

## **Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill presided; present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Maurice Day, Mike Rimmer, Keith Russell and Mark Williams with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were two members of the public

### 1/9 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Oliver Margison and Viviane Quirke; County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and District Cllr John Cotton.

### 2/9 Public Participation

Roy Holliday said that he and several other residents living near 36 Martins Lane are worried that the road outside their properties will be unable to stand up to the extra traffic generated by the proposed new development of two 4-bedroom dwellings. Via County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale he has contacted County Highways and is waiting for a response. The District Council's planning officer has told him that this is a factor which is outside SODC's consideration.

### 3/9 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None.

### 4/9 Minutes of the Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Keith Russell and seconded by Cllr Mike Rimmer that the minutes as circulated should be approved. This was agreed and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

### 5/9 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Speedwatch; The Clerk said that he had heard from only two residents on this topic and so he would put a notice in Dorchester News setting 10<sup>th</sup> October as the deadline by which all comments should be received. The Parish Council could therefore make a decision about any further action at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October.
- ii. Tree mapping; the maps from Jenks are still awaited. The Council agreed that in general the mapping of all parish council assets would be very useful e.g. bus shelters, street lights, litter bins, benches and so on. Cllr Mark Williams commented that as a result of the work that has gone into the Neighbourhood Development Planning some expertise on mapping has been developed and this could now be utilised in these other areas.
- iii. Survey of opinions of visitors to the village; Cllr Viviane Quirke will have an opportunity to discuss this at a future meeting.
- iv. Cllr Keith Russell said that there has been a lot of comment about the draft plans for the enlargement of the village hall and that these had been sent to Oliver Margison for his response. Among the comments was the suggestion that the new facilities should include a post office and the suggestion that it would be an advantage if the Village Hall could become a Listed Building rather than a 'building of local note'.

### 6/9 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale's monthly report had been received and circulated. It would appear on both the Village website and in Dorchester News. The Council is to introduce charges for accepting some items of household waste at the

recycling centres. Information about these charges will be displayed on village notice boards and in Dorchester News.

7/9 District Councillor's Report

District Cllr John Cotton's report had been received and circulated. It would appear on both the Village website and in Dorchester News. The Chairman drew the Council's attention to the news about revised funding for Neighbourhood Development plans.

8/9 Report on contact with Bishops Court Farm/FODLWOS

Becky Waller briefed the Council about recent communications between FODLWOS and Mr Reid at Bishops Court Farm. She said that the applications for footpath deviation orders had not yet been submitted to the County Council but she expected that this would happen in the near future.

She asked that the Parish Council should continue its communications with the Farm about protective covering for barbed wire and the introduction of more dog-friendly stiles on the paths near the Farm buildings.

Becky said that access for wheelchairs etc through the gate at the bottom of Wittenham Lane is now possible but that this gate has only been given temporary permission by the County Council pending the repair of the fencing around the fields where sheep and cattle are kept.

9/9 Proposals for 'Allen's Pit', Abingdon Road

The Chairman said that he understood that a recent exchange of emails with Helen Novelle of SODC had given Jason Winterbourne the indication that development at Allens Pit would be possible if several of the properties were 'affordable homes'. The most recent Housing Needs Survey in Dorchester was carried out four years ago and will very soon be out of date. The Chairman and Cllr Ballantyne will try to progress this matter.

10/9 Communication about Dorchester Lake, Drayton Road

A Notice will be placed in the October edition of Dorchester News which explains why the Parish Council decided to support the application for the fencing.

11/9 Meeting with John Howell MP

This has been confirmed for the morning of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 11.00 until 12 noon. Topics to be covered will include Neighbourhood Planning; the proposed redevelopment of Belcher Court and the suggested routes between the A34 and the Expressway that is to link Oxford and Cambridge via Buckingham and Milton Keynes. The most southerly of these suggestions would run somewhere between Dorchester and Benson.

12/9 Planning:

a. Applications:

P17/S1907/FUL Amended Belcher Court, Martins Lane

Demolish existing flats and erect four dwellings

The amendment has done nothing to alter the Parish Council's view that this Application should be opposed, although it is expected that it will be approved.

It was suggested that the Chairman should write to SOHA asking that it should provide funding for an affordable housing project in Dorchester. This funding would be in addition to the CIL money that the Belcher Court project will generate.

Alternatively, SOHA should make a significant contribution towards a major Dorchester village project such as the development of the village hall or the improvements that are planned for the pavilion

P17/S2630/FUL Amended 36 Martins Lane

Demolish existing dwelling house & garage; construct a pair of semi-detached dwellings, each with integral garage

The amendment has done nothing to alter the Parish Council's view that this Application should be opposed. More information is required including a tree survey. Planning application P17/S2437/FUL, for development work at 64 Watling Lane. This is due to be considered by the District Council's Planning Committee on Monday 18th September 2017. The Chairman said that if necessary he would attend and speak on behalf of the Parish Council which has recommended refusal. Cllr Oliver Margison would be asked if he could attend.

b. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Mark Williams presented the four documents which make up the submission. The official consultation process commences on Friday 16th September. The documents are available on-line via the village website and in hard copy at The George. The Clerk also has a set of paper copies. Dorchester News will supply full details of how to take part in the process.

c. The Fleur de Lys; Report from Steering Group

The visit from the expert valuers has taken place and their report is expected within 10 days. The Steering Group is setting up a website and social media facilities.

d. SODC Local Plan

No-one is available to attend the District Council's briefing meeting on 11th October, the same evening at the Parish Council's next monthly meeting, but councillors will look out for opportunities to attend the 'drop-in' consultations that will be taking place throughout the District.

13/9 Finance:

Balances at NatWest Bank

Current Account balance at 30/8	£53,537.10
Reserve Account balance at 5/9	<u>£47,870.59</u>
	£101,407.69

It was proposed by Keith Russell, seconded by Mike Rimmer and agreed unanimously that the following payments should be approved.

Playsafety Limited (annual inspection)	172.20
Oxfordshire County Council (Dorchester Flyer 13 weeks)	546.00
Total Pest Control (UK) Ltd (quarterly charge)	234.00
JRB Dog Waste Bags	101.70
Jays Property Maintenance (Play Area)	300.00
Trevor Greenaway (Pavilion Roof Repairs)	220.00
Chris Howlett (Hedge cutting alongside Cemetery)	75.00
Lister Wilder (spare parts strimmer)	49.49
Jenks Oxford (Tree work per approved schedule)	2118.00
UK Firework and Events Co (Balance due)	1650.00
Visual Impact Graphics Ltd (NDP)	2016.00
Community First Oxfordshire (NDP)	1674.00
Busy Fingers Copying (NDP)	709.40
Neil Willis (strimming of paths)	96.25
Geoff Willis Village Handyman (5 weeks)	393.75
G Russell (Admin July – September)	194.80
G Russell (salary)	538.82
Berinsfield Community Business (grasscutting)	910.50
St Birinus School (Forest School project)	<u>420.00</u>
	12419.91

Val Howells, the Parish Council's appointed school governor, explained that education outside the classroom is considered to be a good thing. This takes place,

regardless of weather, every Thursday, and the School needs funding of £420 to purchase protective clothing. It was proposed by Mark Williams, seconded by Rob Ballantyne and unanimously agreed that the Council should make this donation. The Cricket Club needs to purchase a new roller and it was agreed that the Parish Council would assist with this. The Council also agreed to purchase a new defibrillator cabinet for the outside of the pavilion.

The Council has received a request for funding from 'Be Free YC' formerly known as South and Vales Carers. This is an organisation which the Council has supported in the past. It was agreed to circulate the details and make a decision at the October meeting on the amount to be donated.

The Council has received an application from Soldiers of Oxfordshire to make a grant of £250 to help pay for funding and research. It was agreed that this organisation has no strong link with the Parish and that a grant would therefore not be appropriate.

#### 14/9 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

- i. The Council has received an invitation to send two councillors to the Town & Parish Council Forum at Howbery Business Park on Wednesday 1st November. Cllrs Mike Rimmer and Keith Russell will attend.
- ii. It was agreed to support the request for a disabled parking space at the entrance to Beechcroft. This request is intended to benefit a resident who has recently had a leg amputated. It was agreed to support this request.
- iii. The request for an extra street sign in Bridge End was rejected due to this being in the Conservation Area and the sign itself not thought necessary.
- iv. The Council has received a request to grant permission for a bench in memory of John and Doreen Beveridge to be placed at the end of Wittenham Lane. Since this would be difficult the Village Green at Bridge End may be a suitable alternative. The Chairman will talk to local residents.
- v. OALC is running a Planning Training Course at Witney on 13<sup>th</sup> December. The Council will reserve two places.

#### 15/9 Fireworks Night

Val Howells reported on the meeting held with Footsteps. The Parish Council is asked to insure the event again this year and this was agreed. Virtually all members of the Parish Council will be able to attend the event on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November and will assist with stewarding. It was suggested that the organisers contact the Golf Society to borrow a large barbecue.

#### 16/9 Campaign re link routes from A34 to Cambridge Expressway

The Clerk confirmed that the Earth Trust knew nothing about this possible new road although it was said that there had been a report in the Oxford Mail back in February. It was agreed that the Parish Council should join the Action Group and attend its meetings. The matter will be raised with John Howell MP on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

#### 17/9 Village Bus Services

Cllr Rob Ballantyne said that the operator of the 138 service has agreed to look into the possibility of running the service on a Friday should the Council decide that the Dorchester Flyer service is no longer needed.

#### 18/9 Village Maintenance

- i. Several locations in the High Street where the granite setts need replacement have been reported to the County Council.
- ii. Clearance of sides of Dorchester Bridge and roadside gutters in High Street and Oxford Road is being dealt with by the Village Handyman.

- iii. It was agreed that having long grass at the Tenpenny/Watling Lane junction is a road safety issue and next year the Parish Council would cut this area if the County Council failed to do so.
- iv. The Clerk said that he has ordered three more anti dog fouling notices from SODC

19/9 Facebook Group

A meeting will be held with village webmaster Dan Duke when Cllr Rob Ballantyne is back from holiday. In addition to the functions which this Group could perform which have been mentioned in previous discussions, this evening's references to seeking opinions on issues such as village maintenance and Speedwatch should also be included.

20/9 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

The Clerk will meet with Denis Froud to discuss whether he could take over the task of controlling rabbit activity on the Recreation Ground and the cemetery. Following the introduction of signs advertising the CCTV there has been no further vandalism.

b. Footpaths;

The Chairman asked BCB to prepare some quotations for carrying out improvements to the width and the surface of the footpath from Drayton Rd to Manor Farm Rd,

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

A working party has removed ivy from ten of the trees in the Cemetery and will be reconvened to carry out further work in due course.

There have been complaints about dog fouling in the Cemetery and a notice about this has been put in 'Dorchester News'.

The audit of uncared for graves is still required.

The Chairman has been invited to meet Susan Bowditch on 15<sup>th</sup> September to discuss her planting schemes. Miss Bowditch wants the schemes to be finished this year.

d. Allotments

Several issues were raised at the Society's committee meeting the previous evening. It was agreed that the Parish Council's Allotments councillor, Mike Rimmer, should be automatically invited to attend Committee Meetings.

It is expected that a new Chairman and a new Treasurer will be elected at the Society AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> September

Meeting closed at 10.59 p.m.