



# Donnington and Muxton Parish Council *Annual Report 2016/2017*



## **Chairman's Report 2016/2017**

It has been my privilege to serve a second year as Chairman of Donnington and Muxton Parish Council, especially during a year that yet again has seen a great number of changes.

Our most significant task this year was taking over responsibility for running the library. I am very pleased to report that Donnington and Muxton Community library is now up and running under our stewardship and is open for more hours than Telford and Wrekin were able to offer previously. This is due to the incredible pool of volunteers that have come forward to support us and I would

like to thank each and every one of them for making the re-opening such a success. Thanks of course also go to Ralph and Kate who have taken on their new home and new responsibilities without missing a beat.

We face continuing challenges of course. In Donnington, Church Walk has been an ongoing issue for some time. I am happy to report that with the tenacity most Jack Russells would be proud of, Cllrs Liz Clare and Clive Mason have helped to bring about a solution and we now have tenants moving in.

In Donnington Wood, the work continues to take over the running of the Lifelong Learning Centre. Tribute must be paid to Cllr Rose Gregory for her tenacity in making this happen. Again, thanks to volunteers we now have a new group (Donnington Operations Team (DOT)) to help Donnington Partnership oversee the running of this vital facility, and we look forward to its re-launch later this year.

Muxton remains the site of choice for housing developers. Last year I reported that we had successfully seen off Gladman's plans for Muxton Lane! Well 12 months on and two appeals later, we are now awaiting the latest decision from the planning inspector. Muxton residents have led the fight and rallied the troops, and a special mention must go to Phil Loughlin for his leadership of that group.

Tenacity has also brought success in our campaigns with the highways teams. We now have a weight restriction on Wrekin Drive, we continue our argument for Muxton Lane to be designated a 'quiet lane' and we are even now about to begin public consultation for traffic calming measures on Wellington Road. Aesop was right about the tortoise in this particular race. Our crusade to improve the bus services locally has little evidence of success, but we will not give up our lobbying of Arriva, and we are now working together with 3 other parish councils in a bid to have our voices heard.

We have produced a five-year business plan which we can begin to put into action thanks to a community payment from the solar farm in Muxton. A lump sum rather than small annual payments was negotiated and this will allow us to take on some capital projects without increasing the burden on our residents.

I would like to thank Helen, Kate and Ralph for the work they undertake – most of it unseen by all of us – that means that everything runs as smoothly as it does. I should also like to thank and pay tribute to my fellow councillors for the hard work and dedication they show to our community.

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# Annual Report 2016/2017

## **Muxton Outdoor Gym and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)**

On 15th July 2016 the Adult Outdoor Gym together with a half ball court (MUGA) located off Marshbrook Way, Muxton (opposite the junction with Winchester Drive) was officially opened by Councillor Nigel Dugmore (Pictured). It is believed to be the second largest outdoor gym in the UK. The Parish Council would like to thank all those that assisted in obtaining these facilities but especially Derek Owen (Telford & Wrekin Council Parks and Recreational Officer) for all his hard work in obtaining the funding, co-ordinating the consultation process and liaising with the Parish Council, planning officers and contractors.



## **Muxton Notice Boards**

Two new notice boards have now been installed in Muxton, located by Saltwell's Drive play area and at Marshbrook Way play area. Information regarding the Council, meetings and forthcoming events will be published inside.



## **Donnington Public Toilets**

As a result of a fire which was started on the afternoon of Thursday 2nd June the ladies part of the public toilets on Hawthorn Road, Donnington had to be closed to members of the public until work to renovate them had been completed. Due to the extent of the damage caused, loss adjusters were employed by the Parish Council's Insurance Company to handle the repairs and reinstatement of the toilets to how they were before the incident. The toilets were re-opened in October 2016.

## **May Day Festival**

The first Parish Council's May Day event was very well attended despite the inclement weather. Popular attractions included a climbing wall, bouncy castle, rodeo bull, steel band and local singers. People had a chance to have a go at Maypole dancing which did on some occasions lead to some confusion. The Parish Council would like to thank Nicola Casey and her staff for help organising the event and ensuring the day ran smoothly.

## **Weight Restrictions St George's Road/Wrekin Drive, Donnington**

After much campaigning by the Parish Council, Telford & Wrekin Council imposed a 7.5t weight restriction on St George's Road/Wrekin Drive, Donnington in September 2016. Heavy Goods Vehicles will only be able to use these roads if delivering to local businesses. All other HGV's will be directed down the ring road and onto the A518. This helps ensure the safety of local residents and children.

## **Business Plan**

Donnington and Muxton Parish Council's Business Plan is a short, strategic document setting out how it uses its resources to deliver the most important things the

council is doing. It is a statement of the Parish Council's vision for the parish, its purpose, values, objectives and key priorities. The Business Plan is a live document that will be reviewed annually, used to drive the budgeting process, plan activities for the coming years and enable the Parish Council to monitor its progress against key priorities. This Business Plan is primarily an internal document and summarises much of what this Council does, how it aims to change, how it will measure success and what its targets are. Some of what it does is in partnership with others such as Telford & Wrekin Council, Donnington Partnership, the Police and local housing associations and this plan reflects this. The aim of the Business Plan is to give the residents of Donnington, Muxton and The Humbers a clear understanding of what the Parish Council does and what it is trying to achieve. It details what the Parish Council intends to focus on over the next five years.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

At a Council meeting held on 8th February 2017 the Council formally agreed to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. It may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. It may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues (such as housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues only. These may be issues that are relevant to the whole neighbourhood or just to part of the neighbourhood. This is for those producing the plan to decide. As it is a community led initiative consultation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan has already commenced and will continue throughout 2017 and 2018. Though in its infancy it is proposed to keep local residents and groups informed of events via this Council's website, Facebook and Twitter.

## **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.

## **Youth Council**

Due to Telford & Wrekin Council having to make financial cut backs, support for the Donnington Youth Panel could not be sustained. As a result the Parish Council decided to set up Donnington and Muxton Youth Council to help retain the young people that have been, and still are, active participants of the Youth Panel. A steering group has been set up to help create the youth council and this consists of the young people that were members of the Youth Panel. It is hoped to hold elections for candidates around September 2017. The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held at The Lifelong Learning Centre on Thursday 11th May 2017 commencing at 7pm.

## **Street Games, Muxton**

During the summer holidays 2016 this Council helped fund five sessions of street games for children in Muxton which were provided by Telford & Wrekin Council's Be Active Team.

## **Staff and Personnel Committee**



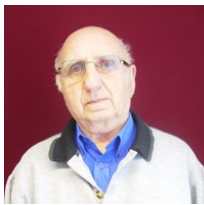
*Committee Members: Chairman M Edwards (pictured), N Dugmore, Mrs R Gregory, J Haigh, J Lavery, A Lawrence.*

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 once during 2016/2017 to discuss the National Salary Awards 2016 – 2018 agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC), the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) for Parish Council staff.

## **Planning Committee**

*Committee Members: Chairman V Rainsford (Pictured), Mrs L Edwards, Mrs R Gregory, J Lavery, 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 sixteen times during the year 1st May 2016 and 30th April 2017. Between these dates the Council received a total of 56 planning applications for discussion and comments. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 33 applications (up 6 from last year), Muxton 19 applications (down 8 from last year) and 4 at Red Hill.

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

Permission has been given for change of use to a dental practice at Athena House, Wellington Road, Donnington as has an application to build a dance studio on a site next to Formula One windows, Bradley Road, Donnington.

There are plans to convert barns at Watling Street Farm, Red Hill to eight dwellings.

Most controversial have been applications by Seabridge

Development Ltd for 150 dwellings on land off Wellington Road, Muxton. This was refused but has gone to appeal; An appeal relating to Gladman's application to develop on Muxton Lane was recently heard by the Planning Inspector and this Council is now awaiting the decision and; An application by Tesni Ltd to develop on land North of Breton Park was objected to by this Council and is awaiting a decision by Telford & Wrekin Council.

Donnington and Muxton Parish Council has agreed to create a Neighbourhood Plan and will be consulting with local residents and groups regarding this matter. The Parish Council's Planning Committee will be the steering group for this.

This Council's decisions regarding all applications can be found on its website [www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org](http://www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org).

## **Library Committee**

*Committee Members: Chairman Mrs E A Clare, Mrs L Dugmore, N Dugmore, J Lavery, A Lawrence, V Rainsford and J Thompson.*



With the Parish Council agreeing to save Donnington library, which had been under threat of closure, by taking over the running and management of what is now known as Donnington and Muxton Community Library, a Committee was set up to monitor, oversee and review all necessary work required for the take over of the library.

Its main functions are to suggest tasks and projects relating to the take over; monitor the alterations as agreed; appoint volunteers to run the library and ensure parishioners enjoy the use of this facility.

In order to take over the library work was required to move the Parish Office into the library section of Turreff Hall. This was to enable Parish Council staff to oversee the day to day running of the library. Plans were drawn up and quotes received for the work and these were discussed at Library Committee meetings which met three times between January and February 2017. The majority of the building work finished toward the end of February and this Parish Council took over the library on Monday 27th February 2017. Money to finance the alterations and furnish the Parish Council office came from grants given by Telford & Wrekin Council including its Pride in Your High Street Scheme.

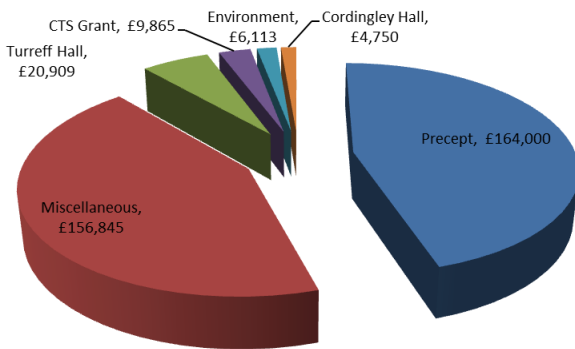
The Parish Council has altered the library windows so that they are now all double glazed, installed energy saving lights throughout the building, had new High Definition CCTV Cameras installed around the building and will be looking to alter the car park to allow more parking for vehicles later in 2017.

The Parish Council put out a request asking for volunteers to help with the day to day running of the library and has been overwhelmed by the response. There are now eighteen volunteers listed to help with the library with another two pending the required checks. The Council would like to give special thanks to the volunteers and to Kendra Jackson (Telford & Wrekin Council's Library Service Operations Manager) for the help, patience and support through the process.

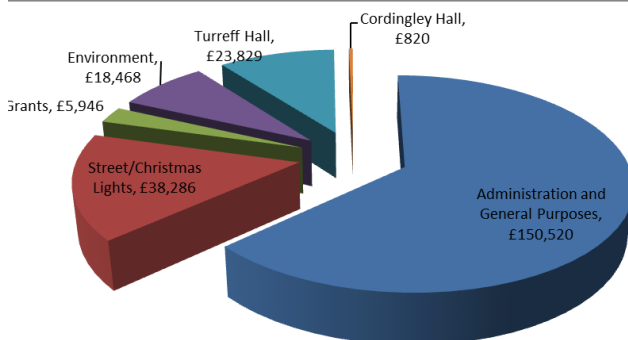
## Finance

The Council's precept for 2016/2017 was set at £164,000 (this does not include the CTSS grant from Telford & Wrekin Council of £9,865). 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 3668.30.

### Income 2016/2017



### Expenditure 2016/2017



Grants totalling £2,646 were awarded to 8 groups and organisations that benefit the inhabitants within the Parish and Telford & Wrekin.

The Parish Council, working in partnership with Asda Donnington, Telford Town Park 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 2016 back from its Auditors, Mazars LLP based in Southampton which, once again, has been successfully signed off.

For Christmas 2016/2017 the Council, spent £3,000 in providing £5 vouchers at Christmas for the pensioners residing in the parish.

## Parish Council: Councillors 2016/2017

### 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

Assistant Clerk

Caretaker

Ralph Morgan

Kate Watson

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](mailto:clerk@donningtonmuxtonpc.org)

Website address is: [www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org](http://www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org)

## Parish Council Website and Social Media

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](http://www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org) The Council's Facebook is also proving to be very popular with local residents sharing information placed on it. Lately, the Parish Council has launched its own Twitter Account where updates are supplied of Council activities so why not follow this Council via these forms of Social Media.



## Parish Council Assets

The assets held by the Parish Council are as follows:

<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Estimated Value (£) as at March 2017</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 £20,238.45 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

**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.