

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th April 2017 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill presided; present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Viviane Quirke, 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, District Cllr John Cotton and 4 residents.

1/4 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Oliver Margison, who was on holiday.

2/4 Public Participation

Maggie Davies, Manager of Footsteps Foundation, attended the meeting with Val Howells to confirm that Footsteps would like to take the lead in organising the Village Fireworks Display on 5th November 2017. She would work with the team of people that have worked on the Displays in previous years and recognise the Parish Council's concerns that the Display in 2016 was somewhat oversubscribed by cutting back a little on promotional/advertising activities.

Footsteps is confident that the Display will nevertheless produce a surplus and the Parish Council agreed to fund the cost of the Fireworks. Such things as insurance, first aid back up etc. would be paid for by Footsteps direct.

3/4 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None

4/4 Minutes of the Meeting held 8th March 2017

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed.

5/4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Litter bin outside Co-Op; it seems likely that the Co-Op will pay at least half the cost of the new unit as well as manage the collection and disposal of its contents on a daily basis at nil cost to the Parish or District Council.
- ii. New gate on to Watling Lane; the Farm's assertion that there was once a gate opposite 9 Watling has been contested by a neighbour who has lived in an adjoining property for many years. The matter will have to be dealt with by the District Council's planning team.
- iii. The Chairman has received confirmation from the County Council that the two Village Green applications have been received. In due course the Parish council will be asked for comments.
- iv. Information about the number of people who walk from Meadside to the bus stops at Shillingford has been requested by Keith Stenning along with photographs showing the desired location of the proposed drop kerb near the Rose Walk entrance to Dorchester Abbey.

6/4 County Councillor's Annual Report

The report from County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale has been received. It has been circulated to councillors and Dorchester News and a copy has posted on the Village website. It will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on 31st May.

7/4 District Councillor's Report

District Cllr. John Cotton said the second Preferred Options edition of the Local Plan is out for consultation until the middle of May. Revisions will be published in the

Autumn and there will then be further consultation. The housing target for SODC as a whole is now much greater than before; it is approaching 1,000 new houses per year. Locally the big changes are at Culham and Berinsfield.

The target for Culham has increased many times over and will help to justify the providing of a new river crossing and extra tracks at Culham Railway Station. The Science Centre has plans to increase the number of jobs from 2,100 to more than 3,000.

Building new houses in Berinsfield will pay for the 'master-plan' to regenerate the village but Cllr Cotton said that this will need the positive support of people already in the community.

8/4 Report on contacts with Bishops Court Farm

District Cllr John Cotton explained his role in organising a meeting on 31st March between Mr Andrew Reid and his advisers and representatives of the Parish Council and County Council. The meeting had been requested by Mr Reid. For many of those present it had been the first time that they had met the new owner of Bishops Court Farm and the opportunity to exchange views and information on an informal basis was thought likely to be extremely helpful in future dealings.

The Chairman said that he had heard from representatives of the Environment Agency that they did not wish to be involved in discussions about footpath safety etc. This is being questioned, however; the EA may have a legal duty to take part.

The Clerk had circulated some suggested further revisions to the RoSPA report.

Although the Parish Council is not yet sure what to do about publishing the Report the Clerk will ask RoSPA to accept these suggestions so that a final version of the document is available if required.

9/4 Planning:

a. Applications:

P16/S4080/FUL Bishops Court Farm 91 High Street

Amendment supported by revised plans and archaeological and contamination reports. The Council noted that SODC's Conservation Officer is still recommending refusal of this Application and agreed that despite some of the amendments being very welcome, especially the change of access, there were still several reasons why it would continue to recommend refusal.

P17/S1124/LB and P17/S1123/HH 91 High Street

Proposed removal of former 'additions' and erection of two storey rear extension. Internal alterations.

The Council noted a letter from Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society. It was agreed that the Council would welcome the news that there are plans to repair and bring this important property up to date. However, the opinions expressed by the experts at Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society regarding the size of the proposed extension and the 'intrusive' materials that are proposed are a reminder that these projects have to be carried out with great sensitivity and within the published guide lines.

The Council agreed to take no strong views on the Application leaving SODC officers free to determine the matter according to the expert advice that has been given.

b. Neighbourhood Development Plan for Dorchester

This is now available to all with internet access and the Clerk has paper copy for those who have not.

In the matter of SOHA's future plans for Belcher Court, the Chairman has written to Mr Lynch seeking clarification and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

c. Historic England's invitation to comment on fencing on Dyke Hills SAM.

The Council's comments must be in by 20th April. Cllr Rob Ballantyne will draft the document and circulate to all in advance of the deadline.

d. SODC Local Plan Consultation

Posters and leaflets advertising the consultation process have been displayed and there has also been a mention in Dorchester News. Councillors are free to comment as individuals and at the Council meeting on 10th May there will an opportunity to decide whether the Council wishes to submit a joint response.

e. Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Consultation

Some Councillors had attended the ‘pop-up’ consultation meetings. It was agreed to ask Hydrogeologist Shabby Puri of Drayton Road if he would attend the May Council meeting and give the Council the benefit of his expert knowledge.

10/4 Finance:

NatWest Current Account balance at 31/3/17	£47,642.43 *
NatWest Reserve Account balance at 31/3/17	£47,868.17
The following cheques were approved for payment	
SODC (dog bin emptying service)	113.03
JRB Enterprise Ltd (dog waste bags)	101.40
Community First Oxfordshire (sub)	55.00
OALC (sub)	186.65
Berinsfield Community Business	1,412.40
Total Pest Control (UK) Ltd	234.00
Dorchester on Thames Village Hall	32.00
Ejh legal	484.00
G F Hobbs	238.00
Berinsfield Community Business (Turf repair)	523.48
Thames Water Utilities Ltd	341.89
Geoff Willis	393.75
Society of Local Council Clerks	58.00
Chris Hill (printing)	49.50
G Russell	<u>538.82</u>
	£4,761.92

*Includes donation for Cricket cage re Peter Andrew £2,543.00

The Council noted that between the March and April Council Meetings a Fireworks Deposit cheque of £1,350 had been paid for the 2017 event

The donation of £100 towards the Medical records in a bottle scheme was carried forward until the May meeting.

11/4 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

- The Council has been given details of the local Scouts St George’s Day Parade which will take place on Sunday 23rd April.
- Community Infrastructure Levy News will be circulated.
- The Clerk confirmed that Arthur McEwan-James has approved the placement of two new gates on the footpaths leading towards the Dyke Hills. There were objections, however, because one of the new gates is a kissing gate which makes access for buggies etc much harder.
- The Clerk has been in contact with Scott Ruck about a new stile near the Bishops Court Farm buildings which is impassable to dogs. He has asked Scott if a stile with a ‘dog-flap’ could replace this.
- The Council noted the planned road closures on the nights of 24th and 25th April while a new Pelican crossing is installed across the A4074 at Berinsfield.

12/4 Parish Council Vacancy

There have been no requests for a by-election to be held and so co-option may now be used to fill the vacancy. This will be advertised in Dorchester News.

13/4 Village Fireworks 5th November 2017

Further to the discussion that had taken place earlier, it was agreed that the Clerk should act as the main channel of communication with Footsteps Foundation.

14/4 Dorchester Village Website and Social Media

Carried forward.

15 Report on Meeting with Miss Susan Bowditch

The Schedule of planting suggestions arising from the initial meeting between Miss Bowditch and the Chairman was circulated. A second meeting has been arranged. Miss Bowditch wishes to pay for the Day's Lock footpath sign on Watling Lane to be Refurbished.

16/4 'Better Oxfordshire' Consultation

Carried forward.

17/4 Land Registration Progress

Carried forward.

18/4 Annual Parish Meeting 31st May

It was agreed that 'Countryside Code' should be promoted at the APM.?

19/4 Routine Reports:

Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

A recommendation that the weeds on the Recreation should be treated by an outside contractor was agreed

Footpaths;

Following a letter from Richard Juniper to the Chairman about maintenance required along the sides of Watling Lane, a site meeting will be arranged.

Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

It was agreed that the Maddens should be allowed to purchase grave spaces at the rate normally only offered to residents.

Maddens reserved grave spaces

Allotments

This year's archaeological dig is 24th June - 8th July. The students will again use the shower and washroom facilities in the Pavilion in return for a payment of £300.

20 Any Other Urgent Matters

The Chairman confirmed that he wishes to discuss with the Village Hall Committee the storage of village emergency kit

Meeting closed at 11.08 p.m.