Dorchester Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th April 2018 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill presided; also present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Maurice Day, Oliver Margison, Mike Rimmer, Keith Russell and Mark Williams (Vice-Chairman) with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were 4 residents.

1/4 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Viviane Quirke who had a teaching appointment, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and District Cllr John Cotton.

2/4 Public Participation

On behalf of the Village School Governors, Sarah Gauden told the Council that the height and specification of the School’s boundary wall is no longer considered to be providing adequate safeguarding for the children. There is no final scheme in place yet. Conservation and other planning issues need to be addressed but the estimated cost is £14,000. There is some debate between the County Council and the Church about the ownership of the site and responsibility for funding the project, which may yet be enlarged to include changes of the boundary of the area occupied by the Pre-School.

Yolandi Evans from 64 Watling Lane told the Council that parking space within the curtilage of her property would soon provide adequate parking space for her family’s cars and the use of the Allotment ground just across the road from her house would cease in the near future.

Phil Greenaway and Trevor Greenaway were in attendance to hear about the status of the land off Bridge End known as ‘Waterloo’ including the area between the boundary of 13 Bridge End and the river bank. This would be discussed later as Agenda item 10.

3/4 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

The Chairman re land at Waterloo and behind 13 Bridge End as before (Minute 3/3)

4/4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2018

The Clerk said that the Chairman has asked that ‘on behalf of the Parish Council’ be added after the word ‘comment’ in Minute Ref 13/3 i. It was proposed by Cllr Mike Rimmer that the amended Minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Rob Ballantyne and unanimously agreed. The Chairman signed the Minutes as correct.

5/4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Firework Display 2018. It was agreed that a provisional booking should be made with UK Firework Company for Saturday 3rd November. This will be confirmed (or cancelled) after discussions with Footsteps and, possibly, the Village School. The Clerk said that he would act as the main link between the Council and the Organising Committee. Sue Graney and Val Howells have told the Clerk that, although neither of them wished to be on the organising committee, both would be delighted to help with the event

Tree behind 43 Martins Lane; SSE do not think any action is required other than the removal of some ivy which their surveyor has done. The Clerk has asked Nathan Cantell from Jenks Group if he agrees and Nathan will revisit the site.

The Council noted that a mobile postal service had commenced on Wednesday 21st March. This service will attend outside the Co-Op in the High Street from 10.30 to 11.30 every Wednesday morning. The Council agreed to promote awareness of this service through signage and the village noticeboards.

Cllr Rob Ballantyne said that Going Forward Buses has revised its Tuesday routing to include a circuit of Berinsfield.

There has been no further news of any progress with determining the Dyke Hills Scheduled Monument Consent Application or the fencing on Bishops Court Farm.

The Council has been asked by residents to contact the County Council about providing some indicative line-markings at the Henley Road / A4074 junction and also about providing new line-marking in the High Street by the War Memorial where parked cars block the view of drivers leaving Watling Lane, travelling away from the village centre. The existing advisory white lines in High Street and Queen Street need re-painting. The Clerk will find out name of the responsible County Council official.

6/4 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale has sent her apologies, but she has confirmed to the Clerk that she has asked Keith Stenning, Area inspector, about the Highways matters raised with her in March.

Her Annual Report has been circulated. This is for presentation and discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May

7/4 District Councillor's Report

District Cllr John Cotton was unable to attend this meeting. The Council would like to know if the impact of the newly approved Neighbourhood Development Plan would be lessened if the District Council’s Local Plan remains unapproved.

8/4 Planning:

i. Application:

P18/S0996/PAR, Bishop Court Farm 91 High Street

Change of use of an agricultural building to use Class C3 (Dwellinghouses)

Although the Parish Council has not been specifically invited to comment it was proposed by Cllr Margison that the Council should send in an objection. This was seconded by Cllr Rob Ballantyne and unanimously approved. The Council’s comments will be drafted by the Chairman and circulated for comment and approval.

The Clerk was asked to contact the County footpaths officer about the re-routing of the footpaths across the farm.

ii. Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum Result

The Electorate was 813 and the turnout was 416 (51.16%) The number voting in favour was 398 (95.9%) and against 17 (4.1%) and so the NDP has been approved.

The District Council will now use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it to decide planning applications within the neighbourhood area. The Chairman will ask Ricardo Rios, the Planning Officer who has been assisting the Parish Council, if the NDP is now officially ‘made’.

iii. The Council noted that Planning Application P18/S0670/HH 52 Watling Lane has been withdrawn.

iv. The Council has received confirmation that the Parish Council share of CIL for The White Hart redevelopment is £971.10.It was agreed to request that this money be paid to the Council immediately rather than let the District Council hold the funds while they accumulate from other projects.. This sum is 15% of total CIL money received. Now the Parish NDP has been approved the % from future projects will increase to 25%.

9/4 Affordable Housing / Housing Needs Survey

The Chairman, Cllr Ballantyne and the Clerk are to make a site visit to South Stoke on the afternoon of Monday 16th April to talk to the Chairman of the Parish Council and to view a scheme that has been developed by Sovereign Housing Association.

It has been confirmed that the choice of which Housing Association should be invited to join a new Affordable Housing project is down to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Council should try to get the Dorchester housing needs survey started in early May. The Chairman has already made contact with Community First Oxfordshire and plans for the survey are well-advanced.

10/4 ` Land Registration:

The Clerk told the Council that he has still not received a response from the Diocesan Surveyor’s office in Birmingham. The most recent excuse is that the senior legal advisor is on holiday. It was agreed (by 4 votes against 2) that if no satisfactory response is forthcoming by 23rd April, the Clerk will inform the Diocese that the Council intends to place the matter in the hands of its solicitors. Several residents have expressed their frustration that the matter is taking so long to resolve.

Village Hall correction; the Land Registry has been sent a copy of the map from the 1973 Conveyance and requested to adjust its records so that its map conforms.

11/4 Finance:

i. Bank balances

Current Account balance at 29/3 £44,530.88

Reserve Account balance at 5/04 £47,880.84

£ 92,411.72

It was proposed by Cllr Oliver Margison and seconded by Cllr Keith Russell that the the following payments should be made. This was approved by five votes to nil (As the beneficiaries of some of these payments. the Chairman and Cllr Mark Williams abstained)

Dated March 30th

Royal British Legion (Remembrance Sunday wreath 2017) £ 100.00

G F Hobbs (Recreation Ground Hedgecutting) £170.40

Dorchester on Thames Village Hall (room hire) £40.00

JRB Enterprise Ltd (Dog waste bags and dispensers) £885.84

Berinsfield Community Business (grass-cutting) £1,114.50

Chris Hill Re NDP Expenses 22/3 £418.25

Broxap Limited (7 New waste bins for Cemetery) £2,435.58

Communicorp (subscription) £100.00

£5,264.57

Dated 11th April

Chris Hill (Wallingford Green Gym) £40.00

Post Office Ltd (for SODC Cemetery Business Rates) £163.57

CFO (Community First Oxfordshire) subscription £70.00

OPFA (Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association) £42.00

SLCC (subscription for Clerk) £115.00

ALCC (subscription for Clerk) £30.00

Oxfordshire County Council (Dorchester Flyer) £126.00

Chris Hill NDP Printing £51.00

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) £77.58

SODC (dog waste bin collection £113.03

Denis Froud (pest control for the quarter) £805.00

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) £297.50

G Russell (salary) £538.82

£2.469.50

**Grand total £7.734.07**

An appeal for funding has been received from the Friends of Benson Library. These appeals have previously been rejected because it is thought that very few Dorchester residents use Benson in preference to Berinsfield. However. the letter will be circulated for a decision next month.

ii. Earmarking of funds

It was agreed that the Parish Council would set aside some of its funds to be spent upon specific projects including improvements to the Village Hall and the Sports Pavilion; equipment for the proposed ‘adult gym’; campaign/legal expenses in connection with PAGE, the Expressway Action Group, and the land at Waterloo; an extension to the Cemetery; bus services; contingency funds; village school security.

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit date has been set at 5th June.

12/4 Speedwatch

The training of five volunteers took place on Monday 9th April. The equipment is readily available. The Council now has to nominate the check points and get Police approval. The aim is to do this within the next few days so the checks can start early in May.

13/4 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

a. Councillors were told that the next Town and Parish Council Forum will be held in Didcot at Cornerstone on 26th June from 18.00 – 21.00. The number who can attend is not yet known.

b. The Council has received confirmation of the Tree Preservation Order at 36 Martins Lane

14/4 . Village Planting Scheme – Future Maintenance

Susan Bowditch has prepared maps and agreed terms with a contractor to look after the newly-planted sites. She will meet these costs during her lifetime and proposes to gift a capital sum to the Parish Council to retain in a separate account so that it can earn some interest and fund these maintenance costs in the long-term.

The Council expressed its profound thanks to Mis Bowditch for her thoughtful and imaginative act of generosity. Her wish that this should not receive publicity will be respected but the Chairman will write a formal letter of thanks.

15/4. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May

It was agreed to invite a representative from the Expressway Action Group to address the meeting along with PAGE. The Chairman will talk about the forthcoming housing needs survey. It was thought that the Village Hall development proposals are not sufficiently advanced for them to be included on the Agenda.

16/4 Village Mapping and other software systems

This topic will be carried forward to another meeting.

17/4. Oxford/Cambridge Expressway Action Group

The Minutes of the recent EAG Meeting are being circulated. The Chairman is getting some of the posters printed and will arrange for them to be displayed throughout the Parish. A large banner will be produced for display on the bridge across the by-pass.

18/4. Commemorating 1918

The Clerk has spoken to the Rector and Cllr Viviane Quirke has raised the matter with the Historical Society. There seem to be several ideas for ways of commemorating the event but, at the moment, few ideas for celebrating it. Further discussion is required.

19/4 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Teams Pavilion & Playground;

Some anti-social behaviour in the Playground area has been reported to our PCSOs who have said that they will monitor the situation.

A new free magazine has been received - ‘Landscape and Amenity Product Update’ - which contains a lot of info about sports and play equipment and street furniture. This will be circulated for information.

A table tennis table has been offered to the Village by a resident and the Clerk will try to find it a home.

b. Footpaths;

Four new dog waste bag dispensers are being installed. They have been positioned close to dog waste bins.

Neil Willis will be asked to strim around Bridge End car park, Albert Place and the narrower footpaths off Watling Lane and along the boundary with Herringcote.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

The team from Wallingford Green Gym has cleared several dozen bags of ivy from the Cemetery. The Chairman has arranged for them to return on two more days this year.

There are some slates missing from the old cemetery buildings. Trevor Greenaway will be asked to repair/replace them.

There are seven new waste holders for the cemetery. These will replace the sack holders with the rubber lids and mesh surrounds although they will not be placed in exactly the same positions. The locations will be agreed between the Chairman and Trevor Greenaway.

d. Allotments;

Nothing to report.

20/4. Any Other Urgent Matters

i. Laura Bristow has contacted the Clerk about a new recycling scheme which is designed to deal with items that currently go to landfill. Cllr Oliver Margison asked the Clerk to send him the details and he will deal with this.

ii. Cllr Maurice Day said that part of the perimeter wall of the Abbey Closed Churchyard has become overgrown with ivy and this should be removed.

The Meeting closed at 10.16 p.m.