**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th September 2018 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 and Keith Russell with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, District Cllr John Cotton and two residents.

1/9. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Mark Williams who was on holiday.

2/9 Public Participation

Deirdre Wollaston of Crown Collate, 52 High Street told the Council about the damaged hinge on the large gate which gives access to the public footpath (190/12) from the High Street to Queen Street along Crown Lane. There is a pedestrian gate which allows some access, but the large gate does have to be opened regularly and should be repaired. This is the responsibility of an adjoining property owner who lives elsewhere. The Council agreed to contact this gentleman and ask him to take action.

3/9. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

4/9. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 8th August 2018

It was proposed by Cllr Oliver Margison that the Minutes as circulated should be approved as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Viviane Quirke and carried unanimously. The Chairman signed the Minute Book.

5/9. Matters Arising from the Minutes

i. The Council noted that SODC is processing its application to have the Fleur de Lys registered once again as an Asset of Community Value.

ii. Malcolm Corry confirmed that the Speedwatch checks would start again in October/November. Cllr Oliver Margison proposed that Abingdon Road should be included this time. The motion was seconded by Cllr Viviane Quirke and passed by four votes in favour to one against.

6/9 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale has submitted a written report and this has been circulated. With effect from 1st September she has been appointed the Cabinet Member for Education. She will continue to look after Cultural Services which includes libraries, museums, the history service and the schools’ music service.

Cllr Lindsay-Gale said that she would not be able to pay for the provision of a drop kerb at the High Street/Beechcroft junction because her discretionary funds for the current year have been committed elsewhere. She stressed the importance of making a formal application whenever requests for these funds are tabled in future.

7/9 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr John Cotton said that there is a possibility that he will be able to provide some financial support towards the provision of new showers in the pavilion.

8/9. Planning Applications:

P18/S2881/DIS White Hart Hotel, High Street; Discharge of conditions 3 - External Materials, 4 - Construction Management Plan, 5 - Archaeology - Evaluation & Watching Brief & 6 - Archaeology - Written Scheme of Investigation on application ref. P17/S1866/FUL and condition 3 - External Materials on application ref. P17/S1973/LB Alterations and rear additions.

The Council is not formally consulted about these applications, but it was agreed that it should send its comments about the need to improve the ongoing management of site traffic and the Chairman will draft some guidance for the planning officer.

P18/S2477/LB & P18/S2476/FUL Bishop Court Farm High Street

Conversion of farm buildings to residential use.

The Chairman and Cllr Mike Rimmer had paid a site visit and had met the agent and the architect. They had been assured that the planning proposal, if approved, would have no adverse impact upon the existing public footpath.

The Parish Council agreed that it had No Objections to the Application but commented that it is important to retain sufficient barn space for the Farm to remain as a viable and successful business in Dorchester. This is not only necessary for current farming needs but also for the needs of any future owner in the event the farm is sold.

P18/S2728/HH 81 Abingdon Road

The proposed works are a two-storey extension to the rear, one side and the front of the existing house. (Amendment to P15/S2142/HH)

It was proposed by Cllr Rob Ballantyne that the Council had no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Oliver Margison and approved unanimously.

9/9. Finance;

i. Bank balances & payments

Current Account balance at 30/8 £38,532.27

Reserve Account balance at 5/9 £47,891.00

 £86,423.27

The Clerk reported that payment of the second half precept had been received on 6th September. This amounted to £21,140.

It was proposed by Cllr Mike Rimmer that the following payments should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Keith Russell and unanimously agreed.

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 77.58

BCB grass-cutting (August) 2 rounds 1,168.32

UK Firework Company balance due 1,650.00

Data Systems Management LLP (Village website hosting etc) 526.80

JRB Enterprise Ltd (Dog waste bags) 234.24

Town and Country Memorials Ltd (plaque) 117.60

Dorchester Village Hall room hire poppy workshop 27.00

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) 393.75

G Russell Administration 3 months 234.80

G Russell (salary) 549.65

 £4979.74

The Clerk said that he has always used his own personal computer for carrying out Council business, but he recommended that the Council now should agree a budget for the purchase of its own device and supply of software. This was agreed and a maximum figure set at £1,000. It was suggested that the Council should also take advantage of the opportunity to have its records backed-up in the ‘cloud’.

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

It was agreed to return to this subject at the Council’s next meeting. Cllr Rimmer asked if it is always necessary for decisions to be formally proposed and seconded.

10/9 Land Registry: ‘Waterloo’ and enclosure behind 13 Bridge End

In line with his practice at previous meetings Cllr Chris Hill vacated the chair for the following discussion. In the absence of the vice-chairman, Cllr Mark Williams, councillors agreed that Cllr Rob Ballantyne would take the chair. Council approved a request from the Clerk that a budget of £500 which has been estimated by Wellers Hedley should be set aside so that future contact with the Diocesan Solicitor could be carried out through the Council’s own solicitor, rather than by the Clerk. This was in response by an insistence from the Diocesan Surveyor that she would in future deal only with the Council’s legal representative.

11/9 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

The Clerk reported that he has received a letter from SODC stating that the period during which 14 High Street, as the former Village Post Office, would be regarded as an Asset of Community Value has come to an end. The Council agreed that it had no interest in applying for this designation to be renewed.

The Council has been invited to send representatives to visit the Drayton Depot run by County Council Highways on Saturday 6th October. Councillors who wish to accept this invitation will contact the Clerk.

12/9 Village Hall Improvements including Land Registry correction

The Clerk reported that the Land Registry has made the correction to the plan and property description in the registration document for the Village Hall. As Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, Cllr Keith Russell said that the public meeting held on 15th August had approved the proposed amendments to the Hall’s Trust Deeds and Governance documents and that the Committee would now prepare its business plan and fund-raising campaign.

13/9 Local Highways Maintenance

The Clerk reported on the recent visit by Jon Beale from County Highways. It had been agreed that white lines marking the junctions of Queen Street with both High Street and Manor Farm Road would be repainted and that Mr Beale would discuss with colleagues the provisions of new ‘access protection’ white lines where Watling Lane joins the High Street and a drop kerb at the junction of High Street and Beechcroft. This is with a view to having the work done in the next financial year.

Mr Beale has told the Clerk that the unofficial ‘no parking’ signs on the posts outside 1A and 1B High Street should not be replaced.

14/9 Commemorating 1918

The Parish Council agreed to pay the charge for Village Hall room hire so that a poppy making workshop could be held which would be open to all.

The Rector has been contacted about the possible planting of a commemorative tree, part of a programme being organised by the County Council. Various sites have been suggested but no final decision has been taken. Cllr Quirke, who is being supported in this project by the Chairman, is working on a guide to the graves and dwellings of those villagers who lost their lives in WWI. She has made contact with local historian Kate Tiller and is talking with former parish councillor Stuart Gibbons about a history of Meadside, which was built after the War as ‘homes fit for heroes’

15/9 PAGE – Report from Steering Group Meeting 4th September

The consultation on Oxfordshire County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 2 – Site Allocations Issues and Options runs from Wednesday 8th August to 4pm Wednesday 3rd October 2018. The Chairman is writing the Parish Council’s response which will reflect its concerns that sites very close by are still being considered, even though County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gales had been understood to rule this out.

The PAGE committee had commissioned an expert planning response to any proposal for gravel extraction at sites within its area.

16/9 Housing Needs Survey

The findings have been circulated and Cllr Rob Ballantyne is to write a report for Dorchester News. The response rate is greater than last time and, based upon the clear support for schemes that has been noted, the Chairman and Cllr Ballantyne have organised a further planning meeting with SODC. The matter will be discussed again at the October Council meeting.

17/9 Tree maintenance

The Clerk reported that Dave Cottrell has confirmed that he would be interested in doing tree work for the Parish Council. His three-man team costs £750 per day to hire.

The Clerk is meeting local arboriculture expert Sarah Venners on 21st September in order to get her opinion about some problem trees along the footpath between Drayton Road and The Hurst and also a quote for her doing a survey of all the trees for which the Parish Council has responsibility.

18/9 Village Fireworks Display 3rd November

Most councillors said that they will be available to assist with parking and crowd control on the night. The Clerk is in contact with the Cricket Club about their preferred site and maximum size of the bonfire.

Maggie Davies, who is leading the organising team for Footsteps Foundation, will attend the October meeting of the Parish Council to go through the plans in detail.

19/9 High Street Bus Shelter

Carry forward to October meeting

20/9 Oxford/Cambridge Expressway Action Group Report

An announcement about the route had been made earlier in the day but there is still no clarity about which route around Oxford will be selected.

21/10 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion & Playground;

Matters requiring attention continue to be: repairs following the July visit from the play area inspector and development of plans for upgrading the pavilion showers.

b. Footpaths;

The rubbish bin at the High Street end of the Village Hall footpath (‘Cheyney Lane’) is to be reinstated.

The County Council’s Public Rights of Way Officer, Arthur McEwan-James is due in the village to meet with the Chairman and Clerk on Thursday 20th September.

There is still a problem with dogs fouling footpaths. The Council has plenty of cans of spray paint which it asks councillors to apply.

Members of Wallingford Green Gym return to the village on 25th September. As before, the Chairman will arrange their work programme for the day.

Moles are reported to be active on The Green at Bridge End and ‘Waterloo’.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

The application from Mrs Irene Pritchard of Abingdon Road to plant a flowering cherry tree in the cemetery to commemorate Brian, her late husband, was approved.

The Chairman reported that the planting of daffodils in the cemetery is being organised by Susan Bowditch

The Clerk said that six residents have so far come forward to take part in the ‘adopt a grave’ programme. Cllr Keith Russell will place a further notice in Dorchester News. A list of helpers and allocated graves will be presented at the October Parish Council meeting.

d Allotments

The Society will hold its annual meeting later this month. The Party on Sunday 2nd September is reported to have been a great success.

22 Any Other Urgent Matters

The Clerk asked Cllr Day to enquire about sourcing this year’s Christmas tree

Cllr Day asked the Council to consider sponsoring a special memorial to Dr Peter Pritchard. This will be placed on the agenda for the October meeting. Councillors suggested that perhaps there could be more recent residents who could be considered for such an honour.

The Meeting closed at 10.34