

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th March 2015 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Margot Metcalfe, presided; present were Cllrs. Ken Bryan, Maurice Day, Sue Graney, Chris Hill (Vice-Chairman), and Val Howells with G Russell in attendance. Also present were three residents and County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mike Hill who was on holiday and Cllr Mark Stevenson who was attending another meeting.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Sue Graney said that she knew the occupants of 91 Abingdon Road and so she would take no part in the discussion of applications numbered P15/S0442/HH and P15/S0443/HH. Cllr Val Howells said that she lives next door to 81 Abingdon Road and so would take no part in the discussion of P15/S0162/HH.

3 Public Participation

John Craven was present to speak about his Planning Application P15/S0162/HH for 81 Abingdon Road. This involves the demolition of his existing garage and its relocation and re-erection 17m further into the site. John Craven explained that the property has access to the River Thames. He is a keen boatman and stores his kayak in the garage. He would like to move the building so that it is nearer to the water.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held 11th February 2014

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

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Visit to Sue Ryder Hospice; the suggested dates are 1st and 8th April. The Clerk will confirm the arrangements.
- ii. It was agreed that the brass plaque to mark the tree that was planted in honour of Mary Tame's 100th Birthday in February 2014 should be placed into the ground as soon as possible. Cllr Hill will do this and set the metal stake in concrete. It was hoped that a formal ceremony could be held in Mary's presence in due course.

6. District & County Councillors' Reports

There was nothing to report from District Cllr Marc Hiles who is still working away from the area. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale's monthly report had been circulated. Cllr Lindsay-Gale was present at the meeting and said that since her report had been issued it had become clear that the County Council's Chief Executive would be remaining in post longer than anticipated. Contractual matters remain unsettled. Cllr Lindsay-Gale said that she was delighted to confirm that there is now a 40 mph speed limit on the approach to the Berinsfield roundabout on the A4074. This is a measure that had to be introduced before there could be any action to place a pedestrian crossing linking Berinsfield to the northbound bus-stop. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said that she understood that this evening's meeting would be the last one chaired by Cllr Margot Metcalfe before she stands down in May. She said that she would like to place on record her appreciation of all

the hard work that Cllr Metcalfe had dedicated to Dorchester Parish and the significant achievements that marked Cllr Metcalfe's time as Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Metcalfe responded by thanking County Cllr Lindsay-Gale for all the support and encouragement she had given over her time as County Councillor.

7. Finance: Bank balances & payments

Natwest Reserve Account 27 th February	£47,826.29
Natwest Current Account 27 th February	£41,306.63
The Clerk reported that the Tennis Club had made a payment in March of £2,205.83 and this represented full repayment of the Parish Council's loan to assist in the resurfacing of the old tennis courts as a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).	
The following cheques were approved for payment:	
Oxford Green Belt Network (annual sub)	£15.00
Dan Haines Signs (for Cemetery)	£684.00
Thames Water (Cemetery Water Rate 2015/16)	£104.34
Dorchester on Thames Sports Club (grass-cutting 2014)	£570.00
Neurotechnics Limited (Defibrillator and cabinet)	£1,260.27
Berinsfield Community Business (Clearing scrub in Drayton Road)	£762.00
ERS Environmental Services (PROfile) (Cemetery/ Rec.) M/A/M	£334.80
Neil Willis (handyman)	£43.75
Geoff Willis (4 weeks)	£297.50
G Russell administration (Nov – March)	£342.84
G Russell (salary)	£538.82
Total Pest Control (UK) Ltd M/A/M	<u>£234.00</u>
	£5,187.32

The appeal for funding that was received from Home Start, Didcot has been circulated. The Council agreed that it would not be making a donation since no link could be established between this organisation and any residents of Dorchester. The Council noted that the internal audit of the Council's accounts for 2014/15 will take place on Tuesday 9th June.

8. Correspondence and Other Business:

a. Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

Roof; Mike Stimpson, Chairman of the Sports Club, was present at the meeting and had received a copy of the report that had been written by Mark Bristow. The Clerk will supply Mike with copies of the two quotations received so far so that he can try to obtain a quotation from any of his contacts.

Extension; Mike Stimpson presented the Council with the Sports Club's preferred scheme for extending the existing pavilion building to provide for a larger kitchen and additional lavatories which would include baby-changing facilities. The Club's objective is to broaden the appeal of the facilities to attract more females and families. With new groups making use of the pavilion including mothers and toddlers and a table tennis section, this policy can be seen to be working already.

Richard Anderson will prepare the plans and the planning application for the extension which is expected to cost in the region of £20,000. The Sports Club, which already has some £8,000 available to fund the development, is looking to the Parish Council to providing the funding required to achieve planning consent, a figure estimated to be £1,000. Cllr Chris Hill proposed that the Council should agree to this request. The motion was seconded by Sue Graney and passed unanimously. The Clerk was asked to instruct Richard Anderson to proceed with this work.

Tennis Club Hitting Wall; Discussion of this project was carried forward pending receipt of the Club's detailed proposals.

b. Footpaths;

BCB has completed the clearance work at the Drayton Road end of the footpath to The Hurst Meadow and the arisings from the clearance of the path by the side of Watling lane have now been removed. The County Footpaths Officer, Mark Sumner, will be asked to inspect this work and, while in the area, to have a look at the Footpath direction sign to Day's Lock outside 50 Watling Lane and advise the Parish Council on its restoration as suggested by Miss Susan Bowditch.

The Council has been told about graffiti on the barrier across Oxford Road; the Village Handyman has been instructed to remove this.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to go ahead with the purchase of the new litterbins from Broxap as discussed at previous meetings. The specialised dog waste bins will be phased out, now that dog waste can be placed in regular street litter bins.

c. Cemetery /Closed Abbey Churchyard;

The new notice boards have been installed at both of the main entrances to the Cemetery. The Council agreed that they would look better if the word 'Contact' was painted over and the contractor will be asked to do this.

d. Allotments;

Two skips have now been filled with allotment rubbish and work has started on flattening the area which always puddles after any significant fall of rain. The cost of making this repair, budgeted at £500 but probably costing far less, will be deducted from the allotment rental fees for 2014/15 collected to date and the net amount paid to the Parish Council before the end of March.

e. Letters to Chairman and Clerk

i. Richard Douglas has written to the Clerk about Manor Farm Road, pointing out that it needs to be repaired in the near future to avoid much greater expense if the work is not completed now. The Clerk has passed this message on to County Highways with a note that emphasises the professional expertise of Mr Douglas.

ii. Oxfordshire Age UK – Partnership Meetings invitation

The information that has been received about these meetings will be circulated to all Councillors.

iii. CPRE Meeting 27th March, Cholsey Pavilion, 'Over-development in Oxfordshire'. Cllr Chris Hill said that he hoped to be able to attend this meeting.

9. Planning

a. Applications

P15/S0442/HH & P15/S0443/HH Herons 91 Abingdon Road

Remodelling of existing dwelling including single storey extensions to existing dwelling and alterations (including demolition and replacement of existing north west wing). Alternative schemes

The Council had no strong views on this application.

P15/S0569/HH Bradley House 8 Malthouse Lane

Erection of a two storey side extension.

The Council was concerned about the lack of any supporting information about access and there were concerns about the impact of this extension on the demand for car-parking. The proposal will also affect the character of the area and the Council agreed to recommend that the application should be refused.

P15/S0305/DIS 47 Watling Lane

Discharge of conditions 3 (materials) and 6 (archaeological report) on planning permission P14/S3110/HH

The Parish Council noted this application. No comment is required.

P15/S0288/FUL 47 Watling Lane

Variation of condition 2 on application ref. P14/S3110/HH. Erection of a new two storey side extension.

The Council agreed with the concerns that have been expressed by the Conservation Officer and also noted the increased height of the lean-to section on the eastern elevation. The Council recommends that the application should be refused.

P15/S0260/HH 1 Wittenham Lane

Front and rear first floor roof extensions and replacement porch

The Council believes that the proposed developments will improve the appearance of the roof structure and also the parking arrangements. The Council recommends that this application should be approved.

P15/S0182/DIS 14 Abingdon Road

Discharge condition 4 (archaeological evaluation) of planning permission P14/S3423/HH. Single storey rear extension.

The Parish Council noted this application. No comment is required.

P15/S0162/HH 81 Abingdon Road

Demolition of garage and relocation and re-erection of same 17m further into site

The Council recommended this application for approval.

P15/S0146/LB Lavington House 18 High Street

Removal of part of existing fireplace.

The Council recommended this application for approval.

b. Neighbourhood Development Planning Report

Cllr Mark Stevenson will soon be very involved with the District and Parliamentary elections and it was suggested that a 'deputy' should be appointed. In the meantime the Parish Council has been given to understand that Richard Winslet and Chris Smith are preparing a report based upon Richard Winslet's analysis of the responses received from residents after the public meeting on 31st January.

c. Dorchester Rural Exception Site for Affordable Housing

It was agreed to postpone discussion about this topic until the Council has heard more details from Cllr Mark Stevenson.

10. Parish Council Communications including Welcome packs

The Clerk reported that the regional office of the Co-Op has finally given a verbal assurance that they have no objection in principle to either the new notice board or the bike racks but they want the Parish Council to enter into a licence agreement (there is a draft on its way) to supply photos and specifications for both the notice board and the bike rack.

Cllr Graney confirmed that she has a supply of 'Welcome Packs' for new residents.

11. Restoring Post Office Services for Dorchester

The Parish Council agreed that, if there is a proposal to reintroduce postal services at the Village Hall and the rental offered falls short of the Village Hall's requirements, it would agree to subsidise the venture so that the Village Hall did not lose money as a result of providing the premises.

12. Annual Parish Meeting

As a result of new advice received by the Parish Council, the Annual Parish Meeting will now take place on Tuesday 19th May in the main hall. PAGE has asked to be allocated time to bring residents up to date with the campaign.

13. Parish Records

The Chairman said that she is writing a report about her research and this will be accompanied by her recommendations on which areas of open space the Parish Council should apply to register.

14. Village Fireworks Proposal

Cllr Sue Graney will make contact with the organisers of other local firework displays. The preferred date for the proposed Dorchester display is Friday 6th November.

15. Defibrillator

The Sports Club would like the defibrillator to be mounted on the outside. Cllr Sue Graney will meet Mike Stimpson on site to agree the exact location. It was suggested that a motion-sensitive light should also be installed. Purchase of the defibrillator was proposed by Cllr Val Howells, seconded by Cllr Chris Hill and passed unanimously.

16. Gilbert Scott Memorial Project

The Clerk confirmed that the planning fee was £97.50. Cllr Metcalfe said that she would be happy to continue to be involved in this project even after she retires as Chairman after the May elections.

17. PAGE (Parishes Against Gravel Extraction)

Cllr Metcalfe said that the campaign is very much on-going. The County Council has published revised figures for the annual extraction requirement and these are being disputed by campaign groups across Oxfordshire. There is now much more liaison between these groups of activists and they have organised a mass protest to take place outside County Hall when the quotas are being discussed at a meeting on 24th March. Cllr Metcalfe said that she will take part in this protest in a private capacity. Cllr Metcalfe said that John Taylor, the Chairman of PAGE, has invited her to remain on the PAGE steering committee in her own right. After the May election the Parish Council can appoint a new representative.

18. Any Other Business

- a. There is a pile of logs in Abbey View Meadow. These are believed to be the property of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust and the Clerk was asked to find out when they will be removed.
- b. In the next edition of Dorchester News Cllr Graney will mention the purchase of the defibrillators and clearance of the areas adjacent to Watling Lane and Drayton Road. The Clerk will give details of the Parish Council elections on 7th May and advice about voter registration.

The Meeting closed at 10.44 p.m.