**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th March 2019 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill, presided; present were Cllrs. Maurice Day, Viviane Quirke, Mike Rimmer, Keith Russell and Mark Williams (Vice-Chairman) with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were two residents.

1/3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Rob Ballantyne and Oliver Margison, District Cllr John Cotton and County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale.

2/3 Public Participation

Two representatives from the Village Speedwatch Committee attended the meeting and briefed the Council about their plans to re-start their activities just before Easter. One of the volunteers might be accompanied by her children and it was suggested by the Chairman that the police should be asked if this would be acceptable.

Some ideas to strengthen the campaign were suggested. These included the introduction of a 20-mph speed limit in the village centre and flashing speed-warning signs at up to four locations within the village. It was suggested that village residents should be asked for their reactions to these proposals. In the meantime, it was noted that there had recently been some police activity in Abingdon Road and it was thought that several motorists had been fined for speeding.

3/3 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The Chairman re land at Waterloo and behind 13 Bridge End as before (Minute 3/3 2018).

4/3 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th February 2019

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

5/3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Cheyney Lane – the request for resurfacing has now been logged on FixMyStreet. This is the County Council’s preferred way of receiving reports about required repairs. The Clerk confirmed that he had been told by Mr Nigel Oddy that the stone wall boundary between Cheyney Lane and The White Hart would be repaired.

b. The work on the High Street bus shelter is being progressed although it is now unlikely that it will be completed before the new Council year begins in April. The anchor post is to be re-installed.

c. The damaged keep left bollard at the Abingdon Road/High Street junction has also been logged on FixMyStreet.

d. There has been some excavation work outside the water works on Henley Road but it is not known if this has had any impact on the serious flooding problem which occurs at this location after any heavy rainfall.

e. The Council’s arboricultural adviser, Sarah Venners, hopes to inspect the horse chestnut tree near the electricity pylon adjacent to property on Martins Lane. She will be reviewing what further work is needed following the removal of ivy last Autumn.

f. The no parking sign at the Queen Street/High Street junction has been repainted. It has been anonymously reported as ‘graffiti’ on FixMyStreet. In the past the County Council had said that if this happened, they would remove the mark and charge the person concerned with the expense of having to do this. It will no doubt be noticed when the crew comes to repaint the white lines at the junction. Although the Parish Council has no powers in these matters, it was agreed that this sign can help the movement of large vehicles such as school buses through this junction and the County Council officers should be informed of this.

6/3 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale’s monthly report for March has been received and circulated.

7/3 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr John Cotton has asked the Clerk to inform the Parish Council that he will not be seeking re-election to the District Council in May. He will, however, attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th April. Cllr Cotton has advised the Clerk to progress the Belcher Court access and maintenance matters with Margaret Reed at SODC and this will be done.

8/3 Planning

i. Applications:

P19/S0541/FUL 31 Martins Lane

Construction of a new 3-bedroom detached dwelling on two floors, plus separate garage.

The Council agreed that it had no objections to this Application as long as the planning officers do not consider that the proposed height is excessive.

P19/S0416/HH Plough House 1 Abingdon Road

Moving the siting of a garden fence within the boundary of the property.

The Council agreed that it had no objections to this Application

P19/S0745/LDP 18 Oxford Road Cert of Lawful Dev for single storey rear extension and replacement rear window.

The Council noted this Application for permitted development.

ii. Belcher Court

The reply from Freeths concerning access arrangements across land owned by Parish Council has been circulated. It is thought that the District Council still has a role in resolving this matter and it was agreed that the Clerk should bring this matter to the attention of SODC’s Legal Services Team.

iii. Oxfordshire Plan 2050

There is the possibility of a Parish Council response to the statement of vision and objectives and the sustainability appraisal, particularly following the publication of a document by CPRE on 20th February. Cllr Rimmer was asked to draft this response.

9/3 Finance;

i. Bank balances & payments

Current Account balance at 28/2//19 £39,262.55

Reserve Account balance at 5/3/19 £47,932.41

 £87,194.96

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

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 92.76

Oxfordshire County Council (Flyer 2 months) 300.00

Young’s Tree Services Ltd (felling tree in Rec.) 1,080.00

Tom Cottrell Landscapes (Allotments fence) 252.00

Artisan Litho Ltd (new pubs and shops leaflet) 331.00

S.J. Aplin Playgrounds Ltd (play area repairs) 4,190.64

Chris Hill (Land Registry fees) 24.00

Town & Country Memorials Ltd (new plaque) 117.60

SLCC Enterprise (new edition of Local Council Administration) 108.79

Castle Water Limited (Pavilion) 74.38

Castle Water Limited (Allotments) 488.31

OALC (annual sub) 202.44

Community First Oxfordshire (annual sub) 70.00

OPFA (annual sub) 42.00

JRN Enterprises Ltd 234.24

Dorchester on Thames Village Hall (telephone/broadband) 992.14

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) 306.25

Playground Appeal 2,000.00

G Russell (salary) 549.65

 £11,456.20

It was agreed that Dorchester News should be used to promote the improvements to the children’s play area that arise from the expenditure with S.J.Aplin Playgrounds Limited.

The Council has received an appeal for a donation from Wallingford Volunteer Centre. It was agreed to make a payment of £150 at the April Council meeting.

ii. The Clerk confirmed that in the current financial year the total amount of S137 Donations must not be greater than £6,560. It is not thought that purchasing a defibrillator for the ‘phone box in Bridge End need be considered as a S137 payment. This can easily be checked well before the year end, but the Chairman has circulated the Council with details and costs in case an urgent decision is required.

iii. The Clerk confirmed that Kevin Rose, the Council’s Internal auditor, will be requested to complete his report so the Annual Return can be signed on 12th June.

10/3 Land Registration: ‘Waterloo’; War Memorial and other areas

An Inspector has been appointed to examine the Council’s complaint about land being fenced in without planning permission being applied for.

The Clerk said that he was still waiting for replies following the letter from Wellers Hedleys to Barratt & Co as reported in the minutes of the Council’s February meeting.

11/3 Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

Details of arrangements for the Parish Council Election on 2nd May have been received. They will be circulated to all councillors and placed on notice boards.

12/3 Affordable Housing Project

The Chairman reported that Sovereign is making progress with the scheme and has agreed to take part in a drop-in consultation session to be held in the Abbey Guest House during the afternoon of Wednesday 17th April, prior to presenting at the Annual Parish Meeting that evening. A representative from SODC’s Housing department will also be present to give advice. Cllr Hill invited Cllrs Ballantyne and Rimmer to attend the consultation session as well.

13/3 Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2019

The Chairman and Clerk will, respectively, present the Annual Report and the Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31st March 2019. The meeting will also include reports from the County and District Councillors and a selection of special project groups.

14/3 Dorchester Fireworks Saturday 2nd November

The date is confirmed. The Footsteps Foundation will again head up the organisation.

15/3 Defibrillator in Bridge End Phone Box

The two existing defibrillators – one in The White Hart and one at the Pavilion - were purchased in March/April 2015 through Ian Graney at trade prices for around £1,260 each including VAT and fitting. This source is no longer available and so quotes are now being obtained from potential new suppliers. The Clerk will obtain information from Long Wittenham Parish Council who put their former phone box to similar use. It was proposed by Cllr Mark Williams that this project should go ahead. The motion was seconded by Cllr Viviane Quirke and approved unanimously.

16/3 Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion, Recreation Ground & Playground;

Following the recent play area repairs it was agreed that Dorchester News should be used to give more publicity to the facility. Ian Brace would be asked to publish some photographs.

There is a proposal to equip the play area with a roundabout that can be used by children with limited mobility. The contractors have been asked to advise where this should be sited and to provide a quotation.

The Council has received information about new sources of adult fitness kit. Members of the village cricket and football teams will be potential users, but the Council agreed that it needs some evidence that other residents would also use it.

The London Plane tree near the corner vehicle entrance to the Recreation Ground has recently been felled as being unsafe. The field is surrounded by more than 30 substantial trees of varying types, but this was the only London Plane. The Council will use Dorchester News to invite suggestions for its replacement.

b. Footpaths;

There are still no details of the application for a variation in the route of the footpath around the buildings at Bishops Court Farm.

It was agreed that an attempt should be made to register the path that runs from Drayton Road to the Hurst Water Meadow. The three sections would be from Drayton Road to the access from Page Furlong; along the length which runs parallel to Martins Lane; and from Monks Close to The Hurst. Sarah Venners will be asked to carry out a tree survey along this whole length.

The members of Wallingford Green Gym will be visiting the village soon and it was suggested that they should concentrate their efforts along the Cemetery path including the area to the right of the Cemetery access towards Herringcote.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

The ‘Adopt a Grave’ programme continues to receive publicity in Dorchester News. It was suggested that more trees should be removed from the central area and this will be reviewed.

d. Allotments

Repairs to the perimeter fence have been carried out by Tom Cottrell Landscapes. The draft new tenancy agreement is now with Cllr Hill and will be finalised after consultation with Ed Metcalfe.

A proposal is required before the ‘community orchard’ project can be developed.

There has been more unauthorised car parking on the allotment grounds. Cllr Hill will get some more notices posted.

17/3 Any Other Urgent Matters

It was suggested that the Parish Council should try to have more contact with the Co-Op to explore the possibility of working more closely on local projects.

Meeting closed at 10.13 p.m.