**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th January 2019 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill, presided; present were Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne, Maurice Day, Oliver Margison, 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, District Cllr John Cotton and three residents.

1/1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mike Rimmer.

2/1 Public Participation

Two residents of Wittenham Lane said that they wished to object to the proposed single storey rear extension at 26 Bridge End (P18/S4173/HH & P18/S4174/LB). They would be sending the full details of their objections to SODC. These include the loss of parking spaces and increased traffic that would follow if the development went ahead and a potential loss of privacy caused by overlooking from a new window in the extended property.

A resident from Page Furlong attended on behalf of her neighbours and explained the ongoing work that is being carried out by volunteers along the boundary of Page Furlong with the public footpath that runs along the edge of the demesne field. The group requests that the Parish Council funds the hiring of a chipper to assist with the disposal of unwanted arisings. This is a more urgent requirement than a second visit by professional tree-surgeons. The volunteers are supplying seeds for new planting.

3/1 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

4/1 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 12th December 2018

It was proposed by Cllr Keith Russell that the minutes as circulated should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Oliver Margison and carried unanimously. The Chairman signed the Minutes as being a true record.

5/1 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The application for funding from District Cllr. John Cotton’s special projects budget towards the cost of a defibrillator in the old phone box at Bridge End had been submitted out of time. There is now a significant delay before new applications can be made and so the Parish Council will consider funding the purchase itself.

The request for funds to be spent at the Village School (see Minute 2/12 2018) will have to be met from the Council’s budget for discretionary giving (S.137 funds). The Clerk reported that the allowance per elector would increase from £7.86 in the current year (with approximately 835 electors, around £6,560) to £8.12 in 2019/20 (£6,780).

6/1 County Councillor’s Report

A written report from County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale has been circulated.

7/1 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr John Cotton forecast that there will be Council Tax rises from the County, District and Police. He encouraged Councillors to play an active role in the consultation process for the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

8/1 Planning

P18/S4173/HH & P18/S4174/LB 26 Bridge End; Proposed single storey rear extension; The Council agreed with the objections that had already been raised during Public Participation. In addition, Cllr Margison pointed out that the plans submitted with the application showed that the ceiling height of the proposed new room would be inadequate. It was proposed by Cllr Margison and seconded by Cllr Ballantyne that the Council should object to the application. This was unanimously agreed.

P18/S4265/FUL 41 Abingdon Road; Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a two-storey family home with basement level. This application had only just been received and it was agreed that the Clerk should request an extension to the consultation period so that it could be considered by the Council at in February.

ii. Belcher Court access; Possible encroachment on land owned by Parish Council.

The Chairman has written to Steve Lynch of SOHA but no reply has been received.

iii. South Oxfordshire Local Plan Consultation

The documents are all available on-line and drop-in meetings which are open to all will be held throughout the District during the next few weeks.

9/1 Finance;

i. Bank balances

Current Account balance at 28/12 £50,117.03

Reserve Account balance at 4/1 £47,916.92

£98,033.95

Cllr Keith Russell proposed that the following payments should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Oliver Margison and unanimously agreed.

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 77.58

BCB (bonfire site repair) 810.00

(Footsteps has paid PC £530 towards this – same as last year)

Bespoke Building Services (Pavilion showers) 3,150.00

(Cricket and football clubs’ contribution is £1,000)

Tom Cottrell Landscapes Demesne Field Page Furlong path works 840.00

(Residents have contributed £350)

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) 297.50

G Russell (OALC Training Fees) 108.00

G Russell (salary) 549.65

BCB Cemetery groundworks 2,706.00

Oxfordshire County Council (Flyer December) 150.00

£8,688.73

It was agreed that the Council should use Dorchester News to publicise the work that has recently been carried out in the Cemetery and the Pavilion.

An appeal for a donation has been received from Wallingford Volunteer Centre. The details will be circulated and a decision made at the February meeting.

ii. Parish Precept 2019/20

The Precept has been set at £42,280 for the last four years. It was proposed by Cllr Mark Williams and seconded by Cllr Viviane Quirke that this should be unchanged for 2019/20 and this was unanimously agreed.

10/1 Land Registration: ‘Waterloo’ and War Memorial and other areas

The Council approved the text of a letter drafted by Cllr Rob Ballantyne and addressed to Planning Enforcement concerning the enclosure of land alongside the bank of the River Thame.

The Clerk will prepare papers concerning the Village War Memorial to be submitted to the Land Registry by Wellers Hedleys.

11/1 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

a. The Council noted that Malcolm Corry wishes to stand down as the coordinator of the Speedwatch campaign and will do its best to find a suitable replacement. The Speedwatch equipment is now being kept in Benson Parish Hall.

b. The Clerk reported that a resident of Beechcroft has complained about the amount of dog mess in the area of her property. The Parish Council has no powers to intervene in this situation but will do whatever it can to get the situation resolved.

c. There have been complaints about the surface of ‘Cheyney Lane’. In the past, this important link alongside the Village Hall has been repaired by the County Council and the officers will be asked to arrange this again.

12/1 Affordable Housing Project

A meeting on 10th January has been arranged with Stuart Roberts of Sovereign and will be attended by the Chairman and Cllr Rob Ballantyne.

13/1 Maintenance of area between Page Furlong and Demesne Field

In addition to the comments made during Public Participation at the start of this meeting a detailed management plan has been received from Andrew Clements. The Council agreed to pay £300 for the hiring of a chipper.

14/1 Local Highways Maintenance including winter measures.

The Council’s supply of free salt has been delivered in 25kg bags to the BCB depot at Queenford Farm and will be moved as soon as possible to the storage area that has been made available at The George Hotel.

The new Salt Bin for Bridge End car park is still awaited. It will be located next to the building housing the public lavatories. A Salt Bin has unexpectedly been delivered to the grass verge by the entrance to the Recreation Ground and will be retained.

15/1 Pavilion Showers

The newly installed showers have been used and welcomed as a big improvement.

16/1 Oxford Cambridge Expressway Action Group Funding

The Parish Council has agreed to provide £1,000 to forwards the cost of this Action Group’s campaign. Details of the Group’s bank account are awaited.

17/1 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion & Playground; The November Bonfire damage has been repaired with the cost kept down by recycling soil to Abbey View. Footsteps Foundation paid £530 towards this expense.

b. Footpaths; It is understood that an application has been made which will mean that the footpath through Bishops Court Farm is re-routed. More details will be requested from the County Footpaths Officer.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard; A new mole presence in the Abbey Closed Churchyard has been reported to Denis Froud by Keith Russell and the Clerk has passed on some news about more moles on The Green at Bridge End, which is part of the same contract for ongoing control.

d. Allotments; The new tenancy agreement is being drafted.

18/18 Any Other Urgent Matters

a. It was agreed that the 2018 commemorative tree received from the County Council would be kept under cover pending the arrival of warmer weather.

b. Young’s Tree Services having produced the more competitive quote, it was agreed that they should be asked to take down the damaged tree at the corner of the Recreation Ground and grind the stump before a new planting nearby.

Meeting closed at 9.52 p.m.