

EASTNOR AND DONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Mrs J Chester, Mapleside, Ashperton, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2RZ

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Minutes of The Annual Meeting of the Parishes of Eastnor & Donnington held at Eastnor Cricket Club Pavillion on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: 6 residents of the parishes

Janet Chester – parish clerk

Stef Simmons – ward councillor

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman of the parish council Caroline Layton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To Accept any Apologies for Absence

Shane Howells and Jim Sandford

3. To Consider Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held 23rd May 2024

The minutes of the meeting were approved and duly signed by the chairman.

4. To Receive Annual Report from Chairman of the Parish Council

This was my third and final year as Chair of the parish council. The parish council have had a few things ticked off our list:-

1. The depth gauge at Clenchers Mill Ford has been replaced, it looks good and hopefully people will take notice of it after a very wet winter or big thunderstorms & don't get stuck.
2. The broken drain/culvert opposite Home Farm drive has been worked on and hopefully rectified.
3. We have a smart new noticeboard which sits proudly at The Woodshed, The Woodshed is a busy hub of the village with a rustic childrens play area.

We have the road saga still ongoing. As a councillor I am ashamed of the state they are in. We have heavy traffic through the village and Herefordshire Council have advised that resurfacing will take place in May but they keep putting the date back so watch this space! I cannot understand why they have redone the white line markings when they plan to resurface over them. The parish council requested a reduction in the speed limit on the A438 and Herefordshire Council carried out monitoring by placing strips in the road to record speeds. The results received were, in the parish councils opinion, false because the strips were placed too near the bend and disappointingly Herefordshire Council will not reduce the speed limit. Ward Cllr Simmons has fought our case and improved signage is planned to try and get motorists to drive slower.

I thank every councillor and clerk for their help and participation through my years and I thank Ward Cllr Stef Simmons for keeping us informed of Herefordshire Council business.

5. To Receive Annual Report from Ledbury South Ward Councillor Stef Simmons

Eastnor and Donnington May 2025 Ward Report – Cllr Stef Simmons

Once again it is time for the annual report, and I am rather shocked at how quickly the last 12 months have gone, but equally pleased to report on some of the things that have been addressed by Parish councillors and myself working together.

Drainage works on the B4216 and Donnington lanes Herefordshire Highways and BBLP drainage teams have been out to measure the water coming off the large catchment to the south of Ledbury and west of Parkway leading to flooding, standing water and damage to highways and property. Over

£100,000 has been spent on new pipework, headwall construction and resurfacing works this last year. More work is planned to address some of the pinch points with drainage where within highways land and control. However significant problems with historic land drains unable to cope with increased rainfall levels during storm periods. I will continue to work with the team to flag any issues and problems and lobby for funds to get works done. Thank you to everyone who reports issues as this helps me make the case.

Housing Growth We continue to see the impacts of housing growth and development in the area. Whilst welcoming new residents from across the country and encouraging their involvement in local life, it also has a negative impact with increased pressure on services, highways and our environment. The Malvern Hills National Landscape is seeing significant numbers of visitors on the hills and surrounding network. I have been working hard to push back against speculative site development like the proposed Hopfields Phase 2 (no application submitted as yet).

Eastnor Resurfacing and Safety Improvements With Eastnor Deer Park helping to absorb some of the pressure from British Camp and the rest of the Malverns, the Woodshed has become hugely popular, and is helping make the countryside accessible to many of those with mobility issues or with prams. With increased numbers of people accessing the entrance by car, cycle, motorbike and on foot I have been working to encourage Herefordshire Highways to address safety concerns. The A438 is scheduled for resurfacing at the end of May/early June and during this time improvements will be made to the school hazard safety signs including an advisory 20/25mph OFFICIAL speed limit on the bend at Clenchers Mill/Woodshed crossing point. In addition coloured high friction surface will be laid and white line give way lines reinstated. Parkway Maintenance and Safety Following 18 months of discussions with highways and BBLP to secure funds, some maintenance works and safety improvements have finally been undertaken in the Parkway area. This includes cutting, clearance of paths - and via Ledbury Town Council – funding of a speed indicator device. The police following my requests have attended Parkway for speed enforcement action 17 times since August last year. Next steps include improved hazard signage, drainage works, and reinstatement of the offline section of the path from the Bullen towards Ledbury. I attended a meeting with about 30 local residents on 11th March to discuss their ongoing safety concerns and possible steps to address these. I am currently in the process of trying to arrange a workshop between Highways Safety officer, engineers and residents to develop plans that can be implemented as soon as funds become available. And finally...Clenchers Mill Lane Depth Gauge has been reinstated! It only took over a year of lobbying Head of Highways to get this one done.

I am contactable via email stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 07792881706

6. To Note the Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

ATTENDANCE RECORD

2024-2025

Name	MAY	AUG	OCT	DEC	FEB	TOTAL
MICHAEL HALL	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	4 OF 5
SHANE HOWELLS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 5
CAROLINE LAYTON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 5
SHIRLEY ROBERTS	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	4 OF 5
JIM SANDFORD	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	4 OF 5
ROBIN SMITH	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	Y	3 OF 5
JANET STIRZAKER	Y	N	Y	APOL	APOL	2 OF 5
BEN TANDY	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	4 OF 5
WARD CLLR STEF SIMMONS	APOL	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	2 OF 5

7. To Receive the Financial Report from the Parish Council (figures quoted are provisional and subject to audit)

Opening balance – £7354.83

Income – £7100.00

Expenditure – £9151.73 (noticeboard income 2023/24 but expenditure 2024/25)

Closing Balance – £5303.10

8. Open Forum - to raise matters relevant to Eastnor & Donnington parishes -*This item to be limited at the discretion of the chairman*

No matters raised

Meeting declared closed at 19.25pm.

Signed

Dated:.....

DRAFT