**Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 31st May 2017 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Chris Hill presided; also present were 23 residents, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, District Cllr John Cotton with G Russell in attendance.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Val Howells.

2 Minutes of the Meeting dated 3rd May 2016

It was agreed that these Minutes, having been distributed at the meeting and posted on the Village website, should be taken as read and they were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3 Chairman’s Report

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Chris Hill, read out his report (as attached to these minutes) which was later reprinted in Dorchester News and published on the Village website

4 Draft Accounts for year ended 31st March 2017

Geoff Russell, Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer, presented the Council’s draft Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 31st March 2017.

Copies were distributed to the meeting and later published on the Village website.

The figures would be subject to audit on 13th June, after which the Council’s accounting records will be available for inspection by any resident. The Council had decided to maintain its Precept for 2017/18 unchanged at £42,280.

5. Presentations:

**County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale** had submitted a written report for the year to April 2017 and this had been published in Dorchester News. Following the recent County Council elections she has been given responsibility for Property & Cultural Services, while the County Cllr for Benson & Cholsey, Mark Gray, has been tasked with the responsibility for liaison between the County Council and Parish Councils as Cabinet Member for Local Communities. Another Cabinet Member who would have a lot of influence over Dorchester-on-Thames is Yvonne Constance from West Oxfordshire who. as Cabinet Member for Environment, looks after Highways, Waste, Minerals Strategy and Flooding.

**District Councillor John Cotton** submitted his annual report, now attached to these Minutes and published on the Village website. Richard Winslet, a member of the team that for the past 5 years has been preparing Dorchester’s Neighbourhood Development Plan said that he thought the Plan had been delayed by the District Council. Cllr Cotton said that he expected things would speed up, literally within a few days. Cllr Mike Rimmer said that the District Council had been failing to plan for the required changes to infrastructure. Cllr Cotton agreed and said that there wi soon be a ‘step-change’ in this process. Asked about the development site near the M40 known as ‘Harrington’, Cllr Cotton said that this is too much like a ‘dormitory’ development which is not right for the District. Asked about the future prospects for the District’s site at Crowmarsh Gifford, Cllr Cotton said that he hoped that there would be an announcement soon.

Reporting on the activities of **PAGE, John Taylor** said that the Campaign is far from finished. There is still the potential for extraction in the area of Drayton, Overy and Warborough and the possibility that matters may go to a Judicial Review. This would require much-increased financial contributions from the supporters of PAGE.

**Parish Cllr Mark Williams** reported on the development of the **Neighbourhood Plan** and especially the ongoing debate between the officers of the District Council and its leader, Cllr John Cotton, about whether the document should include recommendations for development on specific sites. The current consultation process has attracted comments from across the Parish.

Becky Waller and John Taylor reported upon the recent activities of **FODLWOS (Friends of Dorchester and Long Wittenham Open Spaces)** and describedthe Group’s activities since its initial meeting on 2nd January. The Friends wish to restore public access to The Dyke Hills and half of the recently enclosed area near Day’s Lock. The publication of the Landowners Statement at the end of November had started the process for the gathering of evidence and claims which ends on 29th October. The Friends would like to have a meeting with Mr Reid, the new owner of Bishop’s Court, in the near future but in the meantime, Becky would report any development to the Clerk.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.07 p.m.