

Parish Councillors

Lilleshall Ward



Andrew Baker



John Hockin



Graham Platt

Donnington Ward



Elizabeth A Clare



Brian H Green



Patricia A Green



Jim Lavery



Clive Mason



John Thompson

Muxton Ward



Veronica J Brown



Martyn Edwards



Rose Gregory



Brenda Mason



Phil Norton



Keith Watkins

Parish Personnel April 2009

Clerk: **Ralph Morgan**

Assistant Clerk: Angela Jordan

Estate Manager: Derek White

Caretaker: Helen Whitehouse

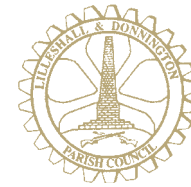
All can be contacted at the Parish House in Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington.

Telephone: 01952 608001

Email: lill.donn.pc@btconnect.com

Website: www.ldpc.org

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.ldpc.org.



Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council

Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington, Telford TF2 8HG

01952 608001

lill.donn.pc@btconnect.com www.ldpc.org



Clock Tower

Annual Report 2008 – 2009



Chair's Report

This year has been a very interesting year with many issues discussed at our Parish council meetings. A few of the issues we have dealt with are:

Parish precept: With the current financial crisis I am pleased to report that this Parish council will not be increasing its Parish precept for the financial year 2009/2010. This does not mean, however, that there will be a reduction in any of the services it currently provides.

Community Governance Review (CGR): This process is expected to take around twelve months to complete in which members of the electorate within the parish will decide on whether any restructuring is wanted. Telford & Wrekin Council is undertaking the process of consultation and it is expected that should there be any change then it will occur in 2011 to coincide with the elections. This has inevitably delayed the decision on the changing of the parish name to include Muxton.

Incinerator Granville Amenity Site: After hearing the many views from all sides in the debate, and it was a very serious debate by the council, the decision was eventually made to support the application. The down side to this is that it is expected that Shropshire council would continue to bring rubbish to the site.

Allotments: Unfortunately there has been a delay in the opening of the Parish's first allotments due to planning issues. It is hoped to resolve these quickly and proceed with the project.

The parish garden competition was once again a great success although it would be nice to see more people taking part, both young and old. There are many categories starting with a small container, flowers or vegetables and we also have a separate children's section. If you wish to enter or require more details then why not speak to the clerk Ralph Morgan about entering.

I recently went to see the Lilleshall Primary School pantomime Dick Whittington which was fantastic. I would like to congratulate all the pupils who took part, together with Mrs Miles and all her staff for a memorable performance and I am sure all the parents are very proud of their children. Congratulations to everyone involved.

I have presented the prizes at the Wrekin & District Horticultural Society which was a wonderful exhibition of flowers and handicrafts. I have never seen so many different types of daffodil on show at one time and it is a tribute to the hard work of those taking part.

I would like to wish Alf Mitchell well on his retirement from organising the Donnington Bonfire over the past many years and thank him for the donation of a Christmas tree for the roundabout near the police station. The good news is that his son will take over the future organisation of the bonfire.

During the year our estate manager has reached his landmark birthday of 60 so congratulations to you Derek.

I would also like to congratulate the Assistant Clerk, Angela and her husband on the arrival of their baby son in September and send her and her family our very best wishes. This resulted in the appointment of Michelle Wilson who has done an excellent job covering the post whilst Angela is away on maternity leave.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors for their support and hard work throughout the year and thank our Parish Clerk Ralph Morgan for his support which has been very much appreciated. Also, many thanks to all the staff, Angela, Michelle, Derek and Helen for their support and hard work throughout the year.



Staff and Personnel Sub-Committee

Committee Members: Chair Mrs P A Green, Vice-Chair K Watkins, Mrs V Brown, M Edwards, Mrs R Gregory, P Norton, G Platt.

Staff and Personnel is a Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee. 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 sub-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.

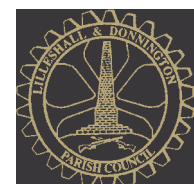
Staff and Personnel Sub-Committee meetings are scheduled as and when the Clerk and Chair consider necessary, lasting no longer than two hours.

The Sub-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 Sub-Committee is to:

- a. Review recommendations for salary increases (with the Clerk for other staff) and make recommendations to full Council.
- b. Manage any staff complaints, disputes or grievances and report their decision to full Council.
- c. 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.
- d. Monitor and develop members of staff and review their training needs in relation to their posts.
- e. Ensure matters relating to health, safety and welfare are reviewed regularly and that staff working environments adhere to Health and Safety in the workplace.
- f. Consult on general staff matters.

During 2008/2009 the Committee discussed the appointment of an Assistant Clerk as cover for the current one who is on maternity leave. It presented its recommendations to the full Council who ratified the appointment of Mrs Michelle Wilson and instructed the Clerk to implement the decision.



Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council

Turreff Hall

**For Wedding Receptions, Birthday Parties, Special Occasions
Also Suitable for Business Meetings**

Licensed Bar, Kitchen and Hall. Ideal for functions up to 100 people.
Full disabled access with PA Systems including Loop facilities.
Parking with CCTV coverage. Excellent Rates.

For information on availability and price, ring 01952 608001, or visit the Hall at Turreff Avenue, Donnington, Telford.

(Finance Report continued):

Parish Council Assets

The assets held by the Parish Council are as follows:

Fixed Assets	Estimated Value (£) as at March 2009
Turreff Hall	388,314.67
Cordingley Hall	658,767.34
Talbot Centre	42,705.68
Street Furniture:	25,027.97
21 x Bus Shelters	
Benches	
653 x Street Lights	

Planning Committee

Committee Members:

Chair Keith Watkins,
Vice-Chair Mrs Rose Gregory, Andrew Baker, Martyn Edwards, Mrs Pat Green, John Hockin, Jim Lavery, Clive Mason, Graham Platt, J Thompson.



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 Council or Committee meetings 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 nine times during the year 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2009.

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

Land (16 Acres)

Land opposite Muxton Primary School, Marshbrook Way, Muxton
Brands Meadow Play area and woods, Muxton
Land to left of Muxton Primary School (looking at school), Marshbrook Way, Muxton
Land to rear of Saltwell's Drive through to play area next to St John's Church, Saltwell's Drive, Muxton.

There are, however, various covenants restricting the sale of the buildings and land and values given are for Insurance purposes.

Equipment

The Parish Council made one major purchase this year and that was the new Parish Council van.

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 2008 to March 2009 the Council received a total of 93 planning applications for discussion and comments, down 27 on last year. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 51 applications (down 8 from last year)
Lilleshall 19 applications (down 13 from last year)
Muxton 23 applications (down 6 from last year)

The majority of applications received were for single or two storey extensions to dwellings and for the erection of conservatories. Larger developments discussed included applications for 55 dwellings at St. Matthew's Road, Donnington (still ongoing), and 14 dwellings at Bradley Road, Donnington.

The most contentious application submitted was for a 16,000 bird unit at Honnington Grange. Not only did the Parish Council object to this but so did residents living within close proximity of the proposed site. They successfully petitioned Telford & Wrekin Council who refused planning permission on 23rd May 2008.

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

Halls and Environment Committee

Committee Members: Chair Phil Norton, Vice-Chair Mrs Pat Green, Andrew Baker, Mrs Veronica Brown, Mrs Rose Gregory, John Hockin, Clive Mason, Graham Platt, Keith Watkins.



The Halls and Environment Committee administers all buildings, bus shelters, street lights, benches and land owned by the Parish Council. Its aim is to ensure the efficient and effective management of those resources and make recommendations to full Council as appropriate. The Committee met four times during the year.

As this Committee deals with the maintenance and upkeep of the Parish Council's assets, a brief description follows of selected items of work and events that occurred throughout the parish during 2008/2009:

Talbot Centre, Lilleshall: After the initial purchase of a new surface for the tennis courts in 2001 at a cost of around £12,000, it was brought to the attention of the Council that it required recoating, a process which cleans off any moss and dirt, fills in any small holes, recoats and re-marks the lines. The Parish Council recently agreed to have this process carried out at a cost of £2,313 + VAT. Work to recoat the courts has now been completed.

Bus Shelters: Two new bus shelters have been jointly purchased with Telford & Wrekin Council after a request was received by it from the Parish Council. The cost to the parish council for the two shelters was £2,571. The new shelters are located outside Turreff Hall in Donnington and along Marshbrook Way, Muxton close to the junction of Cedarwood Drive. The old Walkers tin bus shelter along Wellington Road, Muxton has been refurbished and a new bus stop has been provided outside Posh Posies Ltd on the same road.



Turreff Hall: Due to the age and condition of the kitchen situated in Turreff Hall the Parish Council decided to have a new kitchen installed. The Council had set money aside for this project over the last number of years and the new kitchen is designed to accommodate mobile bars for functions. If you wish to hold a function at Turreff Hall, then please contact the staff at the Parish Office (01952 608001) for details.

Nameplates for War Memorial: The Parish Council, in partnership with Telford & Wrekin Council, purchased new name plates to honour those that died during the two World Wars. The brass name plates were originally situated on the wall near to the Memorial gates at the Donnington Recreation Ground (Bell rec.) but due to the recent spate of metal theft, the Parish Council has removed them for safe keeping. The new memorial plates are situated on the War Memorial at Winifred's Drive, Donnington.

Champion Jockey Public House: The Champion Jockey pub opened around 1954 and was named after Donnington Wood's own Champion Jockey, Sir Gordon Richards (1904 – 1988), who, coincidentally worked as a warehouse clerk for the Lilleshall Company. Due to the pub's historic connection with Donnington, the Parish Council obtained permission to keep the pub sign prior to its demolition which commenced on Monday 16th February 2009. A planning application has been received by Telford & Wrekin Council to develop a supermarket on the site.

Parish Van: With the demise of the old Parish Council van due to it being beyond economical repair, a new van was purchased in October 2008 with money which had been set aside over the last 5 years in a Capital Fund. The new van is a Renault Master and was purchased locally from Stafford Park. The Parish Council name and logo has been put on the van so keep a look out for it when on your travels.



Wellington Road, Donnington: The road by the police station along Wellington Road, Donnington is due to have work carried out on it to improve drainage. For years a large puddle has accumulated at this location when it rains and the parish council has been constantly petitioning Telford & Wrekin Council to carry out repairs. Work is due to commence here in May 2009.

Allotments: The Parish Council finally identified a piece of land for use as parish allotments. After negotiating with Telford and Wrekin Council to purchase the land a disagreement had arisen regarding the exact boundaries of the field with a third party. This has now been resolved and the Parish Council is awaiting a report from the planning and highways department before submitting a planning application. It is hoped that the allotments will be ready sometime toward the latter end of this year.



Garden Competition: Each year the Garden Competition gets more popular and this year another high standard of entries were judged. Overall winners for 2008/2009 were Mr & Mrs Rozzell. Pictured being presented with the trophy by the Chair of the Parish Council Mr Brian Green are Mr & Mrs Rozzell. The winner of the Children's Container category was Miss I Slade Jones. Councillor Mrs P A Green, who donated the trophy, presented it to her at the presentation evening.

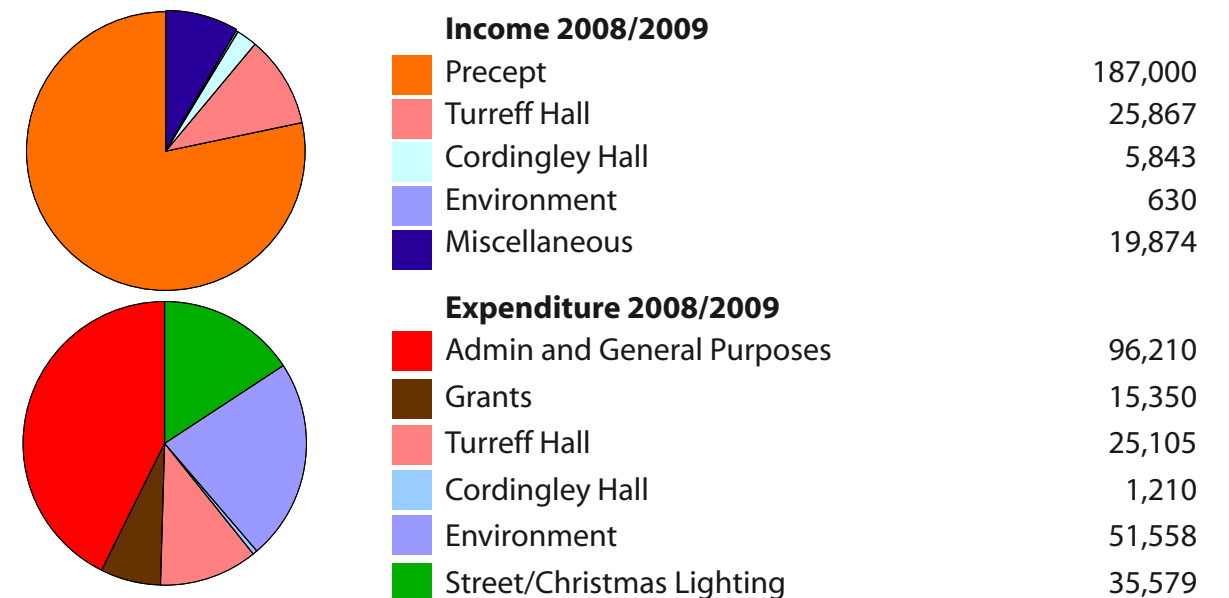
Finance Committee



Committee Members: Chair Mrs Liz Clare, Vice-Chair Clive Mason, Andrew Baker, Mrs Veronica Brown, Martyn Edwards, Mrs Rose Gregory, Mrs Brenda Mason, John Thompson.

The Finance Committee monitors, oversees and reviews all matters relating to Council finances and its use of resources. It ensures the efficient and effective management of those resources and makes recommendations to full Council as appropriate. During the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 the Committee met a total of 5 times.

The Council's precept for 2008/2009 was set at £187,000 (an increase of 3.88%) to cover any additional costs that may occur due to the increase in utility bills and to help maintain the Parish Council reserves. This meant a cost of £43.72 to each household within the Parish as part of the Council Tax. This figure is set according to the number of Band "D" properties in the parish which is given at 4,277.30.



Grants totalling £15,350 were awarded to 23 groups and organisations that benefit the inhabitants within the Parish. Most notably the Parish Council awarded £3,500 to Lilleshall Memorial Hall towards the maintenance and refurbishment costs and toward replacing the boiler which unexpectedly broke down.

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

This year the Parish Council saved around £3,000 on its annual Insurance Policy. This was done by switching to a well known Insurance Company which recently entered the Parish and Town Council domain.

The Parish Council has received its Annual Return for the year ended 2008 back from its Auditors, Mazars LLP based in Southampton which, once again, has been successfully signed off. Notices of when the accounts are available for inspection are displayed at the Parish Office and in the local press

For the sixth 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 1,080 pensioners claimed their vouchers.