

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
Didmarton Parish Council
Held 16th May 2023
Didmarton Village Hall

Members present: - Cllrs J Pearce, J Hammond, H Turner, S Hewlett, H White, C Rogers, A Darbyshire
Officer: - Clerk Fiona Thornton.

Prior to the start of the meeting Councillors signed Declaration of Office forms and provided the Clerk with their completed Declaration of Interests)

23/259. Election of Chair

Cllr J Pearce was proposed by Cllr J Hammond and seconded by Cllr H White, with no other nominations, Cllr J Pearce was duly elected as Chair.

23/260. Election of Vice Chair

Cllr S Hewlett was proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr C Rogers, with no other nominations, Cllr S Hewlett was duly elected as Vice Chair.

23/261 Apologies for Absence

None

23/262. Co-option of Councillor to fill the vacancy left following the local elections on 4th May 2023.

Cllr White proposed A Darbyshire, seconded by Cllr J Hammond. Agreed by all. Cllr Darbyshire signed the Declaration of Office form and completed the Declaration of Interests form.

23/263. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011 for any item on this agenda

None

23/264. Confirm Minutes of meeting held on 28th February 2023

Proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr J Pearce the minutes were approved.

23/265. Finance – Payment of accounts

C Jacob - audit fee £100

F Thornton – Clerk fee £800

GATPC subscription £114.24

Hathaway Landscapes Ltd – maintenance contract £260 per month (invoices 154/717)

Zurich Councils Insurance – annual premium £429.83(Policy circulated as part of a three-year renewal)

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr H White, agreed by all the payments were approved.

The Clerk reported CIL money received £769.08 should be spent on community projects (total held £854.53). Agreed that Cllr Hewlett approach DVHCC.

23/266. Council to certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit (smaller authorities) Regulations 2015

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr H White, agreed by all.

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23/267.Council to approve Section 1 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr J Hammond, agreed by all.

23/268.Council to approve accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr J Pearce, agreed by all.

23/269.Council to approve Section 2 Annual Accounting Statement 2022/23

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr H White, agreed by all.

23/270.Council to note internal audit report of Internal Auditor

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr H White, agreed by all.

Agreed to review the situation and look to appoint a new Internal Auditor for the coming financial year.

Decision: Clerk to speak with a known villager who could perform this role.

23/271.Council to adopt Standing Orders

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr S Hewlett, agreed by all.

23/272.Council to adopt Financial Regulations

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr C Rogers, agreed by all.

23/273.Council to adopt Risk Assessment May 2023

Decision: proposed by Cllr H Turner and seconded by Cllr H White, agreed by all.

23/274.Council to receive feedback and actions (if any) from meeting on 15th May 2023
re: Worcester Park Concerts in July 2023

Items raised were: -

- Meeting better ran than previously,
- Presentations by Robomagic and We Are Stadium Traffic Management Ltd on Licence detail and traffic routing and local security plans.
- Traffic Management issues to follow up and seek clarification on were: -
 1. Location of pedestrian 'holding pens' and crossing of A433 from car parking on Point-to-Point site to venue site via Worcester Lodge gateway,
 2. Dead zone in car park now agreed at 100 metres,
 3. Drop-Off and Pick-Up location for coaches, taxis and private vehicles and the parking of coaches and how it will work consistent with the proposed traffic routing plans,
 4. The management of car park allocation when event tickets are purchased and use of known postcodes to ensure correct direction of vehicles to the correct car park based on direction of travel,
 5. The wider use of traffic information/directions for people coming from towns and cities other than just the Bristol area, which is where Robomagic/WASTML have assumed the vast majority of people will come from, as use of sat navs etc will mean plans to control traffic, keep it to the designated routes and ensure

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- it is directed to the correct parking zone will be pointless, unable to be enforced and result in major disruption within the village and parish,
6. Assurances over the correct level and the nature of security to ensure public nuisance is minimised and the safety and protection of villagers is ensured,
 7. The limited delegated approval being sought only from Avon & Somerset Police to direct/re-direct traffic when this will only apply on A46 and A433 to County boundary and the wider road network in the vicinity being the responsibility of Glos Police and Wiltshire Police,
 8. How the 'cumulative effect' of road traffic and related disruption on the village and the local environment of Westonbirt Concerts, Autumn Colours, Enchanted Xmas, Horse Trials, Point to Point races is deemed to be not relevant,
 9. Clarification on the significance of the 28-day period when there is no requirement for planning permission, rather than licence compliance, given that car parking will be on the Pointy to Point fields which have been used this year already; the time frame for the whole two events is exactly 28 days so Robomagic believe there is no need to obtain planning permission for use of these fields.

It was also agreed that Council should create and maintain a record of all meetings, discussions and formal representations made with regards to the licence application and detailed plans for the management of the concerts.

Action: Clerk to arrange a further meeting of the Parish Council Working Group, We Are Stadium Traffic Management Ltd (the company appointed by Robomagic) and a representative from Badminton Estate regarding ongoing traffic management concerns for the Worcester Park concerts; this meeting is needed before traffic management plans have been finalised.

23/275.Planning Applications for consideration – none

23/276.Correspondence for discussion

Received from M Wallington

I have been concerned for some time that the many ancient trees surrounding Didmarton have very little protection. We are asked to plant trees and we are constantly told how important they are to our planet, very little attention is paid to looking after our mature trees and yet they are known to be an almost irreplaceable habitat to hundreds of species. I am prompted to write to the parish council after seeing two beautiful trees felled merely to provide access to a field just outside Sopworth. I have written to Sopworth PC - copy below.

What provision do we have in place to protect our trees. Many are in a bad state due to a lack of timely intervention - fallen branches not removed, dead wood left etc. we will lose these wonderful trees if we fail to protect them. Whilst on the subject of protecting local habitats I would like to raise the fact that the proposed concerts in the park are potentially extremely harming to a very precious area. I would recommend that the importance of this habitat should be considered above all other concerns. These habitats cannot be treated as temporarily suspended when we want to play on them. The area of the concert is a prime example of an ancient grass ley. It has to a degree avoided modern agricultural practices. It is rarely cut for silage and is normally mown for hay late summer. Being predominantly grazed by sheep this has led to a flower rich meadow that sustains many insects. One of the few fields locally to see grasshoppers, this is an important habitat. Can we do as much as we can as a PC to get the Badminton estate to realise its importance and protect what they can. Im not holding my breath for a good outcome but at least I feel better for making an effort.

I noticed that two ancient trees have been felled at the field midway along the Wiltshire path. Reasonably sure they are Oaks, but could be Ash, they were both in excess of 300 years old. They have been felled to clear an entrance into the field that has just been ploughed. The fact that this field in itself was a significant old grass lay and is a major habitat loss is only compounded by the seemingly pointless removal of two large mature trees. In a time when we are asked to all go out and plant trees the removal of two established and near irreplaceable habitats is in my opinion vandalism. I doubt anything can be done but maybe we can protect the many fine specimens surrounding our

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villages. I will be writing to Didmarton parish council asking for the same effort to protect our old trees. With the concert debacle also placing our communities under threat, maybe this is a timely reminder that the Badminton estate is no longer the benign neighbour it once was and that we will act when needed.

Decision: Clerk to forward correspondence to Badminton Estate for their consideration; Council to invite Mr Wallington to be a liaison with the necessary bodies regarding trees within the parish

23/277.Items to report.

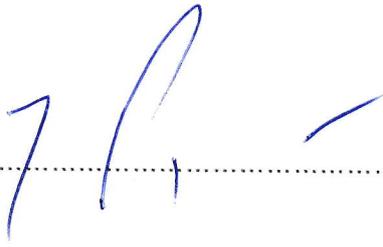
(Items can be discussed but members can make no decisions)

- Defib – now that Mr Goodwill is no longer a council member, the weekly checking of the equipment and replacement of consumables needs to be taken on by another Councillor. Cllr C Rogers to liaise with Mr Goodwill to confirm what is involved and to take over this responsibility.
- Parish Council profile – agreed that Council's profile within the community could be improved; agreed to put topic on next agenda to discuss more involvement, openness and engagement with parishioners.
- Cllr J Hammond confirmed that the state of Starveal Lane, Badminton Lane and Creephole had again been reported to Glos Highways, seeking urgent action ahead of the Horse Trials Cross Country Day.

23/278.Date of Next Meeting

Meeting to be held following on from the Council's Working Group meeting with The Traffic Management contractor and Badminton Estate.

Signed



Date

25 July 2027