

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th September 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. Also present for part of the meeting were County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and one resident.

1/9 Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Mike Rimmer who is on holiday.

2/9 Public Participation

None.

3/9 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None.

4/9 Minutes of the Meeting held 10th August 2016

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

5/9 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. John Taylor & Berinsfield Children's Trust

The Chairman and Clerk have had a meeting with John and agreed that he should attend the October Parish Council meeting to talk about the Berinsfield Children's Trust in particular and the Oxfordshire Community Foundation in general. Two brochures about the OCF will be circulated.

b. Meadside Footpath

The Clerk said that he has again tried to contact the area officer from Highways but has had no response. He will ask County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale for her help.

c. The new notice boards have been fitted and there have already been several favourable comments. The formal Licence Agreement with the Co-Op, which includes permission for the installation of a wall-mounted bike rack, is to be signed in duplicate at this meeting and the £1 fee remitted.

d. Repainting of white lines in Bridge End car park.

The County Council has acknowledged our request but no action is likely for a while.

6/9 County Councillor's Report

The monthly report from County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale has been circulated and also sent to Dorchester News. County Cllr Lindsay-Gale said that she will try to make contact with Highways about repairs for the pavement between Meadside and Dorchester Bridge

7/9 District Councillor's Report

None. District Cllr John Cotton is on holiday.

8/9 Planning:

a. Applications:

P16/S3035/FUL 47 Watling Lane Variation of condition 2 to replace approved plans 14097-P01B, P02B and P03B with 14097-P01D, P02D and P03D. P14/S3110/HH - Demolition of existing single storey extension, outbuildings and carport. Erection of a new two storey side

extension. (As amended by revised plans received on 31 October 2014 showing a reduction in the size of the proposed extension)

The Council agreed that it had no strong views on this application and accepts that it will be determined by SODC as it considers appropriate.

P16/S2937/LB 15 & 16 Malthouse Lane

Creation of doorway in internal wall at ground floor level to amalgamate No 15 and No 16 Malthouse Lane into single dwelling

The Council agreed that it had no strong views on this application and accepts that it will be determined by SODC as it considers appropriate.

b. Report on Sale of Bishops Court Estate including Lot 7

The identity of the buyer is still unknown. The Council will discuss the matter again as soon as this information is received.

c. Progress of Neighbourhood Development Plan

Following the one-on-one meetings with Charlotte Colver, the Senior Planning Policy Officer at SODC who is assisting the NDP Group, several sections of the Plan have been re-written and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Group which takes place tomorrow. Over the course of the last few days the Council has been contacted by the NDP Groups in several South Oxfordshire Parishes suggesting that a joint meeting with the District Council would be helpful. This meeting is likely to be held in early October.

The Council agreed that it needs to find out the process by which the Parish Council should approve the NDP and at what stage.

9/9 Finance:

Bank balances & payments

NatWest Current Account at 30th August £37,741.92

NatWest Reserve Account at 5th September £47,862.23

£85,604.15

The following payments were approved:

Mid-Counties Co-Operative Developments Limited (Licence) £1.00

Visual Impact Graphics Ltd (NDP work) £378.00

Bryans Lock Services Ltd (installation of dog bins) £240.00

CPRE (annual membership) £36.00

Total Pest Control (UK) Ltd £234.00

Chris Boreham (Balance for Notice boards) £625.00

Viviane Quirke (purchase of chalk spray cans) £153.78

Data Systems Management LLP (Village website service/hosting) £520.00

Denis Froud (Pest Control Abbey Churchyard) £326.00

UK Firework and Events Company Ltd (2016 Display balance) £1,650.00

ERS Environmental (Pest control) £334.80

Geoff Willis (Village handyman 5 weeks) £395.00

Neil Willis (strimming) £87.50

G Russell (Parish Council phone) £114.99

G Russell (Admin J/A/S including basketball nets) £180.02

G Russell (Clerk salary) £538.82

£5,814.91

10/9 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

- a. A meeting with John Howell MP has been arranged for 2.00 p.m. on

Wednesday 28th.September. This will be open to all, including possibly people from other parishes. The Chairman, together with Cllrs Viviane Quirke, Keith Russell and Mark Williams all said that they would like to attend.

b. Police contact; PCSO Sarah Jones has confirmed that she will be pleased to advise on improvements to the access for the by-pass bus stops so that users feel that they are safe to walk along, even on winter evenings. She has also said that she could assist the village to create a Community Speed Watch group similar to those which have recently been established in other parishes in South Oxfordshire. The Parish Council would need to organise the correct insurance cover and sign an indemnity form and arrange for the volunteers to act in small groups. Councillors enquired whether it is necessary to display signs announcing that a speed check is in progress and also if the Police plan to take any action over the weekly nuisance that is caused by the groups of bikers who gather at the café near the Berinsfield roundabout.

11/9 Land behind 13 Bridge End and 'Waterloo'

Cllr Oliver Margison has produced a draft report which needs some additional material from the Chairman. When this has been provided the Clerk will show the document to Simon Escreet and Alison Jarratt for comment. Once the final report has been agreed, the Clerk has been asked by the Chairman to draft a letter to John Scanlon, Property Administrator for the Roman Catholic Church in the Diocese of Birmingham. This will be circulated to all councillors for approval. It will make the point that the evidence which has been collected is to form the basis of the Parish Council's case to be submitted to the Land Registry.

12/9 Newcomers Information Evening

The Clerk has updated the Clubs/Society Contact List and all groups are to be invited to attend the event on Tuesday 18th October. This will be publicised in Dorchester News and on posters throughout the Village.

The Parish Council is providing light refreshments and Cllrs Val Howells and Viviane Quirke, together with the Chairman, will arrange for supplies to be obtained. Viviane has taken over the village welcome packs from Sue Graney.

13/9 Village anti-dog fouling campaign

Chalk spray cans have been received by Cllr Quirke and will be distributed to the footpaths monitoring team. The new litter bin at the end of Manor Farm Road is to be installed soon. This can be used for bags containing dog waste.

14/9 Bus service report

Cllr Rob Ballantyne reported that ticket sales for 'The Dorchester Flyer' have reached nearly £300. Experience during the test runs shows that the Friday service is popular and the Tuesday service is not. It was agreed that the Parish Council would underwrite the service for a six months trial on Fridays only.

15/9 Possible Purchase of Adult Fitness Equipment

Cllr Val Howells said that she has reviewed equipment from various suppliers. She believes that the equipment seen at Watlington is as good as any. It appears likely that the project would be eligible for a grant. The next step is to carry out a village survey to assess the likely demand and most favoured location. Val plans to visit SALTEX at the NEC in early November in order to meet more suppliers.

16/9 Village Tourism

It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to fund the publication of material that will promote tourism, both on the Village website and on paper, but that direct contact with visitors is best carried out by staff at the Abbey, the Museum, the hotels and other catering establishments rather than parish councillors in person.

The two village brochures and, possibly, the Walks Guides will need re-printing soon. A few editorial changes are needed. The Clerk will obtain quotations.

17/9 Parish Council contact and Village website

The new Parish Council phone number is 07745 311439. This will be advertised in Dorchester News and on signs and notice boards. Cllr Ballantyne said that he would like to use the dorchesteronthames.co.uk domain for his email address.

18/9 Routine Reports:

Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

The Sports Club has been reminded that they must arrange for some publicity about the recent roof repairs that were part-funded by SODC. This is a condition of the grant and must be done before the remaining funds are released.

The Clerk has been told that damage to the playing field by rabbits has become more of a problem. The Council's contractor has been asked to take action to control this.

The Sports Club has given notice that from 2017 it wishes to increase the Parish Council's charge for grass-cutting. This is a matter for further negotiation.

Footpaths;

The hedge by the path alongside the Cemetery is in need of cutting back.

Cemetery;

The Council has been advised to increase its fees for 2017. The Clerk will obtain details of fees now charged by other cemeteries in this area.

An audit of untidy graves is to be prepared so that the cost of tidying these for next year can be obtained.

The Chairman wishes to recruit volunteers to assist the project to tidy the area along the boundary of the Cemetery with Page Furlong.

Allotments

The Clerk will contact M&M Skip Hire to request the collection of their skip.

19/9 Any Other Urgent Matters

a. The October meeting must consider the Council's plans to manage the Village Fireworks display on 5th November which will raise funds for the Footsteps Foundation.

b. The Chairman reported that there had been a recent incident involving a low flying drone. Most people are unaware of the rules governing the lawful use of these devices. Cllr Rob Ballantyne said that he would supply a copy of the advice that was been issued by Thames Valley Police in July.

The Meeting closed at 9.53