

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th May 2016 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill presided; also present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Val Howells, Oliver Margison, Viviane Quirke, Keith Russell and Mark Williams (Vice-Chairman) with G Russell in attendance.

1/5 Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence

An Apology for absence from Cllr Mike Rimmer was accepted. Cllr Viviane Quirke signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk. The Chairman welcomed Viviane to membership of the Parish Council.

2/5 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

3/5 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None.

4/5 Election of Parish Council Chairman 2016/17

(The Clerk took the chair for this item) The re-election of Cllr Chris Hill was proposed by Cllr Keith Russell and seconded by Cllr Val Howells. There were no other nominations and Cllr Chris Hill was declared Chairman for the year 2016/17. Cllr Hill resumed the chair.

5/5 Election of Parish Council Vice-Chairman 2016/17

The re-election of Cllr Mark Williams was proposed by Cllr Val Howells and seconded by Cllr Keith Russell. There were no other nominations and Cllr Mark Williams was declared Vice-Chairman for the year 2016/17

6/5 Minutes of the Meeting held 13th April 2016

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed.

7/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. White vans; Mr Pratley of Orchid Lake has been sent a letter about the breach of planning and has been threatened with a large fine if he does not remove the vans.
- b. Post office service: there is a possibility that a mobile post office service might serve the village, calling twice a week for two hours each time.
- c. The Police have not yet carried out any local speed checks but our PCSO says that the village will definitely be included soon.

8/5 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale was not present at the meeting but her May report has been circulated. With reference to the County's suggestion that Parish Councils should take over some of the services currently provided by the County Council, for discussion at the June Parish Council meeting councillors were asked to review www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/highway-services and <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/our-overall-approach-empowering-communities>

9/5 Planning:

- a. Applications

No planning applications have been received this month.

b. Decisions

The following planning applications have been granted:

P16/ S0905/HH 3 The Limes; Two single storey extensions.

P16/S0833/HH 3 Wittenham Lane; First floor extension.

P16/S0372/HH 10, Tenpenny. Extension

c. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Council noted the report that had been circulated by the Chairman on 10th May. The Parish Council has been invited to a 'Need not Greed' meeting which has been organised by CPRE Oxfordshire and Sustainable Wallingford on 17th May. It was agreed that the Council would be represented.

10/5 Finance:

Bank balances

NatWest Current Account 5 th May 2016	£62,241.46
NatWest Reserve Account 5 th May 2016	<u>£47,854.10</u>
	£110,095.56

The first half precept payment of £21,140 had been received 7th April.

A donation of £20 has been received from Dorchester Angling Society, an amount that they offer each year as a token for continuing to use Abbey View Meadow for parking on match days between October and March.

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Berinsfield Community Business (grass-cutting March)	£910.50
Southern Electric (Sports Pavilion)	£81.95
Earth Trust (Christmas tree)	£124.80
Dorchester Abbey PCC (printing)	£13.67
NALC (annual magazine subscription)	£17.00
Oxford Home Enhancers (Pavilion deep clean)	£390.00
Geoff Willis (Village handyman 5 weeks)	£306.25
G Russell (Clerk salary)	<u>£538.82</u>
	£2,382.99

11/5 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

Oxfordshire County Council has written again about their preferred options for the re-organisation of local government in Oxfordshire. The letter, signed by Peter Clark, County Director of Corporate Services, will be circulated.

The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils is holding two Roles and Responsibility training sessions for new councillors. Cllrs Rob Ballantyne and Viviane Quirke said that they would like to attend on Saturday 10th September.

12/5 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

On behalf of the Tennis Club, the Council agreed to place the order with J B Corrie & Co Ltd. for the Tennis Development Wall in the sum of £6,950 plus VAT.

The Council has received a payment of £195 from the Sports Club towards the recent 'deep clean' of the sports pavilion.

Cllr Oliver Margison is revising the plans for pavilion development on the existing footprint for submission to the Sports Club Committee on 2nd June. Oliver advised the Council that it would be prudent to drill some trial holes into the existing base to ensure that it is suitable for the development. The holes will be filled as soon as the structural engineer has carried out the inspection. Oliver thought that the cost of this survey would be in the region of £1,000.

A new litter bin will be purchased for the play area. It will be an enclosed container.

b. Footpaths;

The Clerk reported that there have been complaints about the muddy state of some paths especially the one leading from Drayton Road towards The Hurst. In places this path is very narrow and it was agreed to see if it could be made wider so that the wear is not concentrated in such a small area. It was agreed that work which altered the rural character of the path was undesirable.

The Chairman said that he was concerned to note two newly planted trees. There was one by the letter box in Bridge End – the Clerk said that he had also received an email from Mr and Mrs Nudds about this tree – and another next to the footpath by 56 Watling Lane. The Clerk was asked to try to find out who had planted these trees and councillors were requested to visit the two sites to see if they thought that these trees should be removed.

The Clerk reported two recent personnel changes at the County Council. The new Highways Inspector looking after Dorchester is called Mark Pearce and the new Footpaths Field Officer is called Arthur McEwan-James.

Cllr Val Howells asked the Clerk to contact Mr Pearce about getting the Abingdon Road pavement designated as an official cycle track.

c. Cemetery;

There has been a complaint from a Page Furlong resident about ivy from the Cemetery growing over the boundary fence and into his garden. Now that Gilbert Hobbs has begun clearing the mounds along the perimeter that adjoins Page Furlong it was agreed that this and all similar vegetation should be cleared. In due course the sack holders may be replaced with a product that is complementary to the newly enhanced area.

d. Allotments

The Parish Council has received reports of damage being caused by some of the contractors working on 60 Watling Lane, To resolve the matter contact will be established with Mr Booth, the property owner.

13/5 New Division of Responsibilities between Councillors

After discussion the following division of responsibilities was agreed

Allotments: Mike Rimmer

Broadband: Oliver Margison

Car Parking: Chris Hill and Viviane Quirke

Cemetery: Keith Russell

Christmas Tree, Firework Display & Fete: Val Howells who will liaise with Sue Graney

Defibrillator Supervisor: Sue Graney

Earth Trust Local Stakeholder Group liaison: Mike Rimmer

Emergency Planning: Chris Hill

Flooding & Drainage: Keith Russell

Footpaths: Mark Williams

Gilbert Scott Memorial; Keith Russell

Hurst Water Meadow: Chris Hill

IT for Seniors: Margot Metcalfe

Land Registry and Open Spaces: Oliver Margison

Neighbourhood Development Planning: Chris Hill, Mike Rimmer, Mark Williams and Rob Ballantyne

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust/Community Care etc. liaison: Rob Ballantyne

PAGE: Chris Hill

PCC: Claire Andersson

Playground: Val Howells

Responsible Financial Officer: Geoff Russell, Parish Clerk
River Users Group: Simon Broadbent
School Governor: Val Howells
Sports Club: Chris Hill
Street Lighting: Mark Williams
Tourism: Viviane Quirke
Transport Policy including Bus Services: Rob Ballantyne
Tree Officer: Mark Williams
Village Carbon Project: Oliver Margison
Village Hall: Keith Russell
Village Website: Mark Williams who will liaise with Sue Graney and Dan Duke

The Clerk commented that the Oxford University Hospitals role does not seem to be very onerous – there has been no call for a meeting since last May. Cllr Viviane Quirke was informed about a Midsomer Murders Tourism meeting tomorrow in the Abbey at 10.30 and invited to attend if available; the Clerk will be there anyway.

The Council noted that new leaflets for both the village and the Midsomer Murders walking tours will soon be needed. Some changes are needed before the reprint.

Cllr Mark Williams will review the duties involved in taking on the new role of Parish Path Warden, which is more comprehensive than simply being the Councillor reporting on this topic to the Parish Council. It is likely that a team of people, not necessarily councillors, will be required.

14/5 Arrangements for The Queen's Birthday Celebrations 11/12 June

Claire Andersson reported that 'The Games' which had originally been conceived as part of the weekend's celebrations would possibly be held later in the year. Residents from the John Masefield Cheshire Home would be taking part in the Sunday afternoon Family Picnic in the Cloister Garden. Claire has booked the Queen Street Jazz band to play throughout the afternoon, with a possible break for a bell-ringing demonstration. She is trying to book an ice cream vendor.

The Rector has written to all clubs and societies asking them if they would like to suggest readings, hymns and so on for the morning service on 12th June. The Village Hall Committee is running the Abbey Tea Room that day to raise funds for the Hall by providing a 'Tea Fit for A Queen' which will include a small bottle of Prosecco.

Publicity for the event has been organised by Claire using posters and a leaflet to be distributed with Dorchester News.

15/5 Report on results of Village Bus Survey to date

Malcolm Corry has analysed the returned questionnaires and prepared a summary of the results which was supplied to each councillor.

The matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the June meeting.

16/5 Any Other Urgent Matters

a. The Clerk said that a new Parish Council photo is required. After discussion it appeared that 14th September is likely to be the next date when all councillors expect to be present and the Council's photographer is available.

The Meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.