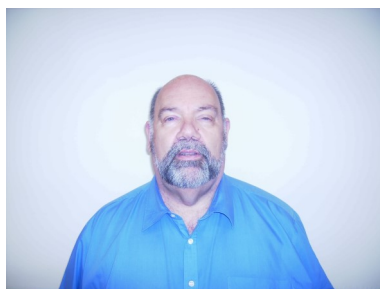




Donnington and Muxton Parish Council *Annual Report 2017/2018*



Chairman's Report 2017/2018

It has been my honour to serve as Chairman of Donnington and Muxton Parish Council during 2017/2018 in what seems to have been a very busy year for this Council. I was also fortunate to be the first Chairman to wear the new Chain of Office for Donnington and Muxton Parish Council which was purchased during my year as Chairman.

We have now been running and managing Donnington and Muxton Community Library for 14 months and I must give a special heartfelt thank you to all the library volunteers without whom it would be a struggle to keep the library open. The library is continually being improved, and over the Christmas holidays had a new coat of paint and new shelving, replacing the shelves that have probably been there since it first opened. Solar panels have also been installed to help offset the running costs and provide some income from the electricity produced. A planning application to extend the front car park has been approved and work is expected to start around 21st May 2018.

The Parish Council is working extremely hard with Telford & Wrekin Council Highways Department to alleviate speeding along roads within the parish especially those by schools and along Wellington Road, Muxton. To assist in this, I am pleased to announce that this Council has purchased two Speed Indicator Display Signs which will be installed at intermittent intervals around various parts of the parish. We also continue to push for Muxton Lane to be designated a "quiet lane".

The Parish Council has actively been seeking the opinion of young people that live in the parish to ascertain what they would like to have in the area and/or how they would like to see it in the future. To achieve this the Parish Council has been active in setting up a Youth Council and I must congratulate Miss Toni Hassell who, at a recent election, became the first Donnington and Muxton Youth Councillor. We look forward to working with Toni and hearing what it is that the young people want for the area. Special thanks also goes to Sian Makin and Sarah Durnall from Telford & Wrekin Council who have given a considerable amount of time and help in assisting the Parish Council with this.

We were extremely pleased with the Planning Inspectors recommendation to remove Site H1 (land either side of the A518, Muxton) from the Borough Council's Local Plan 2011–2031 and the loss of appeal by Gladman Developments and Seabridge Developments for plans to build in Muxton. The Parish Council's progress to develop a Neighbourhood Plan is well under way and responses from local residents to the public consultation survey are now in the process of being collated.

As a result of a Councillor vacancy arising for Muxton, I was delighted to welcome Councillor Phil Loughlin to the Parish Council and have enjoyed his contributions to the meetings that he has already attended.

I would personally, and on behalf of the Councillors, like to thank Ralph, Kate, Helen and Becky who toil away behind the scenes ensuring that the Council continues to run smoothly. I would also like to thank the Councillors for their support, hard work and commitment to serving the community ensuring the highest standards are achieved.

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Annual Report 2017/2018



Presentation of Historical Documents.

Prior to the commencement of the Annual Public meeting in May 2017 a presentation of historical artefacts was made by the Mayor of Wellington Town Council, Councillor P Morris-Jones to this Parish Council. The artefacts relate to a scroll presented to The Reverend A.A. Turreff J.P. on his retirement from the Rural District Council of Wellington, Shropshire where he had served for an unbroken period of thirty-two years, ten of which as Chairman. A presentation key to celebrate the opening of the new Council Chambers in Wellington by Colonel J Baldwin Webb given to Reverend Turreff dated 24th April 1940 also accompanied the scroll. The Parish Council will get the artefacts framed and displayed at Turreff Hall along with the press reports relating to this.

Election of Councillor



Due to a vacancy arising in the Muxton Ward for a Parish Councillor, this Council was pleased to welcome Philip Loughlin as the newly elected Councillor for Muxton in August 2017.

Retirement of WPC N Scott

It was with great sadness that in August 2017 this Council said farewell to WPC N Scott upon her retirement from West Mercia Police. Nikki had served Donnington for over 30 years and had built up a close working relationship with this Council and Partner Agencies. Fortunately, she has not left completely and can still be seen working as a volunteer in Donnington and Muxton Community Library and at the Donnington Pharmacy. Nikki's new career direction sees her training in, and teaching, first aid all over the country. The Parish Council would like to wish her and her husband all the very best for the future.



Community Access Public Defibrillator (CPAD)

This Parish Council has purchased two CPADs which have been installed on an external wall at Haygate Vets on Wellington Road, Muxton and at Donnington Community Hub. The Parish Council would like to thank both for allowing the installation of these at their premises.



Solar Panels

To help with the sustainability of maintaining Donnington and Muxton Community Library the Parish Council agreed to installing solar panels on Turreff Hall. The panels help offset the cost of running the library and provide a return from their energy production. The money earned from them will be paid into the Community Fund which this Council will use to fund community projects.

Street Lighting

The Parish Council has now entered its final year of a five year lantern renewal scheme of all the street lights that the Parish Council own. This will finally be completed by March 2019. The Council has also entered into a new 12 year contract with Prysmian through Telford & Wrekin Council to manage and maintain them.

Youth Council

Elections were held at the beginning of 2018 and this Council is pleased to announce its first Youth Councillor for Donnington and Muxton Youth Council. Antonia (Toni) Hassell (*pictured with her award from the High Sheriff of Shropshire*) will represent the youth of the area at local youth forum's and at the Parish Council meetings to help the Council understand what the young people from Donnington and Muxton want to see in the area. This Council looks forward to working with Toni in the future.



Staff Training

In line with this Council's training policy Councillors agreed that the Assistant Clerk undertakes training for her qualification in the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) Levels 3 and 4 to assist her in her role.

Highway Matters

This Council has been extremely active this year with regard to issues surrounding its roads and discussions with Telford & Wrekin Council. As a result: Traffic counts will be collected on roads requested by this Council to have 20mph speed limits installed on. Traffic calming methods along Wellington Road, Muxton are still being discussed and the public consulted on. A request for double yellow lines opposite the junction of St Matthew's Road and Church Road will hopefully be completed in the near future.

The Borough Council is in discussion with Morris Homes to install traffic calming measures along Marshbrook Way near to Jarrett Walk etc.

The Parish Council has purchased two Speed Indicator Display Signs (SIDS) which will be erected at various intervals and points around the parish in order to help reduce speeding in the area. The SIDS has various displays to prevent familiarisation by drivers.



This Council will shortly be having five Gateway Signs installed in the Parish. Three have been purchased by the Parish Council and two by Councillor A Lawrence's Borough Ward Fund. Locations have yet to be finalised.

Flooding Alleviation Scheme, Donnington

Severn Trent Water, at long last, has agreed to commence its flooding alleviation scheme in Donnington to stop Wellington Road flooding during inclement weather. It is scheduled to start in July 2018.

Staff and Personnel Committee



Committee Members: Chairman J Lavery (pictured), Mrs L Dugmore, N Dugmore, Mrs R Gregory, A Lawrence and J Thompson.

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 three times during 2017/2018 to discuss: a request for the early release of pension for a former employee; staff absenteeism through ill-health and arranging cover for their job roles; remuneration for staff for the additional responsibilities of running the library and managing the volunteers; and to consider employing an additional member of staff to assist with the day to day running of the library. The decisions made regarding the above can be found in the minutes from these meetings at the Parish Council office or on the Parish Council's website www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org

Planning Committee



Committee Members: Chairman V Rainsford (Pictured), Mrs L Dugmore, Mrs L Edwards, Mrs R Gregory, J Lavery, P Loughlin and J Thompson. Ex-officio members M Edwards and A Lawrence.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee 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 (the Local Planning Authority) that occur within its parish boundaries.

The Planning Committee met fifteen times during the year 1st May 2017 and 30th April 2018. Between these dates the Council received a total of 42 planning applications for discussion and comments. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 12 applications (down 21 from last year), Muxton 21 applications (up 2 from last year) and 9 other applications; 1 from Furnace Lane, Trench, 7 from various locations at Red Hill and 1 from Abbey Farm, Lilleshall.

This year saw the publication of Telford & Wrekin Council's Local Plan 2011–2031. In the draft version it identified large areas of land either side of the A518 in Muxton for the development of approximately 750 houses known as H1. When examined by the Planning Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Government, Mr M J Hetherington, recommendations were made to remove H1 from the Plan. The recommendation was heeded by the Planning

Authority and this site removed, much to the relief of local residents.

The decision by Telford & Wrekin Council to refuse the controversial planning applications by Seabridge Development Ltd for 150 dwellings on land off Wellington Road, Muxton and by Gladman developments to develop on Muxton Lane was appealed by both Developers which they consequently lost. However, this may not prevent further applications being submitted.

Donnington and Muxton Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Survey ended on 9th March 2018 and the responses from local residents are now being collated. Once this has been done then a draft Neighbourhood Plan will be created and this will then be distributed to all residents within the parish boundary for further consultation and discussion. The Parish Council's Planning Committee is the steering group for this.

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

An application to convert Willow Court in Donnington to 12 apartments which this Council had no objection to and an application to demolish a Duke of Sutherland style house in Muxton and erect 85 dwellings on the land which this Council did object to. This Council's decisions regarding all applications can be found on its website www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org.

Library Committee



Committee Members: Chairman Mrs E A Clare, Mrs L Dugmore, N Dugmore, J Lavery, V Rainsford and J Thompson. Ex-officio members M Edwards and A Lawrence.

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.

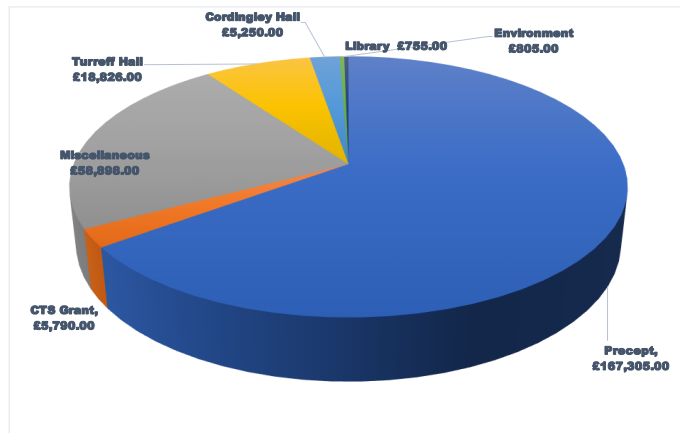
The Library Committee met once during 2017/2018 to discuss: the replacement of the shelving in the library and re-decoration of it whilst this was taking place; the extension to the car park at the front of the library (which will begin around 21st May 2018); the installation of solar panels on the roof; and to agree on some form of thank you for the volunteers. The Minutes from this meeting are available on the Parish Council's website.

The Council would like to give special thanks to the volunteers for their help running the library.

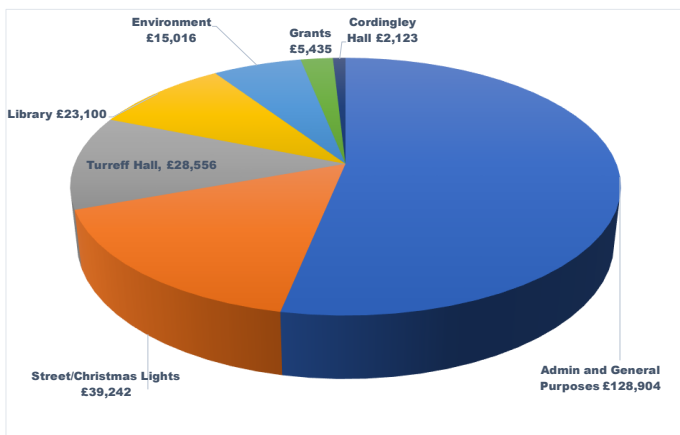
Finance

The Council's precept for 2017/2018 was set at £167,305 (this does not include the CTS Grant from Telford & Wrekin Council of £5,790). 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 3,742.

Income 2017/2018



Expenditure 2017/2018



Grants totalling £5,435 were awarded to 14 groups and organisations that benefit the inhabitants within the Parish and Telford & Wrekin.

The Parish Council received its Annual Return for the year ended 2017 back from its Auditors, Mazars LLP based in Southampton which, once again, has been successfully signed off.

The Parish Council was also successful in applying for grants in 2017/2018. It received £5,525 from Groundwork UK to assist in its creation of a Neighbourhood Plan and £37,765 from Telford & Wrekin Council's Pride in Your High Street Fund which has been used to refurbish the library.

Parish Council: Councillors 2017/2018

Donnington West Ward

Elizabeth A Clare
David Hayward
Jim Lavery
Clive Mason
John Thompson

Muxton Ward

Lisa M Dugmore
Nigel A Dugmore
Jeremy Haigh replaced
by Philip Loughlin (Aug 2017)
Adrian Lawrence
Victor Rainsford

Donnington East Ward

Gladys Rose Gregory

The Humbers

Lesley A Edwards
Martyn Edwards

Parish Personnel

Clerk: Ralph Morgan Assistant Clerk: Kate Watson
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 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. 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 (DonningtonMuxt1) where updates are supplied of Council activities so you can 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 £20,406.78 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.
Land for allotments at Donnington Recreation Ground.

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.