

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th July 2016 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill presided; also present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Val Howells, Oliver Margison, Mike Rimmer, 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 six members of the public.

1/7 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Viviane Quirke

2/7 Public Participation

Jason and Gary Winterbourne told the Council that, as owners of the land known as 'Allen's Pit', a large plot of land to the west of Abingdon Road which runs down to the River Thames, they have been trying to obtain planning permission to develop the property. They hoped that by making themselves and their intentions known to the Parish Council, the Council would appreciate the development opportunities that are offered by this site, while the Winterbourne family would be better able to understand the future needs of the village. Phil Greenaway said that he had been pleased to learn that the Parish Council is in direct contact with the professional surveyor advising the Roman Catholic Diocese of Birmingham about the land behind 13 Bridge End. He deposited with the Council 8-10 photographs and maps showing properties, boundaries and some of the activities which have taken place on the land behind 13 Bridge End. He also left with the Clerk a list of residents who would be prepared to give evidence about these activities.

3/7 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

The Chairman said that as a near neighbour to 24 Bridge End he would not take part in any vote that might be called to determine the Council's view on Applications P16/S2081/HH and P16/S2082/LB.

4a/7 Minutes of the Meeting held 8th June

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

4b/7 Minutes of the Meeting held 6th July 2016

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

5/7 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Celebrations on 12th June to mark the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen had been well-supported and much enjoyed. The Chairman thanked everyone on the Parish Council who had been involved with organising the day's events especially Cllrs Val Howells and Keith Russell.

6/7 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale had sent a written report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She reported that the Employment Action Group (EAG) has agreed to become the lead charity to run the new Berinsfield Children's Trust (BCT). John Taylor's charity is providing advice and support to BCT and Berinsfield Parish Council has approved a donation of £5,000. Cllr Lindsay-Gale asked Dorchester Parish Council to consider supporting BCT. She will explain to the Trust that it needs to make a case for this which John Taylor may be able to help them prepare.

Cllr Lindsay-Gale said that the County Council has appointed a new Highways Inspector for the Dorchester Area called Mr Mark Pearce. He will be asked both to contact Richard Juniper about the recent repairs to Watling Lane and to reply to the Parish Council's request for repairs to the pavement between Meadside and Dorchester Bridge.

Cllr Lindsay-Gale said that the County Council will shortly be publishing its new strategy document

7/7 Planning:

a. Applications

P16/S2081/HH and P16/S2082/LB 24 Bridge End; Erection of timber and double glazed garden room

The Council noted that Terry Fisher has written to SODC in support of the application. Cllr Oliver Margison proposed and Cllr Keith Russell seconded a motion that recommended the approval of this Application. This was agreed by all except the Chairman who, as a near neighbour, abstained from voting.

P16/S1980/HH 55 Abingdon Road; Detached Garage

Cllr Keith Russell proposed and Cllr Mike Rimmer seconded a motion that recommended the approval of this Application. This was agreed by all.

P16/S1824/HH 6 Martins Lane

Construction of a new single car, single story garage attached to the west side of the house and situated between the house and the property boundary. The garage is planned to be 6.5 metres long and 3.3 metres wide.

Cllr Oliver Margison proposed and Cllr Rob Ballantyne seconded a motion that recommended the approval of this Application. This was agreed by all.

b. Sale of Bishops Court Estate

The Council has received a letter from Adkin, agents acting for the Executors, requesting that initial offers from all interested parties be submitted no later than the afternoon of Friday 15th July. The Chairman said that he believed that purchasing the area adjacent to the Parish Burial Ground, referred to in the sale particulars as 'Plot 7, offered the Parish a unique opportunity to acquire land that would be a great benefit to the community. It was known that several of the adjoining landowners are concerned that the Plot, formerly used as a paddock, might be acquired by someone who would seek to over-develop the site. Cllr Oliver Margison proposed and Cllr Rob Ballantyne seconded a motion that the Council should make an initial offer of £21,000 to purchase Plot 7 and this was unanimously agreed. The Chairman will draft an offer letter for the Council's approval on Thursday 14th July, the day after this meeting.

c. Neighbourhood Development Plan and Other Planning matters

The NDP Group is meeting on 14th July and it was agreed that the meeting would include discussion about the future use of 'Plot 7' and how to assist the Winterbournes prepare plans that would lead to the development of Allen's Pit.

Cllr Oliver Margison was asked to study the new SODC Design Guide and make suggestions for the Council to submit as part of the consultation process.

d. SODC Local Plan; it was noted that the District Council is hosting a 'drop in exhibition' to present the new draft Local Plan at Berinsfield on 18th July. It was agreed that attendance at this meeting would be useful, especially for those involved in the NDP Group.

e. Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Cllr Keith Russell had attended an exhibition which explained the proposal to direct water away from the centre of Oxford into a large area that could best be described as 'a soakaway'. This is currently designated as a conservation area and the cost will be significant. Although there are concerns about the impact that this new scheme will have upon those who live

downstream there has been assurance that, at worst, the scheme will have no impact upon Dorchester at all and, at best, it will reduce the risk of flooding in this area as well. The scheme is not yet out for consultation but there will be an opportunity to comment in due course.

8/7 Finance

Bank balances

Nat West Current Account 5 th July	£49,904.32
Nat West Reserve Account 5 th July	<u>£47,858.17</u>
	£97,762.49

The following payments were approved

J B Corrie & Co Ltd (tennis hitting wall)	£8,340.00*
Berinsfield Community Business grass-cutting May	£910.50
IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd (internal audit)	£222.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd	£138.52
RES Systems Ltd (Fire extinguisher Pavilion)	£106.56
Earth Anchors Ltd (replacement dog bin)	£159.54
Total Pest Control (UK) Ltd (Abbey View)	£66.00
Simon Escreet (Attendance at Bridge End meeting)	£125.00
Lister Wilder	£34.98
Information Commissioner (Annual Fee)	£35.00
Glasdon UK Ltd (new play area waste bin)	£206.46
Thomas Quirke (hedge-trimming)	£70.00
Geoff Willis (Village handyman 5 weeks)	£393.75
Neil Willis	£87.50
Phil Greenaway (war memorial plants)	£33.24
G Russell (payment for Allotment skip)	£240.00
G Russell (Clerk salary)	<u>£538.82</u>
	£11,707.87

* £7,340 of this payment is recoverable.

David Youngman's quote of £495 for repairing and re-painting the phone box in Bridge End was accepted and a cheque for £110 was paid to cover the costs of materials.

The Internal Audit has been completed and Kevin Rose has signed the Annual Return which was now signed by both the Chairman and the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that the Notice inviting residents to inspect the accounts and records has been displayed since 16th June.

The Parish Council has received an appeal for funds from 'Home-Start' which is based in Didcot and provides support and friendship for families. The Clerk was asked to enquire if the charity currently has any clients in Dorchester.

The Clerk said that, during the internal audit, Kevin Rose had commented that by comparison with his other clients the Cemetery Fees charged by the Parish Council were relatively low.

The Council noted that these fees had last been reviewed in April 2014 and it was agreed that the Clerk would research the fees charged by the other burial authorities in this area.

9/7 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

Both the Chairman and Clerk had attended the District Council's Town & Parish Council Forum held at Didcot on 12th July. In addition to the presentations, there had been information displays by several useful organisations and leaflets had been collected about the grants and consultancy services that are available including those for village halls, encouraging sports participation and making savings on energy costs. The main business of the meeting had been to encourage Councils to take part in the current consultation process about the Local Plan and to receive a presentation on

SODC's Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020. This includes more support for local public transport schemes; measures to improve air quality, particularly in the larger towns; encouraging cycling with more cycle tracks and a cycle hire scheme; matching the skills of people who wish to do voluntary work with the available opportunities; better communications with parish councils; introducing a discretionary budget for each district councillor to spend on local projects; and holding a pre-budget-setting meeting at which the District Council can be made aware of projects that parish councils wish to promote.

The Chairman has been contacted by Malcolm Airs with the suggestion that the Parish Council should enter a competition to find the best British High Street. He said that he would circulate more details.

10/7 Land behind 13 Bridge End and 'Waterloo'

The Chairman together with Cllr Oliver Margison and the Clerk had had a site meeting on 9th June with John Scanlan, the Official Surveyor from RC Diocese of Birmingham. The Parish Council's adviser, Simon Escreet, was in attendance and has subsequently been asked both to recommend how the Council should proceed and to keep a watching brief upon any moves to register the land.

Denise Line and Phil Greenaway have supplied photographs and testimony about the former uses of the land behind 13 Bridge End and the Council has been given the names of 14 others who are prepared to provide statements.

11/7 Proposals for changes to Local Government in Oxfordshire

The Council noted that both SODC and OCC have been holding briefing meetings. Consultation on the different proposals is expected to follow the reports of the consultants that have been employed by each Council.

12/7 Report on bus users meeting 7th July

Cllr Rob Ballantyne had chaired a very well – attended meeting of potential bus users on 7th July. Details of the County Council's new service have only just emerged and it seems that Dorchester PC has registered its interest early enough to be included.

The Service is to start on Friday 29th July following at least one test run to fix the exact route, pick-up and stopping points and timings. The idea is to run two round trips, definitely on Fridays and possibly on another day as well. There have been at least 20 expressions of interest so far with most people saying that they would be willing to pay (The County Council's senior bus passes cannot be used on this scheme). although there will be no possibility of the drivers being able to accept cash.

There is to be another bus route meeting on Monday 1st August at 14.00 at Culham Science Centre's Conference Centre. Dorchester has been invited to send at least one representative since it may be possible to co-ordinate connections.

13/7 Parish Council Contacts for new notice boards, website etc.

The Parish Council has paid Chris Boreham £625 in advance for the cost of the materials to be used on both notice boards and the making of these is now in progress.

The Clerk will shortly be having a meeting with Sue Graney and Dan Duke about how the village website needs to be updated to comply with the new 'Transparency Code'.

This includes a requirement that parish councillor's contact details should be published – exactly what details are given is dependent upon each councillor. There may be an option to give councillors a special @dorchesteronthames.co.uk email address if they would prefer that

their private emails are not displayed. Phone numbers are optional and can be mobile or land line.

The Clerk suggested that the publication of his home telephone number as the Parish Council's official phone number should cease and the Parish Council should in future have a mobile phone number. The Clerk was granted permission to purchase a new phone that would be dedicated to Parish Council use.

14/7 Access to Dyke Hills

The 'Dyke Hills' are included as part of Lot 1 in the Bowditch Estate sale and the Council agreed that it would like improve public access to this Scheduled Ancient Monument even though it lies on land that is privately owned. This is something that should be discussed with David Wilkinson, the local representative of Historic England. It was suggested that designating the area as a 'Community Asset' should be explored.

15/7 OCC roadside grass-cutting and tree-maintenance

Recent correspondence with County officers and with County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale has updated the Parish Council's awareness of these services including the 'fixmystreet' facility.

16/7 To consider arrangements for a 'Newcomers Evening'

The Clerk reported that around 80 'Newcomers' have been identified from Electoral Roll comparisons. It was agreed that the Evening should go ahead on Tuesday 18th October and would be advertised in both the September and October editions of 'Dorchester News'. The list of village society / club contacts will be updated by the Clerk.

17/7 Outdoor Gym Equipment

Cllr Val Howells and the Clerk had visited Watlington a few days ago and planned to visit SALTEX in early November to view what equipment is available. Due to pressure of time further discussion of this matter was held over for another meeting.

18/7 The George Hotel coach renovation/repairs

The Clerk will write to Chapman Inns to thank them for renovating the stage coach.

19/7 Routine Reports:

Due to pressure of time discussion of these matters was held over for another meeting. The following points were noted:

a. Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

Tennis Hitting Wall has been completed. The official opening is 19th July.

New bin for play area has been delivered but not yet fitted; new dog bin fitted; some play area equipment is in need of repair and the supplier will attend during week commencing 1st August; the Play Area inspection is due this month.

b. Footpaths (including dog fouling);

The Hurst Trust wish to co-ordinate an anti-dog fouling campaign. The Chairman will circulate more details.

As Parish Path Warden, Cllr Mark Williams has been supplied with a map showing all the footpaths in the Parish. He will colour-code the map to show which councillor is tasked with monitoring the state of which path.

c. Cemetery;

The Chairman has progressed the grass-sowing and general tidying along the Page Furlong boundary. He will use the next 'Dorchester News' to ask for volunteers to continue this work. The idea of the 'Centenary Fields' association will be discussed at the August meeting.

d. Allotments

As requested by the Society, the Clerk has ordered a skip for delivery this Friday.

20/7 Any Other Urgent Matters

Cllr Val Howells said that the recent School SATS results had been very good and that an additional teacher will be in place from September. The School will definitely wish to take part in the Newcomers Evening on 18th October.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.