

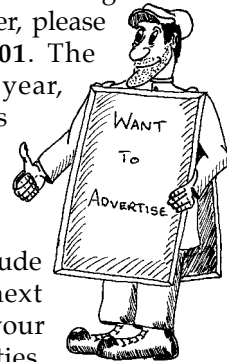
Timetable of Meetings

10 March	Council Meeting
31 March	Halls & Environment
21 April	Finance
12 May	Annual Public Meeting
12 May 7.30	Annual Council Meeting

NB All meetings will take place at Turreff Hall and begin at 7pm unless otherwise stated and are open to public and press. Planning meetings are notified separately.

Local planning applications: All local planning applications and plans are available for inspection at the Parish Council Office. Written comments can be sent to or left at the office for consideration by the Council.

Advertising: If you are interested in advertising in the future editions of our newsletter, please contact the Parish Office on **608001**. The Newsletter goes out three times a year, around March, July and October and is distributed in and around the Parish of Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton.



Wanted: Articles for future newsletters. If you would like to include any information or article in the next newsletter, whether it is regarding your group, organisation or school activities, please ensure that you send the item in to the Clerk before 16th June 2008 for the July issue.



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- Stairs
- Kitchens & Bathrooms
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*"For All Your Property Needs,
From Floor To Ceiling"*

Parish Councillors

Lilleshall Ward	Donnington Ward	Muxton Ward
Andrew Baker	Elizabeth A Clare	Veronica J Brown
John Hockin	Brian H Green	Martyn Edwards
Graham Platt	Patricia A Green	Rose Gregory
	James Lavery	Brenda Mason
	Clive Mason	Phil Norton
	B John Thompson	Keith Watkins

Councillors can be contacted by leaving a message for them at the Parish Office, Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington, Telford. Tel **608001**.

Email: lill.donn.pc@btconnect.com

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by the various contributors are not necessarily those of Lilleshall and Donnington 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.

Useful School Telephone Numbers

Burton Borough	386500
Donnington Wood C of E	386660
Donnington Wood Infants	386640
Lilleshall Primary	388430
Muxton Primary	387690
St Matthews C of E	386260
The Sutherland School	387800
Wrockwardine Wood Arts College	388300
Wrockwardine Wood C of E	387880
Wrockwardine Wood Infants	387860

Useful Numbers to cut out and keep:

Abandoned Cars	384384
Broken Street Light Reporting.....	384000
<i>(please note the number on the light)</i>	
Citizens Advice Bureau	0845 146 1554
Childline.....	0800 1111
Council Tax/Housing Benefit	383838
Crimestoppers.....	0800 555 111
D.I.A.L.....	210202
Domestic Violence Helpline.....	0800 7 831 359
Donnington Library	382905
FRANK (National Drugs Helpline)	0800 77 66 00
Litter/Dogs Fouling & Strays	384384
Neighbourhood Watch	214796
Parish Council Office.....	608001
Police	0845 7 444 888
Princess Royal Hospital	641222
Refuse Collection	384384
Samaritans (Telford Branch)	256161
Telford & Wrekin Council	380000
Wrekin Housing Trust	217100

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'Message in a Bottle'

Inside

'Message in a Bottle'	Page 2
Community Engagement Meetings ..	Page 3
Take part in Scrutiny	Page 4
Line Dancing	Page 5
Community News.....	Page 6
An Independent Lilleshall Parish Council?	Pages 7 – 10

Local Beat Manager	Page 11
News in Brief	Page 12
Housing Trust News	Page 13
Police News.....	Page 14
Red Cross	Page 15
Parish Council Meetings, Contacts; Useful Numbers.....	Page 12

The message in a bottle that could save your life

Thanks to Telford Lions Club 1000 special ‘message in a bottle’ canisters have been donated to Telford & Wrekin Council. The message in a bottle scheme is used across the country and could save your life.

Personal and contact details, medication and next of kin information are all listed in a simple form and popped in a canister that lives in the fridge. In the event of an incident at home, the ambulance service takes the canister with them to the hospital.

A green cross sticker is attached to the fridge and inside of the front door.

The Lions ‘message in a bottle’ scheme is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - the fridge.

Whilst it is focused on the more vulnerable people in the community, anyone can have an accident at home, so this scheme can benefit anyone.

The scheme is endorsed by the emergency services. The ‘message in a bottle’ will save the emergency services valuable time identifying you and your emergency contacts. By telling whether you have special medication or allergies, it is a potential lifesaver and provides peace of mind to users and their friends and families.

Cllr Jacqui Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adult and Consumer Care, said: “I have actually used this system personally for some time now. As I live

alone, it is a great comfort to me to know that, in the event of an emergency, someone would know who to contact.”

Telford Lions Club presented the canisters to the Council’s Falls Prevention Team in Adult and Consumer Care and these will be available soon from your occupational therapist, health visitor (for the elderly) and Age Concern in Telford.

The Council’s Falls Prevention Team links into the borough’s Falls Prevention Group and the Accident Prevention Group. Both network across health, social care, emergency services, the voluntary and private sector. Work is planned with these groups and local pharmacies to promote the use of ‘message in a bottle’ across Telford and Wrekin, particularly on Falls Prevention Awareness Day on 24th June.

Falls Prevention Awareness Day is a national event to raise awareness of how older people can reduce their risk of falls. To mark the occasion, there will be information stands in Telford Shopping Centre as well as in other local community areas. This year it will include the ‘message in a bottle’, health, social care and falls prevention exercise information.

For more information contact Sue Herrick, Falls Prevention Co-ordinator on **01952 381333**, or Telford Age Concern on **01952 587749**.

Telford Lions are a group of ‘like-minded’ volunteers who have come together to give something back to their community. They have one common goal, and that is to help those in need.

Telford Lions was formed in 1969 with help from the then established Lions Club of Shrewsbury.

It has met twice a month since and has, through its various activities, raised in excess of £350,000.

Approximately 90% of this money has been spent locally, and the remaining 10% spent through its connections to the International Association of Lions Clubs.



BritishRedCross

Home from Hospital

We can take the worry out of going home

Everyone’s heard of the Red Cross, but how many people know about the work that we do in the local community? One example is the Home from Hospital service, which operates in your area and throughout Telford & Wrekin, providing practical support to patients when they first return home.

Going home after a stay in hospital is not always easy, but there are trained Red Cross volunteers who can help. The volunteers complement the help which Social and Community Health workers may provide, and are able to assist patients to regain independence through a service tailored to specific individual needs.

Volunteers can help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, transport to doctors or hospital appointments. Being unable to get out and about can be quite difficult to deal with and sometimes all that is needed is for a volunteer to pop in for company, a chat and just to pass the time of day. All aimed at encouraging a return to independent living.

This extra support can be for up to six weeks after discharge from hospital, and people using the service have said that it “may have been instrumental in my early discharge from hospital”, and “the volunteer was very kind and helpful” and “seemed to be like one of the family coming in”.

Many people who benefit from the service are referred by the hospital social work team or ward staff, although others contact the service directly to ask for help. The service is available to all residents of the borough, whichever hospital they are discharged from.

We are pleased to say that our service is growing, so we also have opportunities for new volunteers to join. If you are a caring person, enjoy meeting people, and have an hour or two a week to spare, we would like to hear from you. The time commitment is very flexible, volunteers’ expenses are paid and training is provided.

Anyone wanting further information about the service, or is interested in joining the Home from Hospital team please contact us on 01952 590240. We look forward to hearing from you.

The service is funded by the Telford & Wrekin PCT & Borough of T&W.

Well I Never Knew That!

Coca Cola was originally green!

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If a horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

In English pubs, ale was ordered in pints and quarts so in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them “Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.” Its where we get the phrase “mind your P’s and Q’s!

The only food that doesn’t spoil is honey.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

Why Do Police need sponsored cars? Don't they have enough?

As a Local Police Officer these are questions I am often asked.

Originally when Beat Managers were appointed in West Mercia there was no funding available to support our role with a vehicle so it became increasingly difficult to carry out my high profile duties with my team.

As we have moved into the realms of Local Policing Teams, with Community Support Officers, this is still the case.

I have always been fortunate in that I have a good working relationship with many of our local councillors and the Parish Council in particular who have always given me a great deal of help, advice and support.

When it became apparent that there was no funding within West Mercia for a beat vehicle

I approached the Parish Council, along with ASDA and the Wrekin Housing Trust to assist with some funding to lease a vehicle for one year.

I am extremely pleased to say that for the last 8 years my beat vehicle has been funded by the Parish council without which I could not have carried out a lot of my Community work.

This year has seen the arrival of a new red Vauxhall Corsa which stands out as a community car.

The car has seen a great deal of publicity both in local press and radio and is well liked by the local school children who have now come to recognise it as a police vehicle.

LOCAL POLICING AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING AT ITS BEST

WPC Nikki Scott, Local Police Officer, Donnington Local Policing Team



From left to right: Councillor Phil Norton, Councillor Brian Green (Chair of Parish Council), Andy Johnson (WHT), PC Nikki Scott, Dave Simmons (Asda).



Donnington Youth Project

on St Matthews Road (next to St Matthews Primary School & Life Long Learning Centre, Donnington Wood)



Monday Girls' Group 7pm – 9pm

Thursday Mixed Group 7pm – 9pm



Arts & Crafts • Socialising • Cooking • Healthy Lifestyles • Discussion & Debates
Alcohol & Drug Awareness • Chilling Out • All Kinds of Fun Trips

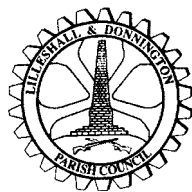
So ... if you're aged 13 – 19 what are you waiting for?

Come along and give it a try!

All the above mentioned sessions are FREE OF CHARGE.

All trips are subsidised - you will only be asked for a small contribution.

For further information please contact Shamim on 07976 100 458



MUXTON COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS
RESIDENTS

You are invited to attend a public meeting that will shape problem solving and influence the way we police and look after your Neighbourhood in the future.

Your opinions are important to us so please let us know what is important to you in your Neighbourhood.

The meeting will be held at:

St Johns Church Hall, Saltwell's Drive, Muxton

ON THURSDAY 13th MARCH AT 7PM

For further information please contact:

The Local Policing team: 08457 444888 donnington.lpt@westmercias.pnn.police.uk

OR Ralph Morgan, Parish Clerk
01952 608001 lill.donn.pc@btconnect.com



The Wrekin
Housing Trust



Christmas Lights

The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Harry Jacobs for enduring the atrocious weather and switching on the Parish Council Christmas Lights last December.

Mr Jacobs is a well known resident of Donnington.

Pictured with him in the rain are Councillors Brian Green (Chair), Mrs R Gregory, P Norton, Clive Mason and his grandson.



Telford & Wrekin Council is looking for volunteers to become co-opted members of our scrutiny commissions.

The scrutiny commissions have an important role in checking and reviewing Council policies and services to make sure the Council is providing good services for local residents.

The Council has 4 scrutiny commissions looking at these areas of Council services – children & young people; environment & regeneration; health & care and community & resources. We also have 3 scrutiny sub-groups checking that council services provide value for money, how we look after children in care and the “Building Schools for the Future” project.

Most of the members of scrutiny are Councillors, from all the political parties on the Council but scrutiny works in a non-political way. We also have some co-opted public members with special knowledge or experience in a particular area. Our co-opted members have been very valuable in scrutiny work and we want to get more co-opted members involved to increase the range of experience and skills available.

The main qualities that we are looking for are:

- Experience, knowledge or skills in one or more of the areas within the range of the scrutiny commission you would like to sit on – this could have been gained as a customer, through work, or in other ways.
- Able to commit time to attend scrutiny meetings. There are 5 evening meetings of each scrutiny commission each year and some informal meetings which can be held during the daytime or evening.
- Willing to add to meetings by asking questions and suggesting improvements.
- Able to be independent and impartial at all times.

In return for your work, you would have training and support to help you. As well as the opportunity to contribute to a vital part of the Council’s work, more importantly you can help make recommendations to the Council’s Cabinet, and other public services such as the NHS, on how local people can get better services.

If you are interested in applying, please contact us with your name and address by the end of March 2008. We will send you an application pack which will give you more information on how we carry out scrutiny at Telford & Wrekin Council, what would be expected of you and details of the application process.

Contact:

Email: sarah.morris@telford.gov.uk

Telephone: 01952 383114

Post: Scrutiny Services
FREEPOST RRHJ-TZJL-CTKY
PO Box 215
Telford
TF3 4LF



Quarterly Estate Walkabouts

The Wrekin Housing Trust has introduced a series of Estate Walkabouts every three months in response to tenant suggestions that regular ‘inspections’ of their estates are carried out.

Everyone is welcome to get involved in the Walkabouts and residents can attend as many or as few as suits their commitments.

Walkabouts allow Trust officers and residents to work together to identify areas of concern that we are able to resolve, such as general external repairs and identify tenancy related issues, which need attention.

The Trust will also be working closely with other agencies in the area to address issues such as litter, graffiti, vandalism, abandoned vehicles, road and pavement improvements and lighting.

The Donnington walkabouts are currently well attended by our partner agencies, for example, the Local Policing team, and we would welcome support from residents. Residents who come out on the walkabouts will be ‘rewarded’ with coffee and biscuits after the walkabouts at the Trust office as a thank you for their time and effort

If anyone wishes to find out more about the routes we take or to confirm their attendance at any of the walkabouts then please contact the Donnington Team on **217390**.

The next round of walkabouts are as follows:

Donnington west: Tuesday 29th April at 1.30pm. Meeting at Winifreds Drive/Leonard Close.

Donnington east: Tuesday 6th May at 1.30pm. Meeting at junction of Hayward Avenue/New Road.

Donnington Wood: Wednesday 14th May at 2pm. Meeting at the front of the Life Long Learning Centre. To Visit :Barn Close, Waxhill Close, Penistone Close & Ash Lea Drive

Donnington Wood: Wednesday 21st May at 2pm. Meeting at the front of the Community House. To visit St Matthews Rd, The Common, The Glebelands

Pictured on the walkabout March 2007 are: Albert Biggs (Local Resident), Adrian Corney (Telford and Wrekin Environment Officer), Amanda Hall (CSO) and Michaela Dring (WHT).



**The Wrekin
Housing Trust**

Councillor Vacancy

With the resignation of Councillor Ms Cindy Mason due to work re-location, a vacancy arose on the Parish Council. At a recent Council meeting John Thompson was co-opted back onto this Council.

John was born in Donnington and lived here for over thirty six years. He now lives in Trench. He first became a Councillor with Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council in 1991 and his main areas were Public Transport and Halls and Environment issues within the Parish. He is also a Councillor for Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Parish Council.

In his spare time he is involved with Donnington Little Theatre and has been a member for over twenty years where he is now Front of House Manager.

It is with pleasure that the Parish Council welcomes back Councillor John Thompson.



Chair of the Parish Council

As Councillor Ms Cindy Mason was the Chair at the time of her resignation a new Chair had to be selected. In November 2007 the Vice Chair, Councillor Brian Green, was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council. Councillor Phil Norton was then elected as Vice Chairman.

Donnington Community Bus

Over the last twelve months this Parish Council has provided a Community Bus which has picked up passengers on routes around Donnington that the main Bus services did not cover.

This was in direct response to requests received by the Council from local residents. However, due to the very low usage of this service and the running cost

of providing the bus, it is with regret that the Parish Council has decided to suspend this service.

The Donnington Community Bus will cease to run as from 1st April 2008. The Parish Council would like to thank Fiona Moore, the Donnington Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, for the financial support she provided with this venture.

Christmas Vouchers

Once again, the provision of vouchers for pensioners at Christmas by this Parish Council proved extremely popular. So much so, that it unfortunately run out of vouchers prior to the closing date. As a result, the Parish Council will be considering the purchase of a greater quantity of vouchers for Christmas 2008. It would like to offer its sincere apologies to those pensioners that missed out last year.

Grants Awarded

At the Finance Committee meeting held in December grants were awarded to Newport Shropshire Carnival Committee and Severn Hospice. Pictured are mums and babies from a local Young Parents Scheme celebrating Christmas. The Scheme is one of many that has benefited from grants awarded by the Parish Council.

If you would like to apply for a grant from the Parish Council, your group or organisation must benefit people living within or from the parish. Further details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk on 608001 or email at lill.donn.pc@btconnect.com



Beacon Radio Christmas Toy Appeal

The Staff at Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council once again donated toys and gifts to the Beacon Radio Christmas Toy Appeal. Each year, instead of purchasing gifts for each other, the staff donate money or presents to a needy cause or organisation. It is hoped to carry this on for as long as possible.

Feel The Beat Line Dancing Charity support in the Donnington & Telford area means yet another really busy spell for our Line Dancers.

We have to start by saying a really big thank you to everyone for yet for another great year's support for our Feel The Beat charity activities. It is the generosity and hard work of our many friends, bringing in Raffle prizes, buying tickets and in general giving us lots of support at socials and workshops which is very much appreciated, that enables us to support so many different worthwhile causes.

When we first started Feel The Beat line dancing we made a firm decision that while we are fit, have good health, are able to have fun, plus being capable of giving support to others, we would always have a charity ready to give financial support to after our events. We will always give support to the major local charity organisations like 'The Air Ambulance' 'Macmillan Nurses' for Cancer relief, helping well established Hospices and The New Telford Hospice, The Blind, plus Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and we have great deal of pleasure and satisfaction especially in helping children-based charities. Although we try and keep the support locally we have also helped to provide funds towards special equipment in hospital wards where our dancers have had families in for treatment. During our ten years we have joined in with many Charity World record attempts, one of the biggest



being with thousands of line dancers gathering with Lionel Blair at the famous Liverpool Aintree Racecourse which raised a staggering £50,000 pounds for the British Heart Foundation.

Back at home more recently we are still giving support to our own little dancer Emma who despite being born prematurely and less than 2lbs in weight has this weekend just had her 5th birthday party in Turreff Hall. Emma lives in Donnington and still needs a frame to be able to get around, so Feel The Beat dancers helped to raise part of the £3,000 for her latest one. Emma will need new frames as she outgrows the old one so we are more than pleased to support her fully with our charity projects. Over the Christmas period Emma attended our Christmas parties dressed for the occasion, smiling all night as she danced to the music and even had fairy lights all around her new frame.

On the night we made £150 to enable us to buy new toys to take for the local Beacon Radio Toy appeal and at our next and final Christmas Party for 2007 we held was a Santa Claus Convention where our dancers did us proud yet again with a sea of red and white on the dance floor. We managed to raise yet another £80 for the Bugsplatz Motor Cycle Club charity run in Telford with the money going to the local Air Ambulance and the Blind, and £35 was in the box for Macmillan nurses when dancers donated cash instead of giving us a Christmas card. There are many small local charities that have had help from the club and if there are any more charities that need support we would like to hear from them.

Our latest venture over the next two weeks is to teach a special 'Daffodil Dance' line dance which will be danced all over the U.K. in aid of the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal, and hopefully we can make even more money for another really important charity.....

Regards
Alan & Barb Heighway
01952 414284



Donnington Youth Project

A Youth Club opened in the Scout Hut in Donnington on Tuesday 15th January

Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm in the Scout Hut, near Aldi & Bingo Hall

Arts & Crafts • Issue based activities, ie things that affect young people • Discussion & Debates • Cooking • Board games, group games, table tennis and lots more

Trips to various venues eg Dry Ski Slope or Krazy Karting, Paint Balling

Ages 13 – 19

Come and join us, chill out and have fun!

Attendance at the Youth Club is FREE
All trips are subsidised - you will be asked to pay a nominal amount.

For further information contact Shamim on 07976 100 458

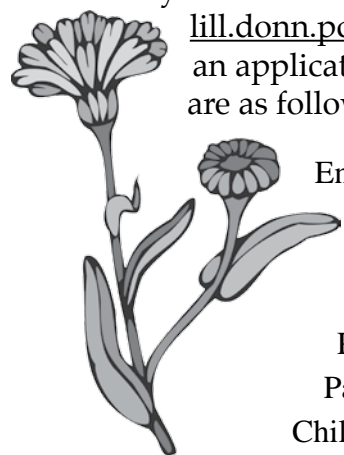


Garden Competition

With the continuing interest and success of this Parish Council's Garden Competitions it has been decided that this year's competition will take place on **Saturday 19th July**.

Anyone interested in participating can contact the Parish Office on **01952 608001** or email your details to

lill.donn.pc@btconnect.com for an application form. Categories are as follows:



Environmentally Friendly Garden
Front Garden
Back Garden
Prettiest Container
Patio/Courtyard
Children's Container

Lilleshall Memorial Hall is holding a
FUND RAISING EVENT
on Saturday 12th April

DINE AND DANCE

with

ROGER PRICE'S "SWEET and SOUR"

Jazz, Soul, Latin and Rock Music

Two Course Dinner with Wine

7.45pm for 8.15pm

in the
LILLESBALL MEMORIAL HALL

Tickets £13.95 from Committee Members or Lilleshall Residents Association Members

Supporting and Caring for the Village Hall

The Little Theatre, Donnington

Spring Productions: ring 01952 407959



A BOLT FROM THE BLUE

electrifying comedy by David Tristram

Edward Jones was just an ordinary man, doing ordinary things until the day before his 40th birthday. What happened next defied belief and came like a bolt from the blue.

April 3rd – 5th

THE END OF THE PIER SHOW

musical play by Roger Parsley

In the last week before World War II, a small concert party, working the end of a pier show, is rehearsing for the final week of the season.

May 22nd – 24th



Police Constable 1776 Duncan White – Local Beat Manager, Muxton

I joined the police service as police cadet in 1978 serving at Droitwich and Evesham. After completion of training I joined the regulars at the age of 18 yrs and was posted to Telford Division working out of the old Malinslee House Police station (TDC building) at the Town Centre on uniformed foot patrols and then panda patrol of the 'South Telford' area.

In 1982 I was appointed as the first beat manager for the Overdale, Lawley and Dawley Bank area on both foot and cycle patrol and was in this role for 2 years. I was then posted to rural response at Shifnal Police station.

I have worked in numerous departments throughout the Force which includes time spent in plain clothes and CID at Malinsgate working on intelligence and interviewing convicted criminals in prison.

I have qualified as an FA Football coach subsequently helping to run many local junior teams in the area, going to coach each summer in the USA and also involved with Telford United Youth Teams and then also with Wolves and WBA in numerous scouting and coaching capacities. In 1994 I was awarded the High Sheriffs of Shropshire award for contribution to the community through football and community work.

I was awarded the Chief Constables Commendation for work nationally and support to others including involvement in the Public Inquiry into Harold Shipman on the national picture and role of the chemist inspection officer and subsequent Dept of Health consultation committee to review legislation and procedure.

In 2005 I was awarded ACPO Commendation for continuing work in field with National Association of Chemist Inspection Officers.

I was appointed on secondment to work with the Healthcare Commission in London as the National Police Liaison Manager as a Detective Sgt working with ACPO and police forces around the country and in N/Ireland as an advisor on the new legislation and regulations for controlled drugs post Shipman - touring the UK giving presentations and advice to all partner agencies and organising training and conferences for police and partner agencies.

In 2008 I was posted to Donnington Police station as LPO for St Georges, Priorslee & Muxton.



Gower Youth Project

Mosclay Road, St Georges, near St Georges Primary School

Mondays 7pm – 9pm



Arts & Crafts • Socialising • Cooking • Healthy Lifestyles
Discussion & Debates • Alcohol & Drug Awareness
Chilling Out • All Kinds of Fun Trips (Minibus provision)

So ... if you're aged 13 – 19 what are you waiting for?

Come along and give it a try!

All the above mentioned sessions are **FREE OF CHARGE**.

All trips are subsidised - you will only be asked for a small contribution.

For further information please contact Shamim on 07976 100 458



- * Considerably Smaller Rural Parish Councils within Telford and Wrekin compared to LDPC would have proportionately lower administration costs.
 - ** Over the last three years major expenditure has occurred in Lilleshall on the Tennis Courts, Bus Shelters and Churchyard whereas such expenditure previous to these years has been minimal. N.B. in 2001 the Tennis Courts were resurfaced at a cost of £13,200.
- (1) Precept averaged at Band D properties
 - (2) Includes Mowing and Maintenance carried out by Estate Manager
 - (3) Clerk/ Assistant Clerk/ Estate Manager
 - (4) Parish Van necessary due to combined Wards
 - (5) This figure is calculated to Parish Council records of 131 street lights. Christmas Lights not included.
 - (6) Partly offset by rent
 - (7) Mostly wall repairs and path resurfacing
 - (8) £500 each from 2005. Not claimed by Councillors M Skelton or J Hockin

Decisions

Together with the above financial account (which is available in more detail from LDPC Parish Clerk), this article has hopefully covered most of the issues relevant to informed consideration of any independence proposals for Lilleshall.

It is for Lilleshall electors to decide upon their personal priorities and preferences and whether they would wish to support any petition for an independent Lilleshall Parish Council.

LDPC is neutral, but its councillors are free to act as individuals within the Code of Conduct. LDPC has no control over whether any new proposals or petition will be raised following this article.

However, if you have further queries regarding the advantages or disadvantages then please contact your Lilleshall Ward Councillors.



An Independent Lilleshall Parish Council?

Background

As a result of a request from some members of the electorate residing in Lilleshall to investigate the possibility of Lilleshall becoming independent from Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council, it was decided at a Council meeting to provide the residents of Lilleshall, through this newsletter, with enough information to allow each member of the electorate residing there to make their own informed decision on whether they would like an Independent Lilleshall Parish Council or whether to remain as part of Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council.



History

Parish Councils are local authorities first created by statute in 1894 and form the tier of local government closest to the people. It is at this time that Lilleshall Parish Council came into existence but in a much different format from present day Parish Councils. In the 1800s the parish boundary included Donnington, Donnington Wood and Muxton as they were at that time. Until 1914 parish councils were locally opposed, often derided and poor. Nevertheless Parliament from time to time saw fit to increase their functions and it was in this period that they acquired their modern powers in relation to allotments, postal facilities and open spaces. The inconsistent currents of government policy are mainly responsible for the peculiar history of twentieth-century parish administration.

Until the 1970s financial legislation was mostly passed without regard to the interests of the localities. Around 1972, the newly elected government inherited an undertaking to reform local government and it is around this time that the Local Government Act 1972 came into being. This Act is one of the main statutes that governs what a parish council can and cannot do.

Obviously, the changes of parish councils from 1894 to present day has been a long process and this is only a short insight as to how parish councils came into existence.

It was not until 1982 that the name was changed to the present Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council. This was due to the increased size of Donnington and the representation on the Council.

Creation, Abolition or Alteration of Parishes (England)

Under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 section 11, the district or unitary council can be forced to conduct a review if a petition for a new parish is signed by not less than 250 or 10% of local government electors in the area concerned, whichever is the greatest. That is, those people who are shown on the local register of electors as resident within the area of the proposed parish. It is advisable to ensure that there are sufficient signatures so that their number is not in dispute. The petition must clearly define the area of the proposed parish by way of a map, or a written description, which refers to identifiable fixed boundaries. This power extends only to the creation of new parishes and not to reviews of existing parish boundaries.

Representation

A parish council in England consists of such number of councillors as may be fixed from time to time by the district or unitary council, not being less than five. Councillors can be people that not only reside or work within the parish but live within three miles of the boundary.

Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council currently has 15 councillors (two of which are also Borough Councillors). The Parish Council is split into three wards. These are Donnington, Lilleshall and Muxton and are represented in the following way:

Donnington has 6 councillors roughly equating to 1 councillor per 754 electors.
Lilleshall has 3 councillors roughly equating to 1 councillor per 331 electors.
Muxton has 6 councillors roughly equating to 1 councillor per 773 electors.

Comparison

The following is a comparison of Lilleshall and Donnington Parish Council (LDPC) as it stands and what responsibilities an independent Lilleshall Parish Council (LPC) will/ may inherit.

	LDPC	LPC
Councillors	15	At least 5
Clerk	1 x Qualified full time, 1 x Assistant Clerk part time	1 x part time Clerk
Office	Fully operational office open to public 5 days per week during normal working hours	Possibly working from home otherwise office required to be rented together with purchase of equipment e.g. computer, printer, photocopier etc.
Assets/ Responsibilities (Those listed under LPC are currently the responsibility of LDPC)	Turreff Hall Cordingley Hall Grounds/general maintenance plant Parish Van 11 Bus Shelters St Matthew’s Closed Churchyard Street Lights Public Toilets 16 acres of open space Street Furniture	Talbot Centre Tennis Courts 10x Bus Shelters St Michael’s and All Angels Closed Churchyard to include boundary wall and footpaths Street Lights Street Furniture
Estate Maintenance	1 x Estate Manager responsible for grass cutting, trimming bushes, cleaning bus shelters, removal of graffiti and general maintenance tasks around the parish.	All work required would have to be contracted out or by way of an additional employee.

Finance

Parish Councils are funded by way of a precept which is a demand for a sum of money made to the Borough Council and by income from any service they provide, for example, hire of a community hall. They then use this to provide services to help improve the local community. For ease of calculating the financial effect that this will have on those residing in the parish, the precept is averaged out to the number of “Band D” houses within the parish. That number is provided annually by Telford and Wrekin Council.

Example: For the financial year 2007 / 2008 the precept was calculated on an average of 4,240 “Band D” houses in the parish. Therefore, the precept of £180,000 divided by 4,240 for the financial year 2007 / 2008

works out to an average of £42.45 per elector. Those in different Band housing, single occupancy etc will obviously pay less or more depending on each personal circumstance.

There now follows a breakdown of average income and expenditure spent in Lilleshall for 2004, 2005 and 2006. The figures for 2007 have been omitted as they are incomplete, due to the fact that the financial year for a parish council runs from 1st April to 31st March.

Where an exact breakdown cannot be apportioned to Lilleshall (eg employee costs, stationery, insurance etc) it has been decided to calculate the figure to 10% which reflects the percentage of population that Lilleshall has compared with the total population figure for this Parish Council. The figures have been taken from the computerised accounts and are produced as accurately as is possible:

Lilleshall Ward Average Income and Expenditure FY 2004 – 2006

Income	£
Lilleshall Ward Annual Precept	21,635 (1)
Rent from Talbot Centre Tennis Club	600
Reclaimed VAT	1,062
Total Income	23,297
Expenditure	£
Administrative Costs*	
Salaries of Parish Employees	7,434 (2) (3)
Office and Website	1,124
Other Administrative Costs	997
Insurance and Audit	476
Parish Van and Mower	578 (4)
Total Administrative Costs	10,609
Statutory Expenditure**	
Bus Shelters	708
Street Lighting	7,267 (5)
Talbot Centre Tennis Courts	1,708 (6)
St Michael’s and All Angels Churchyard (Excluding Mowing)	3,443 (7)
Total Statutory Expenditure	13,126
Discretionary Expenditure	
Lilleshall Memorial Hall	4,000
Grants Pre-school/play area etc.	1,433
Annual Payments to Parish Councillors	667 (8)
Benches/Bins	137
Pensioners Vouchers	748
Total Discretionary Expenditure	6,985
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	30,720
ANNUAL BALANCE	-7,423 (Deficit)
	(Notes overleaf)