

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th November 2017 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill presided; present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Maurice Day, Oliver Margison, Viviane Quirke, Mike Rimmer, Keith Russell and Mark Williams with G. Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting was District Cllr John Cotton.

1/11 Apologies for absence

None; all Councillors were present.

2/11 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

3/11 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None.

4/11 Minutes of the Meeting held 11th October 2017

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed.

5/11 Matters Arising from the Minutes

School Wall; Cllr Oliver Margison is in contact with Paul King who has told him that the School is obtaining quotations for the wall's repair. It was suggested that some temporary safety fencing should be installed as an interim precaution. Oliver would like the County Council to be made aware that this is an urgent safety problem. The Clerk will do this.

Emergency Equipment Storage; the search for storage space is on-going.

Christmas Tree; it is understood that the tree will be delivered before the end of November.

Planning course 13th December; Cllr Mark Williams will attend. A refund has been requested from OALC after Cllr Rob Ballantyne had to cancel.

Local Bus Services; Cllr Ballantyne said that as part of the newly-christened 'River rapids' service there is now a once-an hour bus from the by-pass to Henley. Go-Ahead Buses, the operator of the 138 service from the village to Wallingford on Tuesdays and Thursdays, is not yet sure that it wishes to run a replacement for The Dorchester Flyer on Fridays. He asked if the Parish Council would consider making a financial contribution if they did.

6/11 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale's report has been circulated. There is some concern that the status of several highways projects mentioned at the October meeting and in subsequent correspondence is still unknown due to lack of contact by the County Highways Inspector.

7/11 District Councillor's Report

District Cllr John Cotton confirmed that he would try to send the Clerk a written report for inclusion in Dorchester News. Cllr Cotton stressed the importance of taking part in the consultation on the District Council's Local Plan. All the County's local councils have united to try to obtain a 'growth fund' contribution to local infrastructure from the central government's Budget announcement. This might amount to £200m or even more.

8/11 Report on contact with Bishops Court Farm/FODLWOS

The FODLWOS group has compiled a list of questions for local businesses which were expected to find evidence that the Bishops Court fencing has had an adverse impact upon

tourism and local business. The Clerk said, however, that two important local businesses – The Co-op and Lily’s – have told him that in 2017 they have had record-breaking years. Scott Ruck had told the Clerk that he and his colleagues had been particularly upset about postings on Facebook concerning moorings but that a recent visit to the Farm by the Rural Payments Agency had produced very positive feedback.

There has still been no reply to the Farm’s applications to Historic England. Mr. Ruck said that the new proposals would have much less impact upon the ‘SAM’ because the fence posts would be further apart than those installed during the previous ownership.

The Clerk said that the Chair of Little Wittenham Parish Meeting is trying to arrange a site visit by the relevant County Councillors in order to try to expedite the processing of the ‘Village Greens’ application.

The recent meeting of the River Users Group had discussed these issues and the Parish Council confirmed that the safety of people using the footpaths across Bishops Court Farm, particularly those near to the river banks, continues to be a matter of concern.

9/11 Affordable Housing at ‘Allens Pit’, Abingdon Road

The Chairman and Cllr Rob Ballantyne have met with Helen Novelle, Housing Development Manager at SODC, and this project will be developed for discussion in December.

10/11 Belcher Court correspondence following Planning Decision

No response from SOHA has been received as yet. The Chairman will keep pressing the Parish Council’s claim.

11/11 Oxford-Cambridge Expressway; campaign report and actions

District Cllr John Cotton said that he expected that by the summer of 2018 there would be an announcement about the ‘corridor’ for the route of the Expressway with the actual route announced about a year later. An announcement from the National Infrastructure Commission is expected soon. The Campaign Group is expected to issue a weekly report to its supporters and has appointed Lorna Campbell as campaign coordinator. The Chairman will pass on the contact details of Cllr Keith Russell as a possible media advisor.

12/11 Planning:

i. Applications:

P17/S3495/LB Queenford Farm; Repair roof on listed barn

The Council agreed that it had no strong views upon this application.

P17/S3709/FUL Bishops Lodge 86 High Street; Variation of condition 2 of Planning Permission P16/S4178/FUL (Approved Plans) Proposed one and a half storey replacement dwelling. (As amended by plan ref P01A which shows a revised parking layout). As amplified by the contaminated land questionnaire received on 19 January 2017. As amended by plan ref 15127 - P01B which removes existing shed and indicates an outbuilding to be erected under permitted development.

The Council agreed that it had no strong views upon this application.

P17/S3644/LDE Drayton Road north of Minchin Recreation Ground

The use of land for storage purposes only, falling within Use Class B8 of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 as amended. The site has been exclusively used for the storage of scrap vehicles, spare automotive parts and other machinery for many decades. These uses fall within Use Class B8 of the Use Classes Order (England) (as amended May 2017). The Council agreed that it had no strong views.

ii. Neighbourhood Development Plan Progress

Mr. Andrew Ashcroft has been appointed as the official Examiner of the Plan and he has already visited the village. He has raised some questions of clarification and requested

answers no later than 15th November, The Chairman said that the NDP Group is seeking further assistance from the SODC Officer, Ricardo Rios, and that he will ask to be given details of all comments received during the consultation period.

iii. The Fleur de Lys Report

The project will be discussed at a Public Meeting on Thursday 9th November.

iv. SODC Local Plan; report on consultation opportunities

Some Councillors had attended the drop-in consultation meeting in Berinsfield on the previous day and commented that the possible Expressway was hardly mentioned

13/11 Finance: Bank balances & payments

Balances at NatWest Bank

Current Account balance at 30/10	£62,076.79
Reserve Account balance at 5/10	<u>£47,870.38</u>
	£109,947.17

Cllr Oliver Margison proposed and Cllr Viviane Quirke seconded a proposal that the following payments should be approved and this was unanimously agreed:

Oxford Home Enhancers (Pavilion deep-clean)	400.00
Total Pest Control (Abbey View 3 months)	66.00
Nihon Kohden UK Ltd (defibrillator parts)	763.20
Bryans Lock Services Ltd (replacement padlock)	20.59
SSE (Pavilion electricity)	136.15
Visual Impact Graphics (NDP)	210.00
Busy Fingers Printing & Copying	81.80
Phil Greenaway (war memorial plants)	32.34
Berinsfield Community Business (September Grass)	910.50
Berinsfield Community Business (October Grass)	910.50
Berinsfield Community Business (Hurst path / Bus stop path)	1968.00
Berinsfield Community Business (Hurst path additional work)	216.00
(total to BCB £4,005.00)	
Broxap Limited (New bin outside Co-Op)	371.94
Open Spaces Society annual sub.	45.00
Neil Willis (Handyman duties)	96.25
Geoff Willis Village Handyman (4 weeks)	367.50
G Russell (Allotment skip hire from M&M)	240.00
G Russell (salary)	538.82
Be Free Young Carers (donation)	<u>150.00</u>
	£7,524.59

14/11 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

The Chairman reported upon his exchange of correspondence with Annette Kelleher regarding maintenance of the grass at the junction of Tenpenny with Watling Lane. He said that he hoped the Parish Council's policy on this has now been accepted.

The Clerk reported that Malcolm Corry has copied him with the correspondence which he has been having with SODC concerning the state of repair of Bridge End Public Toilets.

15/11 Fireworks Night Report

The overall financial result is not yet known. The Chairman said that he thought the Display was at least as good as last year and he thanked everyone who had helped. It was understood that the area of turf damaged by the bonfire was bigger than in 2016. Dave Rippington has complained that, despite the bonfire being located within the area used for cricket, the Cricket

Club was not consulted about where the bonfire should be located. The Clerk will arrange for Dave to meet Sue Graney and Val Howells so that these matters are discussed.

16/11 Report on SODC Town and Parish Council Forum 1st November

Cllr Keith Russell had attended the Forum and had brought away notes about items of general interest, including local lottery funding, which will be circulated for future discussion.

17/11 Response from Land Registry about land known as 'Waterloo'

The Clerk has spoken to the officer dealing with the Council's application and has written to John Scanlan asking if the Church has had any contact with the Watsons about the fencing that has been placed around the disputed area. The Registration of the non-enclosed area can proceed anyway but the Council's preference is that the whole area should be dealt with in the same application.

18/11 Revision of Allotment Society Rules

The Chairman said that he will discuss this matter with the new Allotment Society officers and prepare a set of rules for approval at the Council's December meeting.

19/11 Future organisation of Sports Activities in Dorchester

The Chairman explained that there is a proposal for the Sports Club to be wound up and for the Council to have direct contact with the three sports sections (cricket, football and tennis). There needs to be discussion about how the Sports Club's funds will be divided.

20/11 Setting up of Village Facebook Group

The first meeting with Dan Duke the Village Webmaster has taken place. The Parish Council was represented by the Chairman, Cllr Ballantyne and the Clerk. It was agreed that the Facebook Group should commence and be reviewed in six months.

21/11 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Club Pavilion & Playground;

Catalogues illustrating play equipment suitable for disabled children will be circulated along with details of outdoor equipment for games such as table tennis. This is made of concrete.

b. Footpaths;

The Council has received several good comments about the work recently done by BCB along the footpath between Drayton Road and The Hurst.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

The audit of graves that are in need of tidying has not yet been carried out. It will be scheduled during better weather in the New Year.

d. Allotments

In several parts of the Allotments there is a problem with rats. The Clerk will arrange for Denis Froude to make a site visit followed by recommendations on actions needed.

22/11 Any Other Urgent Matters

It was agreed that the dangerous condition of the school wall near the main entrance should be drawn to the attention of County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale.

The Meeting closed at 10.31 p.m.