

## Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr K Bryan, presided; present were Cllrs. Maurice Day, Stuart Gibbons, Chris Hill, Margot Metcalfe, Jenny Nudds, and Mark Williams with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and 14 residents.

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mark Stevenson who was away and District Cllr John Cotton who had another appointment.

### 2 Public Participation

a. P09/W1029 & P09/W1030/CA; John Thompson of Carroll & Partners spoke about his client's application to develop on land between 32 & 36 High Street & the site of 1 Crown Lane and said that he thought that SODC's Conservation Officer is in favour of the scheme. The proposal is for five new dwellings but since the bungalow at 1 Crown Lane will be demolished the net increase is four. The existing barn which serves as the main workshop will be removed but a barn-like structure replaces it elsewhere on the site. The wall along the boundary of the site with Crown Lane will be retained while others boundaries will be tidied up. The proposal is for quality buildings of traditional appearance and with high standards of insulation. Cars on site will be concealed and new trees will be planted.

Karen Hadley, a neighbour on the Queen Street side, expressed her concerns about the impact of the proposed development upon her private space and pointed out that the boundary wall between the two properties would need to be protected and possibly reinforced if there is to be any change to the ground level on the High Street side.

Nicola Friend, a neighbour on the Crown Lane side, said that she feared a serious loss of privacy if the single storey dwelling at 1 Crown Lane is replaced by a two storey dwelling with windows looking straight towards her own home.

b. P09/W1057; Richard Winslet, the next door neighbour to 1 Chequers Court, Bridge End, where a new side extension consisting of car port and garden store is proposed, commented that this pair of recently built houses have a symmetry that would be lost if this application is approved. He thought it unlikely that he would be able to put a similar side extension on his house because of its proximity to the next door building, the former public house known as The Chequers, which is a Listed Building.

c. P09/W1049; a representative from David Birkett, the architect of the proposed extension at 33 Abingdon Road, explained that the client wished to increase the living space within the property. This would be achieved by an extension of the roof by increasing the pitch by 10 degrees and the addition of 3 dormer windows to the rear of the house.

d. A resident suggested that, when not in use, the traffic cones which the Council uses to deter parking in various parts of the village when events are in progress at The Abbey should be chained together to prevent them from unauthorised use. There have recently been several occasions when such unauthorised use has occurred. The Clerk said that arrangements have now been made to store the cones within the outbuildings of The White Hart. This is more secure and the area is subject to CCTV surveillance.

e. Two residents of Belcher Court attended to say that there are a few dog owners who permit their dogs to foul both in the area designated as the garden for the use of

Belcher Court residents and in the Parish Burial Ground. The Clerk said that another resident has already written about this problem so the matter is on the agenda.

### 3 Declarations of Interest

None

### 4 Minutes of the Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and continued on 21<sup>st</sup> October

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

### 5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. Posts on bank by St Birinus RC Church; following the intervention of County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale Mr Peter Roger has informed the Parish Council that it is not after all essential that these posts are installed by a County Council-approved contractor. But there must be £10 million of public liability cover and any damage to services buried underground will be the responsibility of the Parish Council and its contractor. The Council is minded to suggest that the use of large, heavy stones is considered as an alternative.
- b. Abbey View Meadow; the area has been used as a car park by the Dorchester Angling Club as agreed. The pedestrian access gates are to be replaced as the contractor's first effort is considered unsatisfactory. Gilbert Hobbs has been contacted to carry out some ground works at the far end of the meadow and to create the trench where the rose tree and thorn hedging material will be planted.
- c. Meeting with Footpaths Officer on 7<sup>th</sup> October; the Clerk has not heard from Mark Sumner since the meeting.
- d. Affordable Housing; the Clerk has asked Anna Kennedy of ORCC to contact him with her suggestions for Parish Council actions and he is awaiting her reply.
- e. Appointment of a councillor as Hurst Water Meadow Trustee; it was agreed to hold this matter over until the December meeting.

### 6. District Councillor's Report

District Cllr John Cotton had sent his apologies.

### 7 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsey-Gale said that although the County Council planning committee has turned down both applications for 'efw' (energy from waste) incineration plants in Oxfordshire it was highly likely that both applicants would appeal. The matter is by no means closed, therefore.

Cllr Lindsay-Gale said that areas within the Parish and close by have been identified as sites for possible sand and gravel extraction in the period up to 2026. The matter will be discussed again later in the meeting.

### 8 Finance:

NatWest Current account at 31 <sup>st</sup> October	£12,231.19
Nat West Reserve Account at 31 <sup>st</sup> October	£27,741.59

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Berinsfield Community Business (grass cutting October)	£980.09
Pear Technology (mapping training)	£57.50
Simon Ratliff (IT parts and support)	£117.50
GGD Russell – Clerk's salary	£450.11
Geoff Willis Handyman – 5 weeks (Oct £283.05)	£214.20

South & Vale Carers (donation)	£80.00
Royal British Legion (donation)	£100.00

## 9 Correspondence and Other Business:

### i). Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

Wicksteed will be asked to send a mechanic to look at the swings and the see saw, both of which are in need of minor repairs and maintenance, while the Tennis section will be asked if there are plans to repair the netting around the court perimeter.

### ii). Footpaths;

The vegetation opposite some of the houses in Malthouse Lane is growing over the path. The Area Highways inspector has queried the need to clear the path opposite Meadside because there is no bus stop sign there. He will, however, be assured that this is a regular stop used by both service and school buses.

### iii). Cemetery;

Complaints about dog mess being found upon a grave will be taken extremely seriously. If the problem of dog fouling continues it may become necessary for dogs to be forbidden entry. This could be achieved by citing the Burial Ground regulation that asks all visitors to behave with 'decorum'. There is also a possibility that the Council's contractors would refuse to cut the grass unless the situation improves.

### iv). Allotments;

Through Mark Townson, allotment holders will be asked to ensure that their name appears on the plots that they rent. This is a requirement of the Allotment Rules.

### v). Other letters to Chairman and Clerk.

a. The Council noted that the 18.12 Service 105 which runs from Oxford to Wallingford via Berinsfield and Dorchester will be withdrawn from Berinsfield and Dorchester with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> December.

b. A letter has been sent to the Clerk by John Howard complaining about dogs fouling the area around Belcher Court. The Parish Council will obtain more signs, freely available from SODC, and use Dorchester News to urge responsible dog ownership.

## 10 Planning

### a. Applications

P09/W1029 & P09/W1030/CA Land between 32 & 36 High Street & the Site of 1 Crown Lane

Demolition of all existing buildings, construction of access road and the erection of five, two storey dwellings with associated car ports and parking.

The Council agreed to recommend this application for approval while drawing the attention of the planners to the complaints about overlooking from both Karen Hadley and Nicola Friend.

P09/W1057 1 Chequers Court Bridge End

New side extension consisting of car port and garden store. New roof lights in bathrooms (2 no).

The Council agreed that this application should be recommended for refusal as being an overdevelopment and alteration to the character of the dwelling. The current plan is so recent approved that its provisions should be respected.

P09/W1049 33 Abingdon Road

Extension of the roof by increasing the pitch by 10 degrees and addition of 3 dormer windows to the rear of the house.

The Council agreed to recommend this application for approval. It is a sensible proposal which enhances the property.

P09/W0991/LB The Nook 37 High Street

To replace the existing glazing in the modern (c. 1977) extension at the rear of the property with new energy efficient sealed double glazed units. The Covering Letter is part of this application.

The Council agreed to recommend this application for approval.

P09/W1008 North End House 92 High Street Dorchester-on-Thames

Proposed replacement garaging.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

PO8/W0525 77 High Street – Erection of two storey extension – Proposed amendment. Invitation to comment with options:

The Council had no objection to the proposed amendment.

#### b. Other Planning matters

The Council noted the following matters:

P09/W09502/RLB George Hotel, High Street

Provision of bathrooms to 6 no. hotel bedrooms

Application has been withdrawn

P09/W0799 6 Meadside

Single storey extension and single/two storey rear extension. Entrance canopy to front elevation and solar panels to rear.

Planning Permission had been granted on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

#### 11 Flu Pandemic Planning

Cllr Chris Hill is preparing a local plan which is complementary to the schemes of NHS, County and District Councils. The key element is a network of ‘street friends’ co-ordinated by a management team of volunteers. The advice of Chinnor Parish Council is to run the scheme through existing village organisations with one of the local hotels being lined up as the ‘operations centre’ if one should ever be required. The Parish Council would need to have a contingency fund but at the moment there is no need to create a firm budget.

#### 12 Parishes Against Gravel Extraction (PAGE)

The County Council has identified new strategic options for sand and gravel abstraction and areas in and around the Parish of Dorchester feature in some of those options. A meeting of interested parties will be held at Warborough in The Greet Hall on the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> November to discuss how to respond to the consultation.

The rich archaeological heritage of the area continues to be a strong argument against digging up some of the sites that have been identified in the past and which have been proposed again, but new sites have been identified and need to be carefully examined. The consultation papers will soon be issued by the County Council and these will contain full details.

#### 13 Sustainable Communities Act

The Clerk wrote to John Howell MP as requested and received an emailed reply on 30<sup>th</sup> October. This has been circulated. John Howell said that he had recently spoken in the House of Commons about the importance of transparency and the need for central government to place greater trust in local government. He said that he prefers to raise issues direct with Ministers rather than sign an Early Day Motion.

#### 14 Other Urgent Business

- a. The Council was told that some of the street light wiring in Manor Farm Road is to be placed underground. The Council confirmed its view that all of the street lights in Manor Farm Road are required.
- b. The Council agreed that a formal photograph of the Council should be taken at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January. The Clerk will ask Frank Blackwell to take the picture.
- c. It was agreed that the Chairman will talk to Simon Madden and other members of the Royal British Legion about placing a stepping stone in front of the war memorial on Remembrance Day in 2010 and beyond. It was also agreed that the chain should be removed for the service to make wreath-laying easier.
- d. Cllrs Hill and Gibbons have tidied the area around the Bridge End car park and wondered if an application of new gravel would be a further improvement to the area. This will be considered. The Chairman thanked them for their work. The village handyman will be asked to control the weeds that grow under and around the bike rack.

Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.