

DONNINGTON AND MUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Turreff Hall, Turreff Avenue, Donnington, Telford, TF2 8HG Tel: 01952 608001

clerk@donningtonmuxtonpc.org www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org



Soldiers bench and daffodils on land off Marshbrook Way, Muxton

Annual Report 2021/2022

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021/2022

This will be the first ever Chairmans report I have had to write, and hopefully it will not be my last! I would like to start off by thanking my predecessor Cllr Lisa Dugmore, who previously took over the chairmanship of the Council unexpectedly, due the resignation of a previous Chairman. Cllr Dugmore steered the Council through lockdown and the various challenges this caused, Lisa also made the handover of the Chairmanship to me incredibly easy, which again is another reason to thank her.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the Council who have persevered and continued to ensure that the Council has run smoothly during very uncertain times. Public restrictions made it very difficult for them to plan or arrange any events, however we managed to have a fantastic Christmas Light switch on which was very well attended.

I am also very glad that Holly our Events Officer has been made a permanent member of our team.

During the last year the Council has welcomed 4 new Councillors. Cllr Rowe, Cllr Urey, Cllr Alexander and myself! All Councillors have hit the ground running and I would like to thank them for putting themselves forward to represent their communities. We also had some fantastic news this year that our very own Cllr Nigel Dugmore was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the public during the pandemic, on behalf of the Council I want to congratulate Cllr Dugmore.

One of the first things that bothered me when I became Chairman and reviewing our budget was that the Council would have to raise the precept to meet its spending obligations. To me this wasn't acceptable and to keep the precept at its current level I proposed that we remove all Councillor allowances, including the Chairmans allowance, I was glad this was passed, and Councillor allowances have been scrapped.

I am also pleased for the year ahead, that the Parish Council will not be raising its precept and freezing our portion of Council Tax. It would be wholly wrong for the Parish Council to increase its precept during this cost-of-living crisis.

In November 2021 I attended the remembrance service at Donnington War Memorial, for the first time as chairman. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish to remember all those who gave their lives during the world wars and the conflicts since. This reminded me of why building a war memorial in Muxton is so important and I am glad that this should be completed in the next 6 months.

The Parish Council has forged ahead with its great work and continued to support our community, including funding our yearly "pensioners Christmas

lunch" and extending this to a new "Summer Seaside Trip" which will be happening this summer.

Finally, I look forward to seeing the council continue its great work and delivering on all of the proposals that we as a council have set out.



Councillor Thomas Hoof Chairman Donnington and Muxton Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL

Covid-19 Pandemic

2021 saw the slow process of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic due mainly to the successful role out of the vaccinations against the virus and the virus itself mutating to different strains. People were still encouraged to work from home where possible and wear masks, wash hands and maintain space when going out. In May 2021, legislation changed allowing for Parish Councils to recommence holding meetings face to face whilst still adhering to the face, hands and space message set out by Government.

The Parish Council continued to work hard to ensure that its community was not left without access to the support it needed and continued to encourage people to look after their mental health and wellbeing during these difficult times.

Turreff Hall was, and still is, being used as a vaccination centre by Donnington Pharmacy which has now distributed over 50,000 Covid vaccines as well as the 'flu vaccines at the end of 2021.

Parish Council Office and Liz Clare Library

Following on from the Covid pandemic lock down, the Parish Council Office and Liz Clare Library was able to re-open on Monday 7th June 2021, albeit whilst still adhering to the guidance and precautions against the virus. Due to having lost a number of library volunteers during lockdown, a limited service and opening times could only be provided. The Parish Council would like to sincerely thank Mrs J Hutchings (*pictured*) for volunteering to ensure that the library could be open on Mondays and Thursdays during the recovery period.



Councillor Vacancies

On 6th May 2021 elections were again allowed to take place following the easing of restrictions from the Covid -19 pandemic. The Parish Council had three vacancies waiting to be filled, two in Donnington West Ward and one in Muxton Ward. The vacancies arose due to the sad passing of Councillor Mrs E A Clare in January 2020 and the resignations of Councillors C Mason in October and P Loughlin, who was also the Chairman, in February 2021. As a result of the elections three new Councillors were elected, Councillors Thomas Hoof and Michael Rowe for Donnington West Ward and Councillor Jenny Urey for Muxton Ward. On 31st May 2021 another vacancy arose in the Muxton Ward with the resignation of Councillor Mark Stokes. Following the election from this vacancy on 12th August 2021, Councillor Iain Alexander was elected for the Muxton Ward. The Parish Council would like to thank them for all their support to the community over the years as Councillors and wish Clive, Phil and Mark all the best for the future. Also on 6th May 2021, Councillor J Gough was elected as a Borough Ward Councillor for Donnington filling the vacancy that arose at Telford & Wrekin Council due to the passing of Councillor Mrs E A Clare.

Appointments

At the Parish Council's Annual Meeting on 17th May 2021 Councillor Thomas Hoof was duly elected as **Chairman of the Parish Council.** At the same meeting Councillor Mrs Lisa Dugmore was elected as **Vice-Chairman**.



Staff Training

Councillors and staff have attended numerous training sessions provided virtually through different media such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Some of these include Be a Better Councillor, Code of Conduct, Mailchimp Social Media Training, and Introduction to town planning from a Local Council perspective. The Assistant Clerk, Katie Eshelby, attended many courses and seminars involving accounts and VAT and passed her qualification in the new Finance in Local Council Administration (FiLCA) whilst studying for the Association of Accounting Technician Level 4 qualification. Holly is also in the process of completing FiLCA with the aim of providing a more in-depth knowledge of council finance. Alongside this she has completed courses on Community Engagement, Budget Engagement and Levelling up the nation. Well done everyone for continuing your personal development during this difficult time.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The public referendum on the draft Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood Development Plan (DMNDP) took place on 27th January 2022 resulting in 1,183 members of the electorate voting in favour of the DMNDP, 264 voting against it and there were 12 spoiled ballot papers. Turnout was 14.76%. Following the referendum, a report was prepared for Telford & Wrekin Council's Cabinet meeting, where, on 17th February 2022, the Local Authority was obliged to "make" the plan, allowing DMNDP to be given full legislative recognition when determining planning applications. The Parish Council is saddened to hear of the recent passing of Mr Michael Barker, the Planning Consultant, but would like to acknowledge all the help he gave over the last five years in producing this document.

Honours and Awards



The Parish Council would like to congratulate Councillor Nigel Dugmore for being awarded the **British Empire Medal (BEM)** in the Queen's Honours list for services provided during the Covid pandemic. The British Empire Medal (BEM) is awarded for a 'handson' service to the local community. This could be a long-term charitable or voluntary activity, or innovative work of a relatively short duration (3 to 4 years) that has made a significant difference.

Council Meetings

Due to Turreff Hall being used as a vaccination centre the Parish Council meetings have been held at Cordingley Hall and more recently at Donnington Community Hub. This will continue for the foreseeable future until there is no requirement for Donnington Pharmacy to continue using Turreff Hall. The Parish Council would like to thank Mrs Nicola Casey for the use of Cordingley Hall and Councillor Richard Overton for the use of Donnington Community Hub.

Community Events and Engagement Officer (CEEO)

On 10th January 2022, the Parish Council agreed to make the position of Community Events and Engagement Officer permanent. The Parish Council's social media and community profile has increased immensely since Holly started working with the Council and the events organised by her on behalf of the Council have been a great success. The Parish Council would like to thank Holly for all her hard work to date and looks forward to continuing working with her in the future.

Boundary Change Review

In responding to the Local Government Boundary Commissions draft recommendations for new ward boundaries within Telford and Wrekin, the Parish Council stated that it was satisfied with the proposals made.

Councillor Allowances

In order to help keep this Parish Council's expenditure and precept low, it was agreed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2021 that Councillors would no longer receive any allowances toward the cost of their duties as Councillors.

EVENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

Remembrance Day 2021

A Service of Remembrance, led by representatives of Churches in Donnington and Donnington Wood, was held on Sunday 14th November 2021 at Donnington War Memorial at 10:45am. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council by the Chairman Councillor Thomas Hoof to remember those that gave their lives during the World Wars and conflicts whilst serving this Country. Prior to Armistice Day in November the Parish Council erected 150 poppies on lamp posts throughout the Parish.

Silent Soldiers



Two Silent Soldiers were purchased by the Parish Council. The Silent Soldier is the black silhouette of a First World War "tommy", a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by service personnel of Britain and the Empire during World War One. The figure is "silent" in remembrance of those who lost their lives, and "silent" with respect to those who returned to their homes having suffered life-changing physical and emotional injury. One Soldier has been placed next to the War Memorial, Donnington, and the other next to the Soldier's Bench, Muxton.

Halloween Best Dressed Window



For the first time ever, the Parish Council decided to run a competition for the best dressed Halloween window. The winners were Harrison, Gracie and Emilie and Denise Birkett (*pictured*), the latter hand painting the designs on her window for her grandchildren. All received a prize of a pumpkin, and it is hoped to run the competition again in 2022.

Defibrillators

This year the Parish Council purchased two new defibrillators to be located within the parish. The first was installed at Breton Park, Muxton and the Parish Council is waiting for delivery of the defibrillator which is to be located at Donnington Sports and Social Club, Turreff Avenue, Donnington. The Parish Council also organised free defibrillator training events which were well attended. There are now defibrillators located at: St John's Church, Muxton; Breton Park, Muxton; Haygate Veterinary Centre, Wellington Road, Muxton; Public Toilets, The Parade, Donnington; Donnington Community Hub and Donnington Sports and Social Club (date to be confirmed).



Pictured left to right: Councillor Iain Alexander, Christine Lawrie (Chairman of Breton Park's Resident Association) Gordon Cartlidge (Events Manager of Breton Park's Resident Association) Vice-Chairman Councillor Lisa Dugmore, Beverly Cooper (Secretary of Breton Park's Resident Association).

Shropshire Prostate Cancer Awareness Group

Shropshire Prostate Cancer Awareness Group, in conjunction with Donnington and Muxton Parish Council, held a free prostate cancer awareness event on 6^{th} September 2021 at the Whitehouse Hotel, Wellington. The Parish Council contributed £2,000 towards the event. The total cost to put this test evening on with paperwork, nurses and blood tests was £14,850. Overall, 701 men of different age groups were tested. Of the 701, 2 gentlemen had P.S.A reading over 200 PSI and were advised to see a doctor as a matter of urgency, 43 tested **red**, 35 tested **amber** and the remainder tested **green**.

Happy Healthy Donnington

Following the Covid-19 lockdown, Telford & Wrekin Council was concerned about people's health and well-being and carried out a review on health data across a number of areas. It identified that there are greater health inequalities in some of its more deprived wards across the borough, Donnington being one of them. As a result of this funding (£5,420) was secured to support health and wellbeing in the community and try to tackle some of the issues. Working with the Parish Council's Community Events and

Engagement Officer, various courses relating to healthy eating and fitness events are in the process of being organised using volunteers and existing community organisations. The Parish Council has, and still is, working with the Borough Council to help make the residents of Donnington aware of the health inequalities and offer courses to make Donnington fit, healthy and happy.

Christmas Festival and Light Switch On

With Covid – 19 restrictions being lifted the Parish Council was again able to hold its' Christmas Festival and Lights Switch on. This took place on Sunday 28th November 2021 at The Parade, Donnington. There were free children's rides, bouncy castle, bucking reindeer, free face painting, music and entertainment and Telford Batman. The Christmas lights were switched on by local celebrity Liam Davies from Donnington Boxing Club, who had recently won the WBC Silver International Title to go



with his English Bantamweight Title, Councillor Thomas Hoof (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Councillor Mrs Lisa Dugmore (Vice-Chairman to the Parish Council).

Pensioners Christmas Dinner



The Over 65's Christmas Dinner 2021 took place on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th December at Cordingley Hall. It was very well attended, and everyone was happy to be back out socializing. The Parish Council would like to thank Mrs Nicola Casey for hosting the event and for providing the entertainment.

Christmas Lights

The Parish Council has renewed its contract with Turnock Ltd for the provision, installation, storage and maintenance of its Christmas lights. The Parish Council has also decided to purchase additional Christmas lights over the next three years. These will be located along with the current Christmas displays as follows:

Donnington

4 x additional lamp post displays opposite The Parade on Wrekin Drive.

1 x new 5.5m cone Christmas tree opposite The Parade on Wrekin Drive/Winifred's Drive

1 x new 5.5m cone Christmas tree on the Wrekin Drive/Wellington Road roundabout.

A "Merry Christmas" illuminated sign above the shops at The Parade.

Muxton

4 x additional displays outside Muxton Primary School.

2 x additional displays outside the shops on Fieldhouse Drive.

ENVIRONMENT

Play area Pembridge Close, Muxton

After many years of trying to get Telford and Wrekin Council to improve and refurbish the play area at Pembridge Close, Muxton, the Parish Council agreed to contribute £5,000 towards new equipment in order to progress the matter. The type of apparatus was agreed and has gone out to tender. Work will commence shortly on installing the new play apparatus. The Parish Council would like to thank Councillor Jenny Urey for her tenacity in getting this done with Officers from Telford & Wrekin Council.

War Memorials

The exchange of land off Marshbrook Way from Persimmon Homes to the Parish Council for the purpose of erecting a War Memorial has been completed. The design of the War Memorial has been agreed and the Parish Council is hoping to have it installed within the next twelve weeks. The Parish Council will be organising a dedication service once it has been installed.

The Parish Council is also in the process of transferring the ownership and responsibility of Donnington War Memorial situated on Winifred's Drive, from the Borough Council to the Parish Council.

Street Lighting Columns

The Parish Council has replaced five concrete streetlamp columns due to the condition of them. These are located at The Fields, Barn Close, Sutherland Drive, The Glebelands and High Mount. The total cost for replacing these columns was £4,987.56

Giotto Mural

Over the years the condition of the Giotto Mural located by the shops on Fieldhouse Drive, Muxton has deteriorated considerably. Giotto was a European robotic spacecraft mission from the European Space Agency. The spacecraft flew by and studied Halley's Comet and, in doing so, became the first spacecraft to make close up observations of a comet. On 13th March 1986, the mission succeeded in approaching Halley's nucleus at a distance of 596 kilometers. The spacecraft was named after the early



renaissance painter Giotto di Bondone. He had observed Halley's comet in 1301 and was inspired to depict it as the star of Bethlehem in his painting Adoration of the Magi. Over the years the Parish Council has consistently requested that Telford & Wrekin Council reinstate the mural. Finally, through Councillor Jenny Urey's persistence, the Borough Council has allocated funding from Council Liability funding to initially undertake a detailed investigation to understand the issues and what work would be needed to repair the wall. Suggestions have been made to replace the mural with a painted version due to the difficulty sourcing tiles and the boards on which the tiles are

adhered to being rotten. Once the investigation has been completed, discussions will be held as to what the best solution will be.

Bins

The Parish Council has requested bins to be installed on Fieldhouse Drive, Muxton. Telford & Wrekin Council is currently running a large project which is looking at the replacement of damaged bins across the Borough as a priority. The Borough Council started monitoring the amount of litter and dog fouling along Fieldhouse Drive in March 2022 and the Parish Council is waiting to see the data.

Environmental Services

Due to dissatisfaction with the current contractor for environmental services, the Parish Council has terminated its contract with them and has now employed Nobridge Ltd to carry out the grass cutting, hedge trimming and minor tree works on Parish Council land in the area. The Parish Council is looking forward to working with Nobridge Ltd in the future.

HIGHWAYS

Highways Mirror Breton Park, Muxton

The residents of Breton Park were experiencing difficulty accessing Wellington Road, Muxton when vehicles were parked outside the residential homes on the old Sutherland Arms site. As a result, the Parish Council arranged for the installment of a highways mirror to be situated opposite the entrance to Breton Park. Councillor N Dugmore agreed to pay for the mirror from his Borough Councillor Ward Fund.



Bus Shelter Replacement

At the end of December 2021, the Parish Council was informed of a bus shelter replacement programme being undertaken by Telford & Wrekin Council which will initially see new infrastructure provided at over 20 locations. Where possible, existing shelters will become 'off-grid' which means that where electricity is needed for timetable information and lighting, that this will be generated at the shelter if at all possible. In order to support the aspirations of the Bus Service Improvement Plan and the commitment to work in partnership with Parish Councils it offered Parish Councils the option to upgrade their existing shelters and take advantage of match funding to complete this via the Parish Bus Shelter Replacement Programme.

As a result of this offer, the Parish Council has requested that a new solar powered bus shelter is located opposite 65 School Road, Donnington to replace the brick shelter that is in extremely poor condition. The Parish Council has also requested that two bus shelters be installed on Winifred's Drive, Donnington adjacent to the War Memorial.

Bus stop Wellington Road, Muxton



After being missing for such a long time, it's great to see the new Bus Stop on Wellington Road, Muxton. The Parish Council would like to thank Councillor M Rowe who has worked with Telford and Wrekin Council for many months to get a replacement. Due to issues with underground cabling and services the new sign has a solar powered electronic display which provides timetable, route and arrival times. Finally, a thank you also to Cllr I Alexander,

who also offered support after his election.

SatNav Error

An issue was brought to the attention of the Parish Council regarding deliveries to Lytham Green, Ryder Drive and Thornton Park Avenue, Muxton in that delivery drivers were being led by their Satellite Navigation Systems (SatNav) up Muxton Lane to these roads. As a result, the Parish Council requested that a SatNav Error sign be installed near the junction of Muxton Lane/Saltwells Drive. The sign (pictured) will be installed in the near future, and it is hoped that the matter of delivery drivers getting lost will be resolved.



THE LIZ CLARE LIBRARY

With the easing of lockdown restrictions, Donnington and Muxton Community Library was able to re-open on 7th June 2021. However, in July, a freak accident saw a vehicle roll down the car park and hit the library wall just above the damp proof course. Fortunately, no-one was injured in the accident. The bricks where the car hit were moved by approximately 10mm and the library was deemed to be unsafe to open. As many contractors were catching up with building work jobs after Covid-19 lockdown, it was extremely difficult to get the three quotes required by the loss adjustors. Eventually, in February 2022, contractors were employed, and the library managed to re-open on 7th March 2022. The Parish Council is now in the process of recruiting volunteers to assist with the running of the library and encourage users to return by promoting the library through its social media.

STAFF AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE



Committee Members: Chairman Mrs L Dugmore (pictured), N Dugmore, M Edwards, J Lavery, A Lawrence (Vice-Chairman), and R Overton.

Its membership consists of no more than six members of the Council (Vice-Chair only

included). This is to ensure that any redress against decisions made by 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 Council Meeting of the Parish Council.

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. The Staff and Personnel Committee met once during 2021/2022 to discuss making the Community Events and Engagement Officer post a permanent position.

The decisions made regarding the above can be found in the minutes from this meeting at the Parish Council office or on the Parish Council's website www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org unless they contain information that is data protected.

PLANNING COMMITTEE



Committee Members: Chairman Mrs L Dugmore (Pictured), I Alexander, Miss F Doran (Vice-Chairman), M Edwards, M Rowe, J Thompson and J Urey. Ex-officio members T Hoof and Mrs L Dugmore.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee 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 (the Local Planning Authority) that occur within its parish boundaries.

The Planning Committee met nine times during the year 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022. Between these dates the Council received a total of 49 planning applications for discussion and comments. These were made up as follows:

Donnington 18 applications (down 2 from last year), Muxton 28 applications (down 1 from last year), The Humbers 3 application (up 2 from last year).

Following the elections in 2021 the Planning Committee welcomed Councillors J Urey, I Alexander and M Rowe. There were resignations from the committee by Councillor J Gough and resignation from both the Council and Planning Committee by M Stokes.

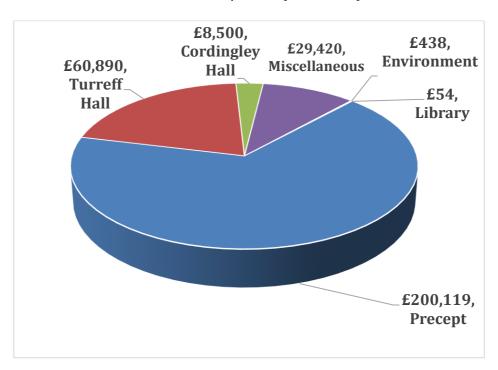
Notable applications discussed were the application for phase 2 Castle Farm Way/A5 for 151 dwellings, the erection of 19 affordable dwellings on the site of Reviive, Wellington Road, Donnington and conversion of the old four ways shop at the crossroads of Queen's Road/Oakengates Road etc to mixed shops and accommodation.

The Planning Committee was also the steering group for this Parish Councils Neighbourhood Development Plan which, it is delighted to announce, was finally "made" by Telford & Wrekin Council's Planning Committee. This means that the plan will be given full legislative recognition when the Local Planning Authority determines and considers planning applications. This Council's decisions regarding all applications along with its Neighbourhood Development Plan can be found on its website www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org.

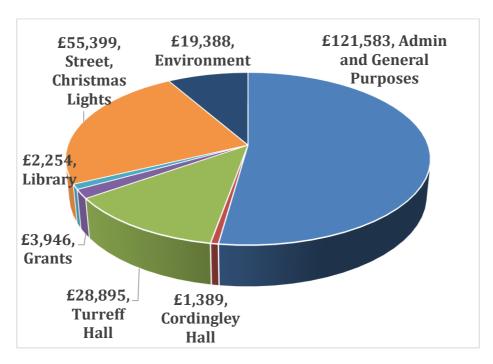
FINANCE

The Council's precept for 2021/2022 was set at £200,119. This equates to a cost of £53.26 per annum on Band D equivalent houses within the Parish as part of the Council Tax. This figure was set according to the number of Band "D" equivalent properties in the parish which was given at 3,757.3.

Income 2021/2022 (£299,421)



Expenditure 2021/2022 (£232,854)



Grants totaling £3,946 were awarded to 7 groups and organisations that benefit the inhabitants within the Parish and Telford & Wrekin.

The Parish Council received its Annual Return for the year ended 2021 back from its Auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP based at Canary Wharf, London which, once again, has been successfully signed off.

The Parish Council also received grants from various sources, mainly from the Borough Councillors Ward Fund £6,000 and Covid-19 business relief plus others, making a total of £7,467 received.

Parish Council Assets

The assets held by the Parish Council are as follows:

Fixed Assets Estimated Value (£) as at March 2022

Turreff Hall450,159.05Cordingley Hall763,684.97Street Furniture:32,211.36

(14 x Bus Shelters, 15 x Benches, 426 x Street Lights).

The Parish Council also has £33,430.57 of equipment with which to carry out its duties.

Land

Land opposite Muxton Primary School, Marshbrook Way, Muxton

Brands Meadow Play area and woods, Muxton

Land from Muxton Primary School on Marshbrook Way to the junction of Winchester Drive, Muxton.

Land off Saltwells Drive to the rear of Thornton Park Avenue.

Land for allotments at Donnington Recreation Ground.

Land off Marshbrook Way, Muxton adjacent to Lytham Green for installation of a War Memorial. This was donated to the Parish Council by Persimmon Homes Ltd.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The website (www.donningtonmuxtonpc.org) continues to be a great success with the Events Officer and Assistant Clerk constantly updating and refreshing all the news and information on it. 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 and Muxton. The Council's Facebook is also publishing more information, especially helpful tips and hints to improve the health and well-being of its residents, especially following the Covid-19 lockdown, as well as keeping residents informed of what is happening in and around the parish as is the Parish Council's Twitter Account (DonningtonMuxt1). The Parish Council now also has an Instagram account where updates are also provided of Council activities so you can follow this Council via any, or all, of these forms of social media.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Donnington West Ward







Jim Lavery



Richard Overton



Michael Rowe



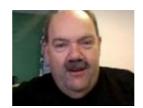
John Thompson

Donnington East Ward



Miss Fiona Doran

The Humbers Ward



Martyn Edwards



Jay Gough

Muxton Ward



Iain Alexander



Mrs Lisa Dugmore



Nigel Dugmore



Adrian Lawrence



Jenny Urey

PARISH PERSONNEL



Ralph Morgan Parish Council Clerk



Mrs Katie Eshelby Assistant Clerk



Mrs Holly Westwood Community Events and Engagement Officer



Mrs Helen Whitehouse Caretaker

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday to Thursday 9.00am - 3.00pm

Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

The Parish Council Office is closed at weekends.