**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th December 2018 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill, presided; 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 County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and three residents.

1/12. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Viviane Quirke and District Cllr John Cotton.

2/12. Public Participation

Val Howells, the Parish Council’s representative on the Village School Board of Governors, and Paul King, the Chairman of the School’s Finance Committee, distributed copies of a proposal to raise funding for St Birinus Primary School (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). The aim is to raise from several different sources a total of £15,000 to resurface the school playground, including markings for various sports courts. This will make the playground safer and promote fitness.

It is expected that there will be 8 pupils in the 2019 cohort but that numbers will return to the more usual 20 for 2020.

Cllr Oliver Margison confirmed that a planning application will shortly be submitted for direct access from Manor Farm Road into the Pre-School premises. Professor Malcolm Airs said that the boundary wall is part of a ‘SAM’ and must therefore be maintained. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, who is the OCC Cabinet member with responsibility for Education, said that the school should make a direct appeal for funds to the County Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Mike Rimmer that the Parish Council should agree to donate £3,000 immediately, with the pledge of a further £2,000 if necessary. It was suggested that the initial donation of £3,000 should be thought of as ‘seed-capital’ and consideration given to further funding set by a formula of, say, £1 for every £2 raised, up to a maximum which would be agreed in advance. This matter could be discussed again at another meeting.

3/12. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The Chairman re land at Waterloo and behind 13 Bridge End as before (Minute 3/3). Cllr Mark Williams has no personal interest in the selection of a partner for the proposed affordably housing project but in view of his connections with SOHA he will take no part in the decision under item 12/12.

4/12. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th November 2018

After some typing errors had been pointed out by Cllr Mike Rimmer and corrected, it was proposed by Cllr Oliver Margison that the minutes as amended should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Keith Russell and passed unanimously. The Chairman signed the Minute Book as a true record.

5/12. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk reported that a new defibrillator cupboard had not been required and the device at The White Hart is now fully functioning.

6/12 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale had submitted a written report which had been circulated and would be published in ‘Dorchester News’ and on the village website.

7/12 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr John Cotton had sent his apologies for absence from the meeting.

8/12. Planning

i. Applications:

P18/S3830/LDP Thame Close 39 Martins Lane

Ground floor single storey flat roof extension, adjacent to an existing flat roof area of the dwelling. The Council noted this application but had not been asked to comment.

P18/S3594/LB Clementine Cottage 36 High Street

Replacement of aged gas boiler with combi boiler, removal of immersion tank and creation of storage, general refurbishment (decoration) of shower room.

The Council agreed to confirm the approval which it had already given by email.

P18/S3914/LDP 8 Page Furlong

Single storey rear extension to detached dwelling. The Council noted this application but had not been asked to comment.

ii. Belcher Court Development site;

The Parish Council has been warned that there is a possibility that access to part of the site being redeveloped will involve an encroachment on land owned by Parish Council. The Clerk and Cllr Maurice Day will review their records of the rights of way in this area. The Council feels that this is unlikely to be a problem but that while building work is going on the Council will need to liaise with the on-site contractors whenever access to the cemetery is required for a funeral.

iii. Village Green Applications;

The Council noted that the County Council is about to open the consultation period for the application to have parts of Bishops Court Farm designated as ‘village greens’.

9/12. Finance;

i. Bank balances

Current Account balance at 30/11 £48,550.22

Reserve Account balance at 5/12 £47,908.78

£96,459.00

It was proposed by Cllr Keith Russell and seconded by Cllr Oliver Margison that the following payments should be approved, and this was unanimously agreed:

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 77.58

BCB (bus stop and approaches) 1,458.00

Earth Trust (Christmas Tree) 122.40

Chris Hill (sundry decorations) 27.96

Dorchester Abbey Room Hire 28/11/12 16.00

G Russell (print purchases) 104.00

Castle Water Sportsground and Pavilion 23.87

CPRE (annual subscription) 36.00

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) 323.75

G Russell (salary) 549.65

£2,739.21

An appeal for a donation has been received from the Wallingford Volunteer Centre which has several clients in Dorchester. Details will be circulated in the folder so that a decision on this request can be made at the January Council meeting.

ii. Funding request from Village School

This has been discussed and minuted above under 2/12 Public Participation (above).

iii. Training opportunities 2019

The Council noted that during coming months the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils is providing training courses about such topics as Internal Audit, Allotments Management and Risk Assessment.

iv. 2019/2020 Precept

The precept must be set at the Council’s January meeting. The Clerk will prepare the estimated expenditure figures for the current year.

10/12 Land Registration: ‘Waterloo’ and War Memorial

No further developments have been reported by Wellers Hedley, the Council’s solicitor. There is no longer any direct communication between the Clerk and either the Watsons and their representatives or the Diocesan office in Birmingham.

Cllr Rob Ballantyne told the Council that he has come across a case in planning law which, although in a different part of the country, seems similar to the controversial fencing issue near the River Thame at Bridge End. Citing this as a precedent may give the District Council’s Planning Enforcement Team the opportunity to get involved and bring matters to a conclusion. Rob will draft a letter for the Council’s approval at its January meeting.

11/12. Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

The problem of the road flooding outside the water treatment works in Henley Road has received attention from the County Council’s contractors. This has not been successful in solving the problem that the road always floods following heavy rain. The Highways Inspector has been asked to get the contractors back.

12/12. Affordable Housing – follow up to public meeting

A special Council meeting had been held on 28th November when representatives from both the South Oxfordshire and Sovereign Housing Associations had presented their credentials for selection as the partner for the proposed development at Allen’s Pit. Cllr Rob Ballantyne proposed that Sovereign should be selected. This was seconded by Cllr Keith Russell and unanimously approved.

It was suggested that the remainder of the Allen’s Pit site should be managed along the same lines as have been adopted by the Hurst Water Meadow Trust. It is an ‘exception site’ and so the Parish Council can set out whatever conditions it likes in return for supporting the exceptional development.

It was agreed that following Sovereign’s appointment a further meeting should be held as soon as possible, especially to talk about design.

13/12 Commemorative Tree Planting

Cllr Viviane Quirke has re-potted the remembrance trees as recommended and is keeping them in her greenhouse. With the Rector being so busy at this time, Viviane suggests leaving the planting until the New Year when a small ceremony could be arranged wherever the location has been decided. The Chairman and Cllr Williams are asked to advise where this should be.

14/12 Local Highways Maintenance including winter measures.

The Clerk confirmed that a new supply of salt has been ordered along with a new salt bin to be located near the Bridge End car park.

The County Council has arranged for the trees outside The Priory to be cut and some repairs to the road surface around The Green in Bridge End have been marked out.

15/12 OCC Town/Parish Meeting on 17th January in Sonning Common

The Chairman has confirmed that he will attend this afternoon event.

16/12 Maintenance of area between Page Furlong and Demesne Field

Andrew Clements is to write a briefing document describing the full programme of work that is to be carried out. Even though this project is still at an early stage, there has already been a noticeable improvement to the area’s appearance.

17/12 Required Actions following Tree Survey Results

Two quotes have been received for the work required on the tree near the entrance to the Recreation Ground. This is a prominent location and since one of the options involves total removal of the existing tree, it was agreed that the contractors should be asked to advise upon replacement planting.

18/12 Pavilion Showers

The work to install a new system has commenced.

19/12 Oxford Cambridge Expressway Action Group Funding

The Chairman will request the bank account details of the Oxford Cambridge Expressway Action Group so that the Council’s contribution towards the Group’s campaign costs can be paid.

20/12 Additional Defibrillator

It was agreed that the Chairman will complete the application form to release some funds from District Cllr John Cotton’s allowance.

21/12 Routine Reports:

1. Sports Pavilion & Playground;

Repairs which were identified as required during the RoSPA safety inspector’s visit in July will be carried out in the New Year.

1. Footpaths;

Nothing to report

1. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

The Clerk and BCB have discussed the work that needs carrying out before the adopt A Grave Scheme becomes fully operational. This will be carried out shortly.

1. Allotments

Revisions to the Allotments Society rules are in progress along with an application for an orchard to be planted over the archaeological excavations of recent years.

Meeting closed at 9.54 p.m.