovative ideas. Of course the biggest news of this year is the council's decision to take on the running of the library. A decision unanimously agreed which will help to secure this vital public service.

Of course this year has not been without its challenges. Continued economic pressures impact almost everything we do, but I am pleased to report that our finances are healthy, and without raising the precept and even after taking on new responsibilities, I believe we have a financially sustainable future.

I would like to welcome Kate as Assistant Clerk who replaced Angela this year – and of course to thank Angela for her service to this parish over a number of years. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the time and effort they give to serve their local community, and also to thank Helen, Kate and Ralph for the hard work and commitment they give, not only to us as Councillors, but to the wider community.

Inside this issue:

Annual Report	Page 2
Annual Report, Staff and Personnel Committee and Planning Committee	Page 3
Financial Information	Page 4
Parish Council Information	Page 4

Annual Report 2015/2016

Local Council Awards Scheme—First in Telford

At its Council meeting held at the Lifelong Learning Centre on 8th February 2016 the Parish Council was presented with a certificate in the Local Council Award Scheme by Mr David Beechey, Chairman of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC). The Parish Council was the first in Telford to achieve this qualification designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework in which councils can improve and develop to meet their full potential.

Assistant Clerk

It was with regret that we said farewell to the Assistant Clerk Mrs Angela Jordan at the beginning of September. Angela had been with this Council for just over 8 years and recently achieved the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). This Council wishes her all the very best in her new employment. As a result of the vacancy caused by Angela leaving, this Council would like to welcome Miss Kate Watson as the new Assistant Clerk to the Council. Kate comes from a finance/administration background and has already become a vital part of the team. We look forward to continue working with her in her role.

“Park That Bike” Scheme

Two free bike racks obtained by this Parish Council as part of this scheme have now been installed outside the shops in Fieldhouse Drive, Muxton. The Parish Council only had to pay for their installation.



General Power of Competence

As a result of satisfying the criteria required and having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, this Council has adopted the General Power of Competence.

Security upgrade Turreff Hall

Turreff Hall has had an upgrade to its security alarm system which now enables it to regain Police response to alarm activation.

Muxton Ball Courts and Outdoor Gym

Planning permission has recently been granted and work is currently underway to install a new ball court on land adjacent to Brands Meadow, a half ball court and state of the art outdoor gym on land off Marshbrook Way. It is hoped that the work will be completed in time for the school summer holidays.

Bulb Planting

The year 2017 sees the anniversary of Lions Club International. As part of the centennial celebrations they were looking to plant trees, shrubs or flowers and asked if the Parish Council had any land which could benefit from the project. As a result 4,000 bulbs were planted on land opposite and adjacent to Muxton Primary School on

Tuesday 13th October 2015 with the help of the children. They planted 1000 winter aconite, 1000 woodland anemones and 2000 English bluebells. Pictured are some of the children helping the Telford Lions Volunteers.



New Benches and Picnic Table

Two new benches have been installed in Donnington. One is located at the community park area of Ash Lea Drive and one on Broadoaks Field. These were purchased by the Parish Council and Donnington Borough Councillors Ward Fund respectively, which also funded a new picnic bench which has been installed at Barclay Gardens Sensory garden. The bench was built by volunteers at TENS, Skills and Enterprise Hub, Horsehay.

Community Access Public Defibrillator (CPAD)

This Parish Council has recently purchased a CPAD which has been installed on an external wall at the public toilets, Hawthorn Road, Donnington. At the May Day Summer Festival the Council hopes to raise enough money to have one installed in Muxton.



CCTV The Parade, Donnington

Due to the increase in crime, especially shoplifting, over the last number of years it has long been the aim of the Police, local authorities and Donnington Partnership to have CCTV on The Parade, Donnington. As a result of a grant of around £15,000 from the Police Crime Commissioner, nine High Definition cameras will soon be erected covering all areas of The Parade. A press release will be made in the coming month regarding the CPAD, CCTV and new Notice Board for The Parade, Donnington.

Muxton Notice Boards

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, there has been a delay to the making and installation of the two notice boards earmarked for Saltwell's Drive play area and one at Marshbrook Way play area, Muxton. It is hoped that these will be installed within the coming months.

Weight Restriction, Wrekin Drive/St George's Road

The Weight Restriction for Wrekin Drive/St George's Road, Donnington requested by the Parish Council is currently progressing through the consultation phase for borough wide TROs and as such, dependant on results/comments received should be implemented within the forthcoming months.

Quiet Lane Status

Information and traffic counts are still being undertaken to ascertain if the area between Muxton Cottage to Muxton Grange Cottages can be designated as a "Quiet Lane". Unfortunately, the previous survey included the whole of Muxton Lane and it was deemed that the lower part of the road did not meet the required criteria.

Donnington library and Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC)

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to save Donnington library which, like other district libraries, came under threat of closure due to Telford & Wrekin Council's proposed budget cuts. As such consultations are and will be ongoing as to how best this can be achieved. It is proposed that the Parish Council office will be moved into the library which will then be managed by the Parish Council staff and volunteers. It is hoped that the LLC will be saved from the threat of closure, but if not, its activities will also move to the library/Turreff Hall. An application to the Pride in Your High Street scheme has also been made to assist in keeping the LLC open by encouraging Community groups/organisations to take ownership of this much used Community Centre.

Giotto Mural

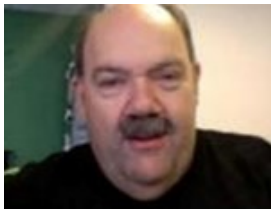
Consultations are taking place to try and get the Giotto mural situated between Wellington Road and Fieldhouse Drive, Muxton renovated. It is hoped to get the local schools and college involved in the process. Over time the mural has deteriorated and tiles have fallen off and become broken. The mural was erected to celebrate the Giotto Rockets mission to Halley's Comet.



George Whyte

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council received news during this year of the passing of George Whyte who passed away peacefully in Ellesmere Community Nursing Home on Tuesday 20th October 2015 aged 93. George was born in Oakengates in 1922 and moved to Donnington in 1927. George was first elected to Wellington Rural District Council (WRDC) in 1947 at the age of 27, the youngest to be so elected. He served until 1974 when Wrekin District Council was formed and then retired from this Council in 1991. He was elected to Lilleshall Parish Council in 1951 and served until late 2002. He was made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Telford and Wrekin.

Staff and Personnel Committee



Committee Members: Chairman M Edwards (pictured), N Dugmore, Mrs R Gregory, J Haigh, J Lavery, A Lawrence.

Its membership consists of no more than six 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.

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. The Staff and Personnel

Committee met twice during 2015/2016 to discuss the resignation of the Assistant Clerk and appointment of a replacement and after a six months period reviewed the hours and workload of Parish Council staff resulting from the changes made.

Planning Committee

Committee Members: Chairman J Lavery (Pictured), Mrs L Edwards, Mrs R Gregory, C Mason, V Rainsford, J Thompson. Ex-officio members Mrs L Dugmore, M Edwards.



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.

The Planning Committee met twelve times during the year 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016. From April 2015 to March 2016 the Council received a total of 54 planning applications for discussion and comments. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 27 applications (down 10 from last year)
Muxton 27 applications (up 9 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 for 10 apartments on the site of 72B Furnace Lane, Trench was objected to by this Parish Council but an amended application for 6 apartments was permitted by Telford & Wrekin Council. Applications submitted by Telford & Wrekin Council to expand the traveller site on Lodge Road, Donnington have been permitted as has the application by the Wrekin Housing Trust for 14 assisted living apartments on Wrekin Drive, Donnington.

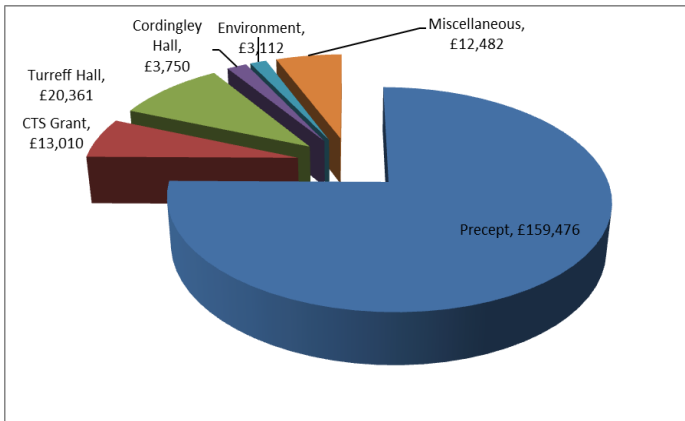
Muxton: Proposals to build 430 houses North East of Wyevale Garden Centre plus 220 dwellings and a Primary School South East of Wyevale Garden Centre have been objected to by the Parish Council and are currently awaiting a decision from Telford & Wrekin Council. Successful applications for Muxton will see the erection of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) as well as one of the largest outdoor gyms in England on land off Marshbrook Way opposite the junction with Winchester Drive and a smaller Ball Court on Parish Council land off Brands Meadow, Muxton. The extremely controversial application submitted by Gladmans Development to build 110 dwellings on land off Muxton Lane (later amended to 78 dwellings) was refused by Telford & Wrekin Council with Gladman Developments also losing its appeal. Residents, together with the Parish Council are delighted at this outcome. Also, after receiving planning permission work is now underway to install a solar farm on Land off Grange Cottages, Muxton. A Community Fund is being provided which the Parish Council will manage for the benefit of the Parish Council community.

The Council's decisions regarding all applications can be found on its website www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org.

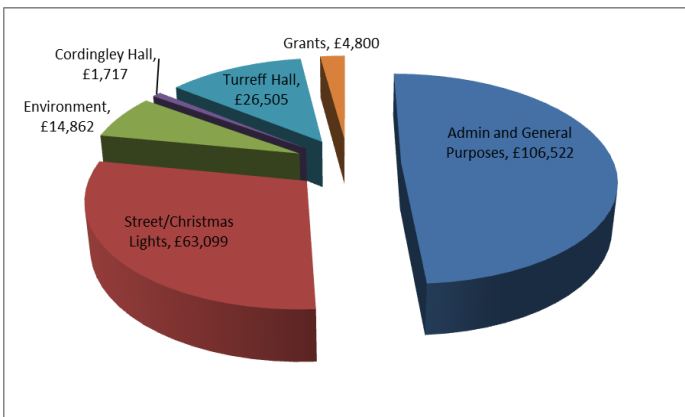
Finance

The Council's precept for 2015/2016 was set at £159,476 (this does not include the CTSS grant from Telford & Wrekin Council of £13,010). This meant a cost of £44.71, per annum on Band D equivalent houses within the Parish as part of the Council Tax. There was no increase for this financial year. This figure was set according to the number of Band "D" equivalent properties in the parish which was given at 3566.90.

Income 2015/2016



Expenditure 2015/2016



Grants totalling £1,500 were awarded to 7 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 2015 back from its Auditors, Mazars LLP based in Southampton which, once again, has been successfully signed off.

For Christmas 2015/2016 the Council, spent £3,000 in providing £5 vouchers at Christmas for the pensioners residing in the parish.

Parish Council: Councillors 2015/2016

Donnington West Ward

Elizabeth A Clare
David Hayward
Jim Lavery
Clive Mason
John Thompson

Muxton Ward

Lisa M Dugmore
Nigel A Dugmore
Jeremy Haigh
Adrian Lawrence
Victor Rainsford

Donnington East Ward

Gladys Rose Gregory

The Humbers

Lesley A Edwards
Martyn Edwards

Parish Personnel

Clerk

Ralph Morgan

Assistant Clerk

Angela Jordan (left Sept 2015)

Kate Watson (Joined Sept 2015)

Caretaker

Helen Whitehouse

All can be contacted at the Parish Office in Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington, Telford, TF2 8HG.

The contact telephone number is 01952 608001

Email address is: clerk@donningtonmuxtonpc.org

Website address is: www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org

Parish Council Website and Facebook Page

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 and Muxton. To access the website go to www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org The Council also has a Facebook page on which notifications of forthcoming activities can be found.



Parish Council Assets

The assets held by the Parish Council are as follows:

<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Estimated Value (£) as at March 2016</u>
Turreff Hall	450,159.05
Cordingley Hall	763,684.97
Street Furniture:	29,739.36
14 x Bus Shelters	
7 x Benches	
426 x Street Lights	

The Parish Council also has £17,101.11 of 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 off Saltwell's Drive to the rear of Thornton Park Avenue stopping before football field and play area next to St John's Church, Saltwell's Drive, Muxton.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by the various contributors are not necessarily those of 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.