

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 March 2010

Clerk: **Ralph Morgan**

Assistant Clerk: Angela Jordan

Estate Manager: Derek White

Caretaker: Helen Whitehouse

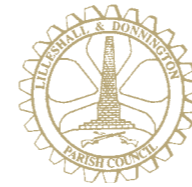
All can be contacted at the Parish House in Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington.

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.



Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council

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Canal Basin, Granville Country Park

Annual Report 2009 – 2010



Chair's Report

This year has been somewhat disrupted by the fact that there has been an air of uncertainty over the future of the Parish Council with the ongoing Community Governance Review. The Clerk and Officers from the Democratic Services Telford & Wrekin Council have spent a considerable amount of hours collating the information required which was published in the Draft Proposals. I am delighted to say that on 15th April 2010 the Licensing Committee confirmed and approved publication of the final proposals which stated that there will be no change in the present community governance arrangements in the Parish of Lilleshall and Donnington. A re-organisation order will now follow to change the name of the Parish to Lilleshall, Donnington & Muxton.

Parish precept: With the current global financial predicament I am pleased to report that this Parish Council will not be increasing its Parish precept for the financial year 2010/2011. This does not mean, however, that there will be a reduction in any of the services it currently provides.

Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP): Concerns over the future of ABRO Donnington recently came to light with the publication of a document proposing investigations into efficiency savings within the MOD. As a result the Council wrote to Kevan Jones MP as it was concerned that by outsourcing non-sensitive departments such as storage, distribution etc to the public sector, jobs would be lost in Donnington. After no response Lord Grocott was contacted to see if he could get an explanation. Eventually a letter was received explaining the OEP and how it is undergoing an in-depth analysis of the DSDA to see if there are opportunities for efficiencies to be delivered through a combination of internal improvements; estates development and land sales; and value for money benchmarking of internally provided services. The Council will continue to monitor this situation and would like to thank Lord Grocott for his help.

Civic Service: On 7th March 2010 I held a Civic Service at St John's Church, Muxton. The service went extremely well and I would like to thank all those that attended especially Lord Grocott, The Mayor of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, her consort and the Chairmen of adjoining Parish/Town Councils. I would also like to thank Reverend Mike Jones and his team of staff at the Church who helped make it a most enjoyable morning.

Allotments: After much delay it now appears that matters regarding the allotments seem to be moving forward. A planning application for the site in Lilleshall is awaiting determination whilst the Parish Council is awaiting the finalisation of a lease for the proposed site in Donnington. It is hoped to have the allotments up and running by the end of the year.

Community Engagement Meetings (CEM): I am delighted to see that the CEM's in Muxton are still well attended and it gave me great pleasure at the last meeting to receive the views and discuss issues with the Children representing Muxton School Council. My thanks goes to PC Duncan White and his local policing team for their work in Muxton, WPC Nikki Scott and her team for dealing with issues in Donnington and to Sgt Chris Munro and his team for his work in Lilleshall.

I would also like to take this opportunity in thanking 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, Derek and Helen for their support and hard work throughout the year.



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.

Planning Committee

Committee Members: Chair Keith Watkins, Vice-Chair B Green, Andrew Baker, Mrs Veronica Brown, Martyn Edwards, Mrs Pat Green, Mrs Rose Gregory, 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 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 seven times during the year 1st

April 2009 and 31st March 2010.

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 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 2009 to March 2010 the Council received a total of 81 planning applications for discussion and comments, down 12 on last year. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 47 applications

(down 4 from last year)

Lilleshall 23 applications (up 4 from last year)

Muxton 11 applications

(down 12 from last year)

The majority of applications received were for single or two storey extensions to dwellings and for the erection of conservatories. One of the larger more controversial developments discussed included an application for 144 dwellings at Marshbrook Way, Muxton. The Parish Council objected to this on the grounds of inadequate drainage, overdevelopment of site, character and appearance, infrastructure such as schools and bus services and traffic safety issues. However, Telford & Wrekin Council approved the application.

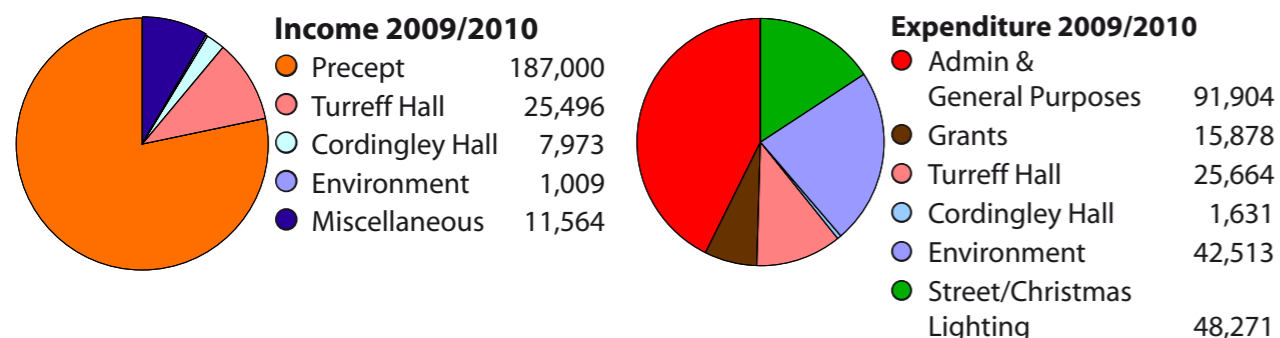
On March 24th 2010 Telford & Wrekin Council initiated its electronic planning application system whereby parish/town councils are notified by email that a planning application has been submitted that lies within the parish boundary and that it is available to view on Telford & Wrekin Council's website. To discuss these applications at Planning Committee meetings the plans are viewed via laptop computer and projected onto a wall.

The first of these meetings took place on 19th April 2010 with Councillor A Eade (Leader Telford & Wrekin Council) and Mr V Brownlees (Chief Executive Telford & Wrekin Council) in attendance.

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.

Finance

The Council's precept for 2009/2010 was set at £187,000 (no increase on the previous year). This meant a cost of £43.27 a reduction of 45p 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 4,321.70.



Grants totalling £15,878 were awarded to 17 groups and organisations that benefit the inhabitants within the Parish. Most notably the Parish Council awarded £4,000 to Lilleshall Memorial Hall towards the maintenance and refurbishment costs.

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

The Parish Council has received its Annual Return for the year ended 2009 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 seventh 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 (2009) 1,133 pensioners claimed their vouchers.

Parish Council Assets

The assets held by the Parish Council are as follows: (values in brackets, as estimated April 2009)

Fixed Assets: Street Furniture (£25,027.97); 21 x Bus Shelters; Benches; 653 x Street Lights.

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.

Staff & Personnel Committee

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

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 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

Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council

At its Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 11th May 2009 the Council decided to trial the abolishment of all its Committees except for the Planning Committee and its Staff and Personnel Committee. Instead of holding two, sometimes three, meetings a month it would mean holding one full Council meeting per month and, if necessary, a Planning Committee meeting. The advantage to this is that the majority of issues would now be dealt with by all the Councillors. To date, this appears to have been successful and Councillors will discuss whether to maintain this format at its next AGM which will be held on 10th May 2010 at Turreff Hall.

The Council has dealt with a number of issues this past year and a brief summary of these are as follows:

Community Governance Review

On 23rd April 2009 Telford & Wrekin Council issued a press release informing members of the public that a petition signed by 333 government electors of the Lilleshall Ward of the Parish of Lilleshall and Donnington, had been submitted to Telford & Wrekin Council under Section 80 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requesting it undertakes a Community Governance Review with the aim of creating a separate Lilleshall Parish Council. In accordance with Section 83 of the Act, the Council was required by law to conduct this Review.

After gathering information and receiving vast quantities of correspondence Telford & Wrekin Council published its Draft proposals for approval at its Licensing Committee meeting held on 21st April 2009. Comments from the public and various organisations were then requested regarding these proposals.

Following this further consultation period and receipt of more correspondence the final proposals were published for approval at its Licensing Committee meeting held on 1st April 2010. Officers informed the Committee that:

21 submissions had been made in favour of a separate Lilleshall Parish Council

81 submissions had been made against a separate Lilleshall Parish Council supported by a petition signed by 477 government electors residing in Lilleshall.

1 submission had been submitted in favour of a separate Muxton Parish Council and

None had been received from electors within Donnington.

As a result of this and all evidence gathered and received, the Licensing Committee accepted that there should be no change in the present community governance arrangements in the Parish of Lilleshall and Donnington.

However, it was recommended that Muxton is added to the title of the Parish Council which this parish council has been pursuing since November 2007. A Re-organisation Order to affect the change in the current name of Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council to Lilleshall, Donnington & Muxton Parish Council in accordance with Section 75, Local Government Act 1972 will be issued shortly.

Allotments

It is the fourth anniversary from when this parish council was originally requested to provide allotments by a group of residents from Muxton. It soon became clear that finding a suitable parcel of land within the parish would be like looking for a needle in a haystack. However, a piece was eventually found adjacent to Cheswell Nurseries just off the A518 close to the Red House Pub and negotiations began with Telford & Wrekin Council.

The latest news is that a planning application has been submitted (W2010/0172) and this can be viewed on Telford & Wrekin Council website. Just type the number into the search bar. If this is permitted then the Parish Council will proceed with the purchase of the land and work will start on the provision of allotments. It is estimated that there will be around 25 full size plots and 10 half plots.

Whilst this has been ongoing, the parish council recently discovered another piece of suitable land. This is situated on Donnington Recreation Ground to the south of the bowling club. The parish council is currently waiting for Telford & Wrekin Council to produce a lease agreement so that the parish council can provide even more allotments. Once this has been agreed and signed, work will commence to prepare the area. It is hoped to provide over 50 plots on this land.

There is currently a waiting list of 44 and preference will be given to those first on the list. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list then please email the Clerk (lill.donn.pc@btconnect.com) with your name, address and contact number or phone the parish office on 01952 608001. It is hoped to have the allotments fully operational by the end of this year.

Donnington Recreation Ground

Telford & Wrekin Council employed consultants to draw up a management plan for improvements to the Donnington Recreation Ground. This was to provide facilities for children and young people and improve the visual outlook of the site. The Parish Council is working in partnership with the Borough Council to carry out the recommendations. Funding has been allocated and now the process of consulting with youths and children begins. The first piece of apparatus to be installed will be a skate park. However, this will be constructed in a way to accommodate skate boarders, in-line skaters and stunt cyclists. It is hoped to submit a planning application for this shortly with a view to having it installed around September 2010. Additional facilities will be added in the future as and when planning permission and funding permits.

Broadoaks Field

A planning application has been submitted for the provision of a BMX Cycle Track to be located behind the sea cadet's hut on Broadoaks Field adjacent to the Multi Use Games Area. It will consist of "traffic" lights (like Formula 1) for racers to start together with an automatic start bar. It is hoped to have this installed around July/August depending on contractor availability.

Civic Service

On 7th March 2010 the Chairman Councillor Phil Norton invited dignitaries and guests to his Civic Service which was held in St John's Church, Muxton. Many people attended including Lord Grocott and the Mayor of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council Councillor Karen Blundell.

Iron Horse and Cart

In October 2009 this iconic sculpture, built in 1989, situated on the Granville Roundabout was damaged when hit by a heavy goods vehicle. After being repaired it was reinstated at a ceremony which took place on Monday 22nd February 2010. Pictured are (from left to right): Councillor P Norton (Chairman of Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council), Mr G Foxall (the sculptor) and his son and Councillor C Mason (Borough and Parish Councillor for Donnington).



Christmas Tree Festival

A Christmas Tree Festival was held in December at St Matthew's Church, Donnington. The aim of the festival was to raise the profile of the Church within the community.

Clock Tower Roundabout

The Parish Council is delighted to see that, after many months, the clock on the Clock Tower

roundabout, Donnington has been repaired and is back to working order. This is a direct result of discussions held between the Parish Council and Telford & Wrekin Council ensuring funding was made available to repair the clock.

Christmas Lights

Last year's Christmas lights were switched on by the Chairman and the winner of the Children's Container category in the Parish Council's Garden Competition, Miss Isobel Slade-Jones.

Purchase of New Bins

On 8th June 2009 the Council agreed to purchase six new bins in partnership with Telford & Wrekin Council to be situated two in Donnington, two in Muxton and two in Lilleshall at a cost to the parish council of £1,000. As a result of a Community Engagement Meeting held in Muxton on 11th March 2010, Muxton Primary School Council requested that the parish council purchases more bins to be situated in Muxton Lane, Fieldhouse Drive and Saltwell's Drive. The parish council has met with the Environmental Officer T&Wr and investigations are well underway.

Daffodils, Wrekin Drive

As a direct request from a resident of Donnington the Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 7th September 2009 to purchase and, with the help of Telford & Wrekin Council, plant daffodils stretching from Ewart Road to Winifred's Drive at a cost of £500. Compliments have already been received from members of the public as to how they have brightened the area up.

Huntingdon Lane, Telford

The Parish Council joined the petition to the Government against the planning application submitted by UK Coal to mine 900,000 tonnes of material at Huntingdon Lane, Telford. Unfortunately, it was taken to appeal and the Government permitted the application.

Amendment and Extension of Local Nature Reserve – "Granville Country Park"

On 9th June 2009 approval was given to extend the boundaries of Granville Country Park. A map of the new boundaries can be found at Telford & Wrekin Council or at the Parish Council office.

"Fun Day" Oakengates Leisure Centre

The Parish Council helped support a "fun day" at Oakengates Leisure Centre last summer led by its neighbour, Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Parish Council. The event was a great success with five-a-side football, climbing wall and an obstacle course which was provided by the Army.

Turreff Hall, Donnington

The road accessing the rear car park at Turreff Hall has gradually sunk over the last number of years. Due to concerns raised, the Parish Council had to employ a well known company to reinstate it.

Talbot Centre Tennis Courts

A planning application (TWC2010/0006) has been submitted to Telford & Wrekin Council for the erection of 4no. 10m high floodlights at the Talbot Centre, Hillside East, Lilleshall. The application can be viewed on T&Wr website (www.telford.gov.uk). Training sessions for children and adults are also now available. Information regarding this can be obtained from Mrs P Coffey whose contact details can be found at the Talbot Centre.

Garden Competition

The number of entrants for 2009 was slightly down on the previous years; nevertheless, the standards were still extremely high. The overall winner was Mrs Tina Bourgaize from Muxton. The date of this year's competition is 17th July. Entry forms can be obtained from the parish office or printed from March 2010 newsletter which can be found on the parish council's website (www.ldpc.org).

Bus Shelter

The Parish Council recently agreed to purchase an innovative solar panelled bus shelter to be installed at the junction of Turreff Avenue and Morris Drive, Donnington. It will be one of the first to be installed in Telford and will cost the council £1,300. It is planned to have an official opening for the bus shelter at a date which is yet to be confirmed as the shelter is still in the process of being constructed.