

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 17th September 2014 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Margot Metcalfe, presided; present were Cllrs. Ken Bryan, Maurice Day, Sue Graney, Chris Hill, and Mark Stevenson, with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting was Professor Malcolm Airs.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Mike Hill and Mike Kitson, and County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale.

2 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

3 Public Participation

None

4 Minutes of the Meetings held 13th and 27th August 2014

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed as correct records.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. The Chairman is hoping to attend the ORCC meeting the following evening.
- b. Cllr Chris Hill will contact Mary Tame to ensure that she is happy with the proposed wording of the commemorative plaque.
- c. P14/S1635/FUL 25 Bridge End as amended; the Council noted that the applicants had removed the roof lights and that the application has now been approved, albeit with several conditions. A copy of the notice of approval has been circulated. All permitted developments rights have been removed.
- d. P14/S2393/FUL Land South of 55 Abingdon Road; the Council has already recommended that this application should be refused but it was agreed that the following comment, suggested by Cllr Stevenson and taken from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 121), should also be sent to the Planning Officer: Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that the site is suitable for its new use taking account of ground conditions and land instability, including from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, pollution arising from previous uses and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation or impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation;
- e. There is no rule forbidding the sale of produce grown on the allotments and the stand where produce is being sold is not located on land owned by the Parish Council. It was therefore agreed that no action should be taken.

6 District Councillor's Report

There has been no report from District Cllr Marc Hiles this month.

7 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale's monthly report has been circulated electronically and a paper copy will be included for circulation in the folder.

8 Finance: Bank balances & payments

Bank balances

Natwest Reserve Account 30 th June	£47,810.27
Natwest Current Account 29 th August	£19,023.65
The following payments were approved:	
Berinsfield Community Business (August grass)	£860.52
ERS Environmental Services (March to August incl.)	£669.60
Total Pest Control (Sept – October)	£234.00
Playsafety Limited (inspection)	£103.20
Dorchester on Thames Village Hall (room hire 3 months)	£40.00
Geoff Willis (4 weeks)	£411.25
Neil Willis (10 hours)	£87.50
G Russell salary	<u>£528.25</u>
	£2,934.32

The Council has received an appeal from Oxfordshire Association for the Blind - www.oxeyes.org.uk - which has opened a new resource centre for local visually impaired people. The Clerk told the Council that in July 2010 there had been a donation of £80. It was agreed that this year the donation would be increased to £100 and the Clerk, when sending the donation, was asked to request that The Association send some posters about its work which could be displayed on village notice boards.

9. Correspondence and Other Business:

a. Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

The Clerk reported that the RoSPA Safety Inspector had visited the site on 12th September. An electronic copy of the report had been received and there were no matters that required immediate attention. The paper copy will be circulated. In the opinion of the Inspector there is no need for any of the safety surfacing to be replaced in the near future. Some maintenance work is required but this does not need specialist contractors. The inspector had also given advice on how to solve the problems caused by the presence of moles by changing the composition of the soil. Kim Brake, who looks after the cricket pitch and outfield, will be asked to see if he would be interested in taking on the care of the grass within the play area. Mike Stimpson, chairman of the Sports Club, has written to Cllr Bryan about the Club's plans to extend the pavilion. Cllr Bryan had asked to see the plans as soon as possible, after which a meeting of the steering committee would be convened. It was agreed that the roof of the Pavilion should be examined and any necessary repairs carried out as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to progress the application for the Energy Savings Audit.

b. Footpaths;

The County Council's Highways Inspector has not approved the oil spill damage repair and it will have to be done again at BCB's expense. The Inspector has closed the pavement along the west side of Oxford Road because of over-hanging vegetation from the embankment. Most of this planting was carried out

by previous residents who have moved away; the present occupants of the property do not feel that they should be held responsible for maintenance of plants, shrubs etc that are outside their property boundaries. This is a dispute between the residents and the County Council and is not something that the Parish Council can resolve.

The Clerk has found a company based in Berinsfield that fits Broxap bins. He will arrange for the local representative to view all the sites which have been scheduled for new litter bins and provide a quote for the fitting.

The Clerk reported that the Community Payback working party is to start work in the village on Monday 29th September and on successive Mondays thereafter. In the Clerk's absence the group will be met by Cllrs Mrs Metcalfe and Chris Hill. It was agreed that the first location that should be undertaken is work along Watling Lane, Council noted that the County Council is in a consultation process about the classification of Public Rights of Way. The Clerk passed a map showing local footpaths and a covering letter which asked for the map to be marked up in a way that identified the most important paths.

The Clerk reported that Tim Fisher had agreed to cut back the hedge along the boundary of 25 Bridge End. It should have been cut today. Cllr Chris Hill said that path alongside the Cemetery urgently needs cutting, as does the entrance to the Abbey View car park.

It was agreed that ideally the footpath along Malt House Lane would be resurfaced well before winter. The Clerk will ask BCB when this work can be scheduled. The Clerk will ask Mark Sumner, County footpaths officer, to revisit the path alongside Overy Mill. There have been complaints that the treads on the footbridge are rotting and dangerous.

c. Cemetery /Closed Abbey Churchyard;

A photo mock-up of the proposed notices is being prepared by Dan Haines and will be circulated for approval as soon as it is received.

d. Allotments;

Mark Townson had estimated that the cost of repairing the area where rainwater collects and puddles using geotextile material would be about £500. This expenditure was approved. Cllrs Mrs Metcalfe and Chris Hill will attend the Allotment Society AGM tomorrow.

e. Letters to Chairman and Clerk

The Council noted that John Howell MP will be at Dorchester Village Hall at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 19th September as part of his regular tour of constituency villages and the Thames Valley Police 'Have Your Say' meeting at 3 p.m. on 10th October.

Dawn Dudley has written concerning the proposed 14 High Street change of use saying that she hopes that Parish Council will continue to oppose the application. It was agreed that the Council would do so if there are sound planning reasons.

10. Planning

a. Applications

P14/S2853/LB 36 High Street; Proposed external and internal repair works.

The Council agreed to recommend approval for this application provided that there are no objections from the Conservation Officer.

b. Neighbourhood/Community Planning Report/Bus Users Group

The next meeting of the Group will take place on 25th September.

11. Parish Council Communications (website and contact info for each councillor)

It was agreed that the web site development, hosting and management proposals from Data Systems should be approved, thus committing the Council to spend approximately £2,000 over the coming two years.

The question as to how much personal contact information would be published is ultimately a matter for each councillor but it was agreed that in general the recommendation of OALC would be followed. This means that on the website, the Village notice boards and in Dorchester News details of each councillor's email address, street address and phone number would be published.

12 Handling Complaints

A draft had been circulated in advance and this was approved without change. The Clerk will find and circulate a model scheme for a 'Grievance Procedure'. The Chairman's email address is chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

13. Model Standing Orders

The Council agreed upon the discretionary matters with the 'Model' document, particularly involving timings, that need to be decided upon, and this will now be circulated. OALC will be asked to explain the meaning of paragraph 2 (c) under the heading 'Disorderly conduct at meetings'

14. Gilbert Scott Memorial / Bridge End phone box

The estimate for the Village Hall gable end repair has now been received in the sum of £8,730 plus VAT, a very large reduction on the amount quoted by IJP Building Conservation. It was thought unlikely that the Village Hall would need planning consent for these repairs. Conservation Area consent may be required although the Village Hall itself is not a listed building. Some time ago the cost of refurbishing the telephone kiosk was estimated by John Fisher as £720 plus the cost of new glass. The Clerk will ask John if this estimate still stands.

Professor Malcolm Airs was invited to update the Council on this project. He said that the steering group would meet again soon to move forward with the fund-raising that is required to fund the whole project. The telephone box design includes information displays, leaflet dispensers and a book exchange facility. It is key that this should be seen as a 'community project'.

Professor Airs is in contact with Clifton Hampden Parish Council and is also trying to contact Christopher Gibb and Kate Bush, the immediate past and present owners of the Manor House at Clifton Hampden.

The Parish Council agreed to support this project and that it would take the lead in any applications for planning permission that might be required,

15 Location for Defibrillator

It was agreed that the exterior of the Village Hall would make the most centrally accessible location. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall management committee and seek the support of its members.

16 Proposal for Gravel Extraction near Clifton Hampden

The Council noted that it now seems that the application will be delayed due to archaeological findings on the proposed site of the excavation.

17 Registration of Parish Land

The Chairman said that she is hoping to complete her research into the evidence provided in the Council's minute books by the time of the October meeting.

18 Village 'Spring-Clean'

It was agreed that this should be postponed until 2015 and the specific locations reviewed after the Community Payback scheme has completed its tasks for this year. It was agreed that clearing weeds etc is more urgently required than litter-picking.

19 Fête 2015

Cllr Sue Graney said that her organising committee for the 2014 event had found Sunday to be an excellent day to hold the Fête and they would consider holding another in 2015. This means that the Cricket Club can be told that there is no need to set aside a Saturday from the normal fixtures list.

20 IT Classes for Residents

It was agreed that the best way of progressing this project is by personal contact with the Lunch Club, especially Gill Haworth, and Judy Parker.

22 Any Other Business

- a. The Clerk confirmed that the 3 unit bike-rack outside the Co-op is being progressed.
 - b. Cllr Chris Hill said that he will be looking at the Oxford Local Flood Risk Strategy and reporting to both the Parish Council and the Hurst Water Meadow Trust.
 - c. Cllr Maurice Day said that he thought the County Council should clear the weeds from the central area on the by-pass as a matter of routine. This was agreed.
- Meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.