

The Parish of Donhead St Mary

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 7pm
The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton.

Present:

- 6 Members of the Public (all 6 also being parish councillors)
- The Parish Clerk – Simon Pritchard

Minutes:

1. Election of Parish Meeting Chair:

The Chair of the Parish Meeting is always the current Chair of the Parish Council, if they are attending the meeting. As the outgoing Chair of the Parish Council was not in attendance, the meeting was free to elect any resident to Chair the meeting.

It was proposed by Mr Adams that Mrs Rogers chair the meeting, seconded by Mrs Walker and resolved unanimously.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 had been circulated at the time to members of the Parish Council and were available from the Parish Council website.
The meeting adopted the minutes.

3. Report from Parish Council Chairperson:

The outgoing Chair had not attended but the meeting covered a few pertinent matters:

A30 Rising Sun Area – Speed Reduction Scheme:

- Despite a few emails to the Wiltshire Council Highways Engineer, no response has been received regarding the Parish Council's enquiry asking about the notion of the Parish Council paying the full cost of the proposed speed reduction scheme, and if the Parish Council paid the full costs would that mean the works could be completed within the next 6-months. This enquiry was sent 2 months ago.
It was noted that the Wiltshire Council's small highways improvement scheme is underfunded, seemly understaffed and is almost dysfunctional. The drawn-up scheme for this area is just part of a long list of projects that many parishes have put forward and there seems to be no capacity or funding to deliver projects even when they have been agreed to by Wiltshire Council. This scheme is yet to be approved (or funded) by Wiltshire Council. The next Wiltshire Council LHFIF committee meeting will no doubt be a well-attended affair with many parishes wanting questions answered as to why very little appears to happen and the lack of communication.

- The Parish Council has purchased a further SID (Speed Indicator Device), for this area. It will be installed and managed by one of the volunteer councillors within the next month, looking towards Shaftesbury in the Wren Classic Cars area.

This is the third SID that the Parish Council had purchased for this length of highway within the last two years, in addition to a ANPR camera, an investment of over £7,500

Lower Ludwell – Speed Reduction:

- No evidence that the speed strips seen on the road two months ago related to the Parish Council's request for a speed survey. A speed survey on the A350 requested over a year ago has yet to take place, so this gives an idea of the timetable Wiltshire Council are working to.
- The March 2025 Parish Council meeting resolved to buy a mobile mini-SID for this area. This has now been purchased and clearance of undergrowth of sight lines has taken place at one location. Brackets need installing, which should happen within the next month.

4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor:

Not at meeting.

5. Reports from Members of the Parish Council with Portfolios

This had been covered under agenda item 3

6. Additional Play Equipment in the Parish:

The Chair, in her role as a Parish Councillor, had held a site meeting with a play equipment manufacturer at both the New Remembrance field site and Coronation Drive playpark. It has been suggested that a large pyramid rope climbing frame be purchased for the Remembrance field. For Coronation Drive the focus was on replacing equipment rather than adding much at this point.

It was agreed to form a working group to look at the options and bring a proposal to the next meeting of the Parish Council for a decision. The requirement for 3 tenders was noted, also that a decision would need to be made quickly if the equipment is to be installed before the summer holidays.

The working group are all members of the Parish Council: Clls Adams, Rogers and Fortescue.

7. Open Public Parish Forum:

No further matters were raised.

Closed 19:52