**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th June 2018 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill, presided; present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Maurice Day, Viviane Quirke, 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 and one resident.

1/6 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Oliver Margison and Mike Rimmer and District Cllr John Cotton.

2/6 Public Participation

Becky Waller spoke about the Public Hearing that will take place in the Abbey Guest House on 19th June concerning the application from Bishops Court Farm for Scheduled Monument Consent to replace some existing fencing along Dyke Hills and to install a new line of fencing to block access to the Monument from the public footpath that runs from Wittenham Lane to the River Thame at ‘Blue Bridge’.

Becky said that FODLWOS has no objection to replacement fencing but is opposed to the proposed new fencing. The group understands the need for animals to be enclosed but believes that on the limited number of days each year when the land is used for grazing it would be possible to achieve the required control by using electric fencing which would be removed when no animals are present, which is most of the year.

Thus, public access to the Monument, a privilege which has been enjoyed by generations of local residents and visitors (including scholars and experts wishing to study the unique, historic landscape) can continue.

Becky asked that the Parish Council should attend the Hearing and support the claim that the Dyke Hills have a community value that has been established and enjoyed for many years.

3/6 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

The Chairman re land at Waterloo and behind 13 Bridge End as previously minuted.

4/6 Election of Parish Council Chairman 2018/19

*(The Clerk took the chair for the following item)*

Cllr Keith Russell proposed that Cllr Chris Hill should be re-elected to serve as Chairman for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr Rob Ballantyne and passed unanimously. Cllr Hill resumed the chair.

5/6 Election of Parish Council Vice-Chairman 2018/19

Cllr Maurice Day proposed that Cllr Mark Williams should be re-elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr Rob Ballantyne and passed unanimously.

6/6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th May 2018

It was proposed by Cllr Keith Russell that the Minutes as circulated should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Mark Williams and passed unanimously.

7/6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Parish Council has spent approximately £500 subsidising the ‘Dorchester Flyer’ every Friday morning, much less than had been originally estimated. Cllr Rob Ballantyne, who has been managing the service, suggested that the two runs are reduced to one with passengers being given an extra 30 minutes in Wallingford and this was approved subject to the agreement of the passengers.

The Chairman has placed notices at ‘Waterloo’ so that river users are made aware that this area should not be used for long-term mooring.

The Council has been told that a decision about the ‘corridor’ for the proposed Oxford/Cambridge Expressway will be announced by the end of July.

The Town and Parish Council Forum due to be held in Didcot at Cornerstone on 26th June from 18.00 – 21.00 has been postponed while the new Leadership determines whether this format is the best way of communicating its policies and consulting on new initiatives.

The Clerk has prepared a paper copy of the Parish Privacy Policy based upon the Chinnor Parish Council model circulated to all councillors on 22nd May. This was approved for publication on the Village Website but will be reviewed once a year.

8/6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said the debate about designating sites for future gravel extraction is ‘hotting up’ with the County Council cabinet due to review site selection policy in the near future. The Culham site is again being considered as is a location in the area between Berinsfield, Drayton St Leonards and Stadhampton.

Lorraine’s report for June has been circulated.

9/6 District Councillor’s Report

None received but the Clerk will circulate anything that comes in.

10/6 Planning:

i. Applications:

P18/S1841/FUL Queenford Farm Drayton Road

Change of use to allow water testing of boats on Drayton Lake

The Council has no objections. Williams has defined the proposed hours of use and these are acceptable as stated.

P18/S1594/HH Third Acre 56 Watling Lane

Proposed 3 bay detached garage

The Council has no objections. The application is expected to be approved as permitted development.

ii. Permitted Development Notification

P18/S1694/PDH 3 Tenpenny

Single storey rear extension Depth 3.8m Height 3.3m Height to eaves 2.6m

This application was noted

iii. Belcher Court Development; Discharge of Conditions - Access to cemetery

The Chairman has received a letter from Steve Lynch, SOHA’s Director of Property and Development but Mr Lynch does not comment upon the Parish Council’s request that access to the Village Cemetery must be allowed whenever required for burials nor on SOHA’s obligation to make good any damage to the Cemetery access road that may be done by its contractors. Demolition work is expected to begin in July.

iv. Decisions

P18/S1347/HH 52 Watling Lane;

Internal alterations and side extension to an existing dwelling.

This application has been approved

v. Affordable Housing / Housing Needs Survey

Cllr Rob Ballantyne has drafted the document which it is hoped will be finalised and printed in time for distribution with the July/August edition of Dorchester News.

vi. Dyke Hills Scheduled Monument Consent Public Hearing 19th June

It was agreed that the Chairman should represent the Parish Council at this Hearing to ensure that the Council’s previously submitted evidence is taken into account. In order to plan that the proceedings of the Hearing are conducted efficiently he will liaise with other village representatives who will organise and co-ordinate all the presentations calling for the Application for Consent to be rejected.

11/6 Land Registry:

‘Waterloo’ application

The Clerk said that he has still not been informed of what was discussed at the site meeting held some weeks ago, but he has received a further complaint about the fencing behind 13 Bridge End, this time from Adam and Melissa Denning of 11 Bridge End who use the phrase “illegal enclosure”.

Village Hall Correction

It was agreed that the Parish Council would submit a new application for the patio area. Cllr Oliver Margison would be asked to prepare the drawings and the Clerk will gather evidence of title and submit the application form with payment of the £40 fee.

12 Finance

The Council noted that the Internal Audit was postponed from 5th June to 27th June at the auditor’s request. The Annual Return will be signed at the July meeting.

Clerk’s Salary; NALC and SLCC agreed 1% increases to take effect on 1st April 2016 and 1st April 2017. It was agreed that these increases should be implemented.

Bank balances & payments

Current Account balance at 30/5 £55,089.70

Reserve Account balance at 5/06 £47,884.97

 £102,974.67

It was proposed by Cllr Keith Russell and seconded by Cllr Rob Ballantyne that the following payments should be approved. This was carried unanimously:

PAGE (Donation) 1,000.00

Land Registry (Village Hall patio area) 40.00

Castle Water (sportsground) 51.85

Chris Hill (Expressway Campaign printing) 328.44

Oxfordshire County Council (Dorchester Flyer Mar & Apr) 294.00

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 77.58

BCB grass-cutting May 1,168.32

Sally Greenaway (War Memorial planting) 47.11

Trevor Greenaway re fitting dog waste bag dispensers

 and cemetery litter bins 970.00

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) 332.50

Neil Willie (Village Handyman) 148.75

G Russell (salary) 549.65

G Russell (salary arrears) 216.16

 5,224.36

The Clerk reported that the NatWest Wallingford branch has now closed and the Council’s account is now held at Abingdon. There are no changes to the account numbers or sort code and the existing cheque and paying in books can still be used.

The Council’s share of CIL for the White Hart redevelopment is £971.10 and has been received and Dorchester Angling Society has increased its donation for the use of Abbey View £30.

It was agreed to pay £100 as a donation to Benson Library. This cheque will be drawn at the July meeting.

13/6 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

a. Bishops Court Farm; Scott Ruck has asked the Clerk to report that the Farm is still having problems with its signs being torn down. There was a particularly anti-social piece of behaviour on Sunday 13th May when these signs were also thrown into the River Thames and the attendant at Day’s Lock had telephoned the Farm to complain. Later that evening at 8.00 p.m. there had been a conversation on this matter between Scott Ruck and the Chairman who had been telephoned at home.

b. Land alongside path from Drayton Road to Hurst; the Parish Council has again been asked about who is responsible for grounds maintenance along this path, most recently about the trees on the boundary with Page Furlong gardens. The Clerk has asked the County Council what information it has on this subject.

c. The new County order about Disabled Parking bays in Dorchester has just been published. The six spaces identified include all the existing ones and a new one in Beechcroft which has been requested by Mr Crehan.

14/6 Speedwatch

The Council noted that the group has submitted a reported for publication in Dorchester News. This will be circulated in the folder.

15/6 Commemorating 1918

Cllr Viviane Quirke said that she is liaising with the Abbey and other interested parties and telling them that they should approach the Parish Council when they know what funding is required. Ideas include special poppy displays, a village trail and snapshot of village life in 1918.

16/6 Village Maintenance

The Council noted that the District Council’s ‘deep clean hit squad’ will be in the village 13-15 June

Moles are back on the Village Green at Bridge End. This will be reported to Denis Froud, our pest controller.

17/6 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion & Playground;

The annual play area inspection has been arranged for July. Ken Bryan reports a fault with the climbing frame. This has not yet been identified.

b. Footpaths;

Hedge-cutting has been arranged along the Cemetery path and the path off Watling Lane towards the Farm. Albert Place also requires the clearance of tall grass and overhanging branches.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard

The new litter bins have now been installed. Susan Bowditch accidentally damaged a bench during recent work on her newly planted areas. She will replace it and transfer the commemorative plaque.

d. Allotments

The Society has put up some no parking signs which seem to have worked. The Clerk is to order more Footpath way-marks for additional signage.

18?6 Any Other Urgent Matters

The Clerk said that he would like to arrange for another photograph of the Parish Council to be taken, ideally well before the next elections in May 2019. The meetings on 8th August and 12th September might offer this opportunity. Councillors who know that they will be absent on either of those dates should tell the Clerk well in advance.

The Meeting closed at 10.40 p.m.