

## Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 following the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting.. The Chairman, Cllr Margot Metcalfe, presided; present were Cllrs. Maurice Day, Chris Hill, Sue Graney and Mike Kitson with G Russell in attendance. Also present were two members of the public.

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Ken Bryan, Mike Hill and Mark Stevenson.

### 2 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

### 3 Public Participation

Mr Lee Langton of Wallingford Architecture accompanied his client, Mrs Beth Almark of 6c Bridge End, the applicant in P14/S0534, Tall Trees, Manor Farm Road. Mr Langton said that there had been pre-application consultation with the planning team at SODC. The proposed building is much larger than the existing building because that was based upon what was originally a coach house serving the Rectory. Even so the new building will still be the smallest in its immediate area. The applicant regards the surrounding landscaping and garden restoration as important parts of the overall project.

Cllr Day said that he would prefer the building to be set further back in the plot and raised concerns about the lack of parking space within the curtilage of the property, especially with the limited parking available on Manor Farm Road. Mr Langton said that the building has an integral garage and that the owner does intend to use this for a car rather than general storage. He said that the siting of the building towards the front of the plot was at the request of the planners who believed that this will have less impact upon the listed building next door. The Chairman told Mr Langton that on this fundamental point the Parish Council does not agree with the planners and that it will not change its view. The matter will be decided at the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

### 4 Minutes of the Meeting held 9th April 2014

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed.

### 5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising that were not already covered on the agenda.

### 6 Finance

The following cheques were approved for payment::

Berinsfield Community Business (March grass)	£764.34
ORCC (annual sub)	£65.00
Southern Electric (Pavilion)	£73.32
Thames Water	£117.73

KGB Travel Services	£90.00
Geoff Willis (4 weeks)	£271.25
G Russell salary	£528.25
PAGE (donation)	<u>£1,000.00</u>
	£2,909.89

The Parish Council agreed that it would pay for the reprinting of the four Dorchester Walks Guides

The Clerk said that he was hoping to arrange for the internal audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 to be completed before the Council's June meeting.

#### 7. Correspondence and Other Business:

##### a. Pavilion & Playground;

The Parish Council agreed with the proposal from Dorchester Tennis Clubs that the new courts should be painted purple and green as per a photograph that has been supplied for the Council's information.

##### b. Footpaths;

The Council noted a letter that has been sent to 'Dorchester News' from Miss Bowditch and Tony Clifton of Bishop's Court Farm. This will be published in the June edition of the magazine and reminds everyone about several aspects of the 'Countryside Code' that they feel are not being observed.

##### c. Cemetery /Closed Abbey Churchyard;

Cllr Ken Bryan said that in the near future he was expecting to receive a quotation from Dan Haines which would indicate the cost of supplying signs for the Cemetery  
The Council agreed with a proposal from Cllr Chris Hill who suggested that research should be carried out to identify the graves of veterans from World War I. Once this had been done he suggested that some form of special marker should be applied so that they could be easily identified.

#### 8. Planning

##### a. Applications

P14/S1151/LB Bull Cottage, 59 High Street, Internal works

The Council agreed that it had no strong views on this application.

P14/S1196/LDP 81 Abingdon Road, Tennis Court

The Council agreed that it had no strong views on this application.

P14/S1180/HH 17 Watling Lane, Single Storey Rear Extension

The Council agreed that it had no strong views on this application.

##### b. Neighbourhood/Community Planning Report/Bus Users Group

The Council noted that a meeting of the Steering Group is due to take place before the end of May. A progress report will be made to the Council at its June meeting.

#### 9. Rights of Way Consultation

It was agreed that Cllr Mike Hill would draft the Council's response to this document. The deadline for replies has been extended to the early part of May.

#### 10. Parking Survey

Cllr Chris Hill has prepared a revised version of the questionnaire. There will be a further meeting to discuss the details of this survey which is due for distribution in the first half of May with the request that completed questionnaires are returned by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

#### 11 Village 'Spring-Clean'

There have been seven volunteers. The specific tasks that they will be requested to tackle will be discussed at the June Council Meeting.

#### 12 Parish Council Communication

Simon Ratliff has agreed to stand down as 'webmaster' of the Village website and during the course of the next few weeks will hand over to Cllr Sue Graney. The Chairman has included a message to Simon in her Annual Report, thanking him for taking on the role after Brian Oliver's sudden death in 2006 and for maintaining the site on a completely voluntary basis. The Parish Council is extremely grateful for his contribution and will be recognising this with a small gift in the near future.

#### 13 Village Fête – 1<sup>st</sup> June from 11.00 a.m.

First Aid cover is required. The Clerk will supply Cllr Sue Graney with details of the organisation that provided this cover at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The Chairman said that she would be unable to attend the Fete and Cllr Chris Hill, as Vice-Chairman, agreed to stand in. Parish Councillors agreed that they would help with the sale of raffle tickets in advance. The area around the new courts is to be thoroughly swept and tidied in preparation for the opening by Tim Henman.

#### 14. Flood Review & Navigation

Cllr Chris Hill said that he was trying to arrange a meeting with the County Council's Emergency Planning team. The Chairman suggested that there should be a small group set up which represented all those with a special interest in the River Thames.

#### 15 Highways

The Council confirmed that it would like to receive approval from County Highways for a bike rack outside the Co-Op. The Clerk was asked to progress this. There has been another change in the County Council's staff in the Highways team responsible for Dorchester and the surrounding area.

#### 15 Any Other Business

The Council noted that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be held in June.