**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th October 2018 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill, presided; present were Cllrs. Maurice Day, Oliver Margison, Viviane Quirke, Mike Rimmer and Mark Williams with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were District Cllr John Cotton and Maggie Davies, Manager of Footsteps Foundation.

1/10 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rob Ballantyne and Keith Russell and County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale.

2/10 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

3/10 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

4/10 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 10th September 2018

The spelling of Kate Tilley was corrected to Kate Tiller, following which it was proposed by Cllr Oliver Margison that the Minutes should be approved as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Rimmer and carried unanimously. The Chairman signed the Minute Book.

5/10 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i. The Clerk confirmed that he has spoken to Dr Mair, owner of Crown Lodge, about the repairs which are needed to the large gate that separates his property from that belonging to Deirdre Wollaston of Crown Cottage, 52 High Street and that Dr Mair had confirmed that this work would be carried out soon.

ii. The Chairman said that there have been no further developments in the project to place a storage container on the Abbey View Meadow.

iii. Cllr Day confirmed said that he will again be able to source the Parish Council’s Christmas tree this year.

6/10 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale was unable to attend the meeting. Her written monthly report had been received and circulated and would be published in ‘Dorchester News’.

7/10 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr John Cotton reported that the rebuilding of the District Council’s offices at Crowmarsh will go ahead but more slowly than had been first expected. Cllr Cotton said that SOHA has appointed a new Chief Executive. Kate Wareing has taken over at the 6,600 home-owning association following the retirement of Richard Peacock after 20 years of service. The Clerk was asked to send Cllr Cotton a copy of the newly -published Housing Needs Survey.

8/10 Planning Application:

P18/S3156/FUL 64 Watling Lane

Demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings and erection of a replacement detached dwelling and associated parking.

The Council noted that this is a re-submission of a plan which is smaller, less complex and less expensive than the original proposal. Cllr Oliver Margison proposed that the Council should have no objection. This was seconded by Cllr Viviane Quirke and unanimously agreed.

P18/S1841/FUL amendment relating to Drayton Lake, Queenford Farm

The Parish Council noted the new surveys of Birds and Protected Species and agreed that it had no objections to the proposals.

9/10 Finance;

i. Bank balances & payments

Current Account balance at 28/9 £57,859.09

Reserve Account balance at 5/10 £47,900.91

£105,760.00

Following a proposal from Cllr Oliver Margison, seconded by Cllr Maurice Day, it was unanimously agreed that the following payments should be approved:

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 77.58

BCB grass-cutting (September) 1,168.32

Oxfordshire County Council (The Flyer) 150.00

Trevor Greenaway (Village Maintenance0 185.00

City of Oxford Silver Band (Remembrance Day Service) 125.00

Moore Stephens (Audit fee) 594.00

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) 315.00

G Russell (salary) 549.65

£3,164.55

It was agreed that a donation to the Royal British Legion would be made at the November meeting.

ii. Audit Report

The Audit has now been concluded and the audit report is to be posted on the village notice boards advertising the fact that residents have the opportunity to inspect the Council’s accounting records

iii. Review of Standing Orders (circulated 31st August)

Following the opportunity to review the document, it was agreed there is no need to change the standing orders approved at the meeting on 11th February 2015.

10/10 Land Registration: ‘Waterloo’, War Memorial and other areas

The Clerk has been in contact with Roger Taylor from solicitors Wellers Hedleys, a firm which specialises in representing parish councils. Mr Taylor will make contact with the Diocesan Solicitor regarding the land adjacent to 13 Bridge End and will be asked to liaise with the solicitors acting for the Watsons.

Wellers Hedleys are experienced in registering land and have a standard charge of £250 per property. The area known as ‘Waterloo’ includes a public right of way which may date back to the time when there was a bridge over the river. Wellers Hedley will be asked if this fact may be helpful if the Council makes another attempt to register this land. It was agreed that Mr Taylor should be asked to take on the Parish Council’s application to register the War Memorial and the Clerk will prepare the papers so that this process can be started in the near future.

11/10 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

The Clerk has received a verbal complaint about a car using the paved area outside the Co-op for overnight parking. This matter will be brought to the attention of the local Police Community Support Officers.

12/10 Commemorating 1918

The Clerk will supply digital copies of village maps to assist Cllr Viviane Quirke in preparing the Commemoration Trail. The Poppy-making workshop is going ahead in the village hall on Sunday 21st October. The Parish Council has agreed to cover the costs involved in preparing displays for Remembrance Sunday.

The precise location for the commemorative tree which is being supplied via the County Council has not yet been agreed but it is likely to be on Parish Council land.

13/10 Village Fireworks Display 3rd November

Maggie Davies from Footsteps Foundation is in charge of running the Fireworks Display this year and attended the meeting to explain the plans in detail. There are no significant changes to arrangements this year compared with 2017. There will be more covered space, but overall attendance is expected to be similar. The exact location for the bonfire will be settled after discussions with the Cricket Club. Great care will be taken to make sure that no nails remain in the soil after the event. Darwin Escapes, owners of The Springs Golf Club, have sponsored the event. Several Parish Councillors are assisting by acting as stewards for parking and general crowd control.

14/10/ Local Highways Maintenance;

The Parish Council confirmed that it agrees to finance the provision of a drop kerb opposite the Bridge End/High Street junction – a site that has already been surveyed by the County Council’s engineer who has estimated cost of the work is £2,000.

The poor state of the road around The Green at Bridge End has been reported to the new Highways Inspector, Tracy Morton.

15/10 PAGE – Report Update

The PAGE Group has established a working relationship with BACHPORT and they are campaigning together against the threat of new sites being selected for gravel extraction. The whole process is moving very slowly indeed.

16/10 Affordable Housing Project

Jason Winterbourne is holding separate meetings with both SOHA and Sovereign Housing and the Chairman suggested that there should soon be a special meeting, open to the public, as which each of these organisations would be invited to present their ideas. Cllr Hill said that he would suggest dates after further discussions with all the interested parties.

17/10 Tree Maintenance

A clearance team from Oxfordshire County Council is expected to clear the blocked pathway that runs parallel to Watling Lane on Friday 2nd November. Neighbouring residents have been informed by Arthur McEwan-Jones, the officer in charge of operations on public rights of way.

Andrew Clements from Page Furlong is keen to play a part in developing a management plan for working parties to look after the area at the Drayton Road end of the footpath that runs along to the Hurst Water Meadow. The Parish Council welcomes his involvement and the Chairman suggested that Andrew is invited to attend the earliest convenient Council meeting.

Following a site visit, Sarah Venners has told the Clerk that the cost for her to carry out a survey of all the trees on the Recreation Ground, the Cemetery and the Abbey Closed Churchyard, to include mapping and tagging, would cost a maximum of £1,000. The Council agreed that this report should be commissioned.

18/10 Commemorative Plaques

It was agreed to carry this item forward to another meeting

19/10 Bus Shelters By-pass and High Street

The Council noted that the new highways inspector has visited the bus shelters on the by-pass with the Clerk and has reported to her colleagues on what needs doing to the paths leading to them. The Parish Council will organise the removal of graffiti and the general cleaning of the shelters.

The Clerk reported that Trevor Greenaway has said that he can make the necessary repairs to the High Street bus shelter but he has recommended that the first step should be to make sure that the structure is firmly anchored which is a job that he cannot do himself.

20/10 Oxford/Cambridge Expressway Action Group Campaign Report

There is to be a briefing meeting in Sandford-on-Thames Village Hall on the evening of 23rd October. The Chairman will attend with Cllr Mike Rimmer and the Clerk.

21/10 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion & Playground;

It was agreed to ask S J Aplin Playgrounds Ltd to carry out the repairs and improvements that had been identified as required by the RoSPA Inspection in July.

Clearance of ivy from the tractor shed and the pavilion should be added to the annual grounds maintenance work carried out by BCB.

b. Footpaths; Flytipping between Overy and Warborough.

This would be reported to the District Council’s refuse collection team.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

The Clerk has taken several photographs of individual graves which are candidates for the ‘Adopt-A-Grave’ project but in many cases before a volunteer can reasonably be asked to take on routine care, there is work required which can only be done by contractors equipped with mechanical cutters etc. The Clerk will visit the area again with a representative of BCB.

The ditch on the Herringcote boundary needs to be thoroughly cleared this year and long grass which has encroached well on to the burial area needs to be removed back to the tree line.

d. Allotments Tenancy agreement and talks with Historic England

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of the Allotments Society. Ed Metcalfe is now back as Chairman and a number of new rules have been agreed, many of which are required because the Allotments are on the site of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Cllr Mike Rimmer is asked to draft a fair copy of these rules. The area which has been the site of archaeological investigation over several years is now proposed to be the site on which a new orchard will be planted. David Wilkinson for Historic England and a local resident explained that an official application would be required before this proposal could be approved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.