

## Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill presided; also present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Oliver Margison, Viviane Quirke, Mike Rimmer, Keith Russell and Mark Williams (Vice-Chairman) with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were six members of the public.

### 1/6 Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Val Howells, County Cllr. Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and District Cllr John Cotton.

### 2/6 Public Participation

Nigel Oddy (owner) and Tony Herring (architect) were present to explain and answer questions about P16/S1833/FUL & P16/S1700/LB White Hart Hotel, which were agenda items for this meeting. The new element in this scheme is the plan to convert part of the hotel, formerly 26 High Street, to a cottage with three bedrooms. In consequence the number of hotel bedrooms would reduce from 28 to 22 but the rooms lost are of below average amenity value. It is acknowledged that parking standards currently specified by the County Council have not been met but it would be difficult to do so given the existing constraints imposed by the site. The concerns of the District Council about loss of employment and hotel bedrooms have been met as have those relating to locating three new cottages across the footpath from the Village Hall. These have been addressed by changing the proposal to two new cottages fronting on to Queen Street. Overall the plan is to use the development income to improve the standard of the Hotel. It is planned that the Hotel should continue to trade during the demolition and construction period.

### 3/6 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None. Cllr Keith Russell said that, as Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, he would abstain from voting on the planning application for The White Hart.

### 4/6 Minutes of the Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016

After a spelling mistake was corrected in Minute 8/5 County Councillor's Report, the Minutes as circulated were signed as a true record.

### 5/6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. The Council noted that the fleet of white van that had been parked in a field near Orchid Lake has now been moved.
- b. The Clerk reported that there is no further news about the mobile post office.
- c. The Police have not yet carried out any speed checks but the PCSO says that the village will definitely be included soon.
- d. A site meeting at Waterloo will be held with the surveyor from the Roman Catholic Diocese on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The Parish Council's adviser, Simon Escreet, will be present. Cllr Oliver Margison said that he would also attend.
- e. Following the discussion about newly planted trees that had taken place at the Council's May meeting, several councillors have visited the two locations. It was agreed that the tree by the side of the public footpath on the boundary of 56 Watling Lane was not a problem. The Clerk had been told by Robin Oakley that he had planted the tree by the letter box adjacent to 24 Bridge End and he has undertaken to maintain it. It was therefore agreed that no further action is required. Jenny Nudds, one of those who had reported the matter to

the Council, has been informed about this and she was happy with the arrangement. The Clerk will write to Robin Oakley thanking him for his offer to maintain the tree.

f. It was agreed that Cllr Mark Williams should have assistance in monitoring the state of all the paths in the Parish. Cllrs Rob Ballantyne, Oliver Margison, Viviane Quirke and Mike Rimmer agreed to join this team.

g. It appears likely that the October monthly meeting will be the first that will be attended by the full Council and so the Clerk will arrange for the official Council photograph to be taken on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

#### 6/6 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale has sent a written report which has been circulated.

#### 7/6 District Councillor's Report

District Cllr John Cotton has told the Clerk that his report is being prepared. It will be circulated to all councillors as soon as it is received.

#### 8/6 Planning:

##### a. Applications

P16/S1533/FUL Offices 1-8 Overy Farm, Overy; Landscaping works, drainage works and minor alterations to 2 elevations as result of PDO P15/S2445/PDO

Cllr Mike Rimmer proposed and Cllr Mark Williams seconded a proposal that the Council had no strong views on this application. This was unanimously agreed.

P16/S1350/LB Lavington House 18 High Street; Installation of an exterior light next to the front door.

Cllr Oliver Margison proposed and Cllr Keith Russell seconded a proposal that this application should be recommended for approval. This was unanimously agreed.

P16/S1833/FUL & P16/S1700/LB White Hart Hotel, High Street; Conversion of No 26 High Street - reverting a small 3 bedroom cottage, the repair and refurbishment of the present hotel premises. The demolition of a modern brick wall (east boundary). Construction of 2 no village houses fronting Queen Street. Altered car park layout - Marked out with 23 no spaces, renovation of north boundary wall.

The Council noted that very few residents had so far commented upon these Applications and that the Notices advertising the Applications had not so far been displayed. The Clerk was asked to request that the Council be allowed an extension to the consultation period so that the Council could make its recommendations following further discussion at the July meeting. Cllr Cotton would be contacted within the next four weeks should the Council decide that it wished the Applications to be called in for determination by SODC's Planning Committee.

##### b. Other Planning matters including decisions

28 Abingdon Road

P16/S0982/HH Alterations to roof of existing detached garage to provide home office accommodation above. The Council noted that this Application has been approved.

##### c. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Chairman and Cllr Keith Russell had attended the 'Need not Greed' meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May, where the importance of Parishes adopting Neighbourhood Development Plans had been emphasised. Benson was cited as an example of what can happen when an NDP is not in place. The District Council's preference is that development should take place on brown-field sites but this view can be overruled by a Government inspector.

The Chairman and Cllr Mark Williams had recently attended a meeting about the District Council's Planning Policy strategy. Cllr Williams had circulated his report to all councillors by e-mail on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

9/6 Finance:

NatWest Current Account 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2016	£60,922.77
NatWest Reserve Account 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2016	<u>£47,856.20</u>
	£108,778.97

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Zurich Municipal (annual insurance)	£1,941.97
G F Hobbs (levelling area of parish cemetery)	£1,944.00
Jenks Oxford (Horse Chestnut in closed churchyard)	£1,800.00
Berinsfield Community Business grass-cutting April	£910.50
TDH Group Queen's Birthday party goods	£197.94
OALC (Training fees)	£258.00
Chris Drewett Signs Ltd (parking direction signs)	£590.40
Shaw & Sons (new folder for Minutes)	£91.19
JRB Enterprise Ltd (Dog waste bin and bag dispenser)	£358.80
Chris Hill (purchase of emergency equipment – SSE funded)	£1,098.93
Denis Froud (mole traps)	£56.00
Total Pest Control (quarterly contract)	£234.00
Lister Wilder	£13.98
Geoff Willis (Village handyman 4 weeks)	£332.50
G Russell (Admin April, May & June)	£179.60
G Russell (Clerk salary)	£538.82
Chris Hill (grass seed for Cemetery)	<u>£69.00</u>
	10,615.63

The Clerk reported that the Council's Internal Audit will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June. An appeal for funds has been received from 'Home-Start'. Details will be circulated for decision next month.

10/6 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

a. Invitations to attend meetings received from:

'Oxfordshire Together' Changes to local government in Oxfordshire, hosted by Oxfordshire County Council

The Chairman will attend the meeting in Abingdon on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and Cllr Rob Ballantyne and the Clerk will attend the meeting in Didcot on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Town & Parish Council Forum, hosted by SODC

The Chairman and the Clerk will attend the meeting in Didcot on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Midsomer Murders Tourism Opportunities

Cllr Viviane Quirke will attend the meeting in Thame on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

b. Richard Juniper has sent to the Clerk copies of his correspondence with the County Council about the quality of the contractors' repairs to potholes in Watling Lane. It is not known if he has received any reply.

c. The Clerk said that he has been informed that the County's mobile library service is to end in September.

11/6. Arrangements for The Queen's Birthday Celebrations 12 June

The Grant payment of £483 has been received from SODC. The Parish Council has purchased a supply of Union Jack bowler hats and napkins which will provide ample stock for future celebrations as well as those on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr Val Howells is in contact with a team of volunteers and Cllr Keith Russell is organising the team from the Village Hall Management Committee who will be providing the catering services on the day.

#### 12/6 Future of Village Bus Services and Bus Stops

Cllr Rob Ballantyne had discovered that the County Council is going to introduce a scheme using its existing fleet of mini-buses. These serve schools and day-centres and are busy in the mornings up to 10.00 a.m. and the afternoons after 3.00 p.m. Between those hours they would be available for hire by parish councils wishing to provide transport for their residents in return for the payment of a fee that is provisionally estimated to be £4 – 5,000 per year for a service on one day every week. There is, however, the possibility of a County Council subsidy. The Council agreed, after a proposal from Cllr Margison seconded by Cllr Williams, to provide £2,500 to pay for a six month trial service. Publicity for the scheme would be given through the July/August edition of Dorchester News with another ‘Bus users group’ meeting to be held as soon as possible so that the details can be finally agreed. The Council will communicate with Berinsfield and any other neighbouring parish councils to explore the possibilities of joint venture operations.

It was agreed that the pavement adjacent to the bus stop opposite Meadside needs to be cleared over a bigger area.

#### 13/6 Design and quotation for new Village Notice Boards

Following discussions with Ethel’s family it had been agreed that the new Notice Boards should be personalised so that they could be recognised as specific to Dorchester. They would be in the form of a lockable pair of doors with a third door that will not be locked. John Fisher is not available and while Phil Clayden has expressed an interest, his workshop is very busy on other projects. A very competitive quote has been received from Chris Boreham of Long Wittenham. Cllr Oliver Margison proposed and Cllr Mark Williams seconded a proposal that the Council should ask Chris Boreham to take on this project and this was agreed.

#### 14/6 Sports Pavilion improvements

Cllr Margison reported on a very positive Sports Club meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June when ideas for improvements were discussed. Further discussion will take place in September.

#### 15/6 Routine Reports:

- a. Sports Club Pavilion & Playground; The Play Area safety inspection has been booked for July. Cllr Val Howells will be going to see the outdoor gym equipment in Watlington before the next Council meeting. The possibility of obtaining a grant towards the cost of purchasing this equipment is being investigated. A new litter bin for the play area has been ordered.
- b. Footpaths; A new dog waste bin has been installed near the Oxford Road entrance to the Recreation Ground and a new waste bag dispenser is being fitted on the footpath at the top end of Manor farm Road.
- c. Cemetery; Details of the Centenary Fields proposal, part of the Fields in Trust scheme, are being circulated for study prior to a discussion at the July meeting. This may be appropriate for the newly cleared and seeded area of the Cemetery.

Denis Froud has submitted his estimate for ongoing mole-clearance work in the Abbey Closed Churchyard. Cllr Keith Russell commented that the mole control generally seems to be much more effective now.

d. Allotments; Edward Metcalfe has been in contact with Mr Booth about possible damage to the Cemetery entrance being caused by contractors' vehicles working on the site that Mr Booth is developing.

#### 16 Any Other Urgent Matters

Following comments from Cllr Mike Rimmer it was agreed that the Council should take an interest in the consultation process for the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme. There is a 'drop-in' meeting at Oxford Town Hall on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June

The Meeting closed at 10.07 p.m.