**Dorchester Parish Council**

Due to the prevailing Government Regulations, the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 12th August 2020 was held remotely via Zoom in accordance with the guidance published by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on Friday 3rd April and circulated to councillors on that date. The Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman, Cllr Mark Williams, presided with Cllrs. Rob Ballantyne (Vice-Chairman), Mike Corran, Maurice Day, Chris Hill, Viviane Quirke, Mike Rimmer and Keith Russell, together with G Russell (Clerk to the Council) all of whom had both visual and audio access. They were joined for part of the meeting by County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, District Cllr Robin Bennett and two residents.

1/8. Chairman’s Opening Remarks and Apologies for Absence

All Councillors were present for the meeting. The Chairman announced that he had been informed by Cllr Viviane Quirke that this would be her last meeting as a Councillor due to her growing volume of teaching work at Oxford Brookes. She will be sorely missed.

2/8 Public Participation

The owner of 26 Martins Lane attended the meeting in case there were any questions concerning the proposals covered by P20/S2119/FUL and P20/S2127/HH and a resident who lives in Bridge End said that he would like the Council to re-consider the wording of recent notices that the Council has posted at the entrance to ‘Waterloo’ – see item 14/8 below.

3/8 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr. Mark Williams concerning village maintenance work that is carried out by any company with whom he works, principally grass-cutting and grounds maintenance.

4/8 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2020

The Council noted some changes that the Clerk had made to the original draft of the second paragraph of item 14/7 after these had been requested by Cllr Chris Hill.

It was proposed by Cllr Keith Russell that these revised minutes should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Rimmer and passed unanimously.

5/8 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk has ordered more anti dog-fouling notices from SODC and will place a notice in Dorchester News asking for dog walkers to pay more attention to managing this problem. The Council will re-introduce the spraying of areas where dog-fouling has taken place. This policy of ‘public shaming’ has been found to cause people to take more care. The area where spraying takes place could include the paths across The Hurst Water Meadow and, with the approval of the owner, Bishops Court Farm.

Cllr Rob Ballantyne said that he hopes that it will be possible to have a light installed to illuminate the path between the by-pass bus stop and the bridge over Drayton Road. A new safety rail is needed alongside the nearby steps.

6/8 . Update on measures being taken to care for residents during present crisis

The Play Area opened on 11th July and is being cleaned regularly. Special Covid-19 warning notices have been posted with instructions for users of the equipment.

It is hoped that the Village Hall will be re-opened on Monday 24th August. District Cllr Robin Bennett asked if the Hall would be able to provide any space for use by the School if this is found to be required as a precautionary measure when the term starts in September with the new headteacher, Jo Staples.

7/8. Planning Applications:

P20/S2379/N4B Bishop Court Farm, High Street; Change of use of agricultural building to single dwellinghouse, located at Bishops Court Farm, Dorchester-on-Thames. Access via track western side of High Street.

The proposal will be supported. There is a village shortage of two-bedroom properties.

P20/S2119/FUL 26 Martins Lane; Proposed subdivision and erection of new dwelling and creation of new vehicular access and associated parking area.

There were No Objections to this proposal.

P20/S2127/HH 26 Martins Lane; Proposed demolition of existing garage, extension and alterations to existing dwelling, erection of new detached garage. No Objections.

P20/S2305/HH Overy Paddock; Reinstatement of original roof height to create first floor habitable space with a balcony to the rear elevation. Replacement of bi folding door to rear elevation. Associated facade works and internal re-modelling.

After all Councillors looked at this proposal on-line and the advice of Professor Malcolm Airs had been received, it was agreed that the Council had No Objections to this proposal.

P20/S2466/HH 47 Watling Lane; Remove existing shed and construct garden room in timber.

There were No Objections to this proposal.

8/8 County Councillor’s Report

The County Councillor’s written report for August has been circulated. It will be published in Dorchester News and available to read via a link in the village website.

9/8 District Councillor’s Report

The District Councillor’s written report for August has been circulated. It will be published in Dorchester News and available to read via a link in the village website.

10/8 . Council’s Four-Year Vision

As part of its desire to enhance the Village environment, the Parish Council will support the September Cleaning Project sponsored by Keep Britain Tidy and supported by South Oxfordshire District Council. Notices will be posted asking for volunteers to make themselves available during the weekend of 12th and 13th September.

11/8. Finance:

NatWest Current Account balance at 30/7 £40,597.57

NatWest Reserve Account balance at 5/8 £48,053.16

£88,650.73

The following payments were approved:

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 92.76

The Landscape Group Oxford (July grass) 1,855.50

The Landscape Group Oxford (Cemetery bench repairs) 348.00

Jenks Oxford (Emergency recreation ground tree work) 2,160.00

SSE Southern Electric (Pavilion) 142.92

SODC (Dog waste bin collections) 484.38

Tina Pratt (play area cleansing) 136.00

WED Medical Ltd (Defibrillator for Bridge End phone box) 1,500.00

Neil Willis – (strimming) 131.25

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman extra hours on Dorchester Bridge) 525.00

G Russell (salary) 810.33

£8,186.14

ii. On-line Banking Application

The Clerk confirmed that the on-line banking service is now available.

12/8. Correspondence with Chairman and/or Clerk

In response to a letter from a resident it was agreed that the notice about dogs using the Recreation Ground having to be kept on a lead would be replaced by a notice saying that dog walkers are asked to consider keeping their animals on a lead to avoid unnecessary contact with others.

13/8. Village Maintenance including Tree Care and Volunteer Projects

The team from Wallingford Green Gym had visited on 4th August.

The gravedigger is to be contacted to discuss future siting of grave spoil deposits.

14/8 Village Parking Management and Traffic Speeds

The Council noted that OCC has repainted the white lines at the junction of High Street and Queen Street and placed new lines at the entrances to Beechcroft and Malthouse Lane.

The Clerk confirmed that a County Council-led traffic survey has been requested for the second half of September but, as yet, this timing has not been confirmed.

After some discussion with residents who live in Bridge End near ‘Waterloo’ it was agreed that the wording of signage about parking vehicles to facilitate the launching of small boats into the River Thame will be reviewed.

The Clerk said that Abbey View Meadow would be available for parking by visitors attending the Manor House Garden Opening on Sunday 23rd August.

It was reported that access to the Cemetery is occasionally blocked by cars parked next to the new houses in Martins Lane. The tidying of the planting on the opposite side of this access, by the Herringcote boundary wall, will be carried out soon.

15/8. Defibrillators

The new defibrillator for Bridge End has been fitted. Signs to mark the outside of the phone box will be ordered. Spare parts are required for the pavilion defibrillator and these will be ordered. The purchase of an extra key for the defibrillator cabinet at The White Hart would be useful. A new ‘guardian’ needs to be recruited to replace Cllr Viviane Quirke. This does not need to be a member of the Parish Council.

16/8. Tennis Court Repainting

The Clerk reported that it is expected that this will be done in the second half of August.

17/8. Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion Recreation Ground & Playground;

The RoSPA Play Safety inspection is expected in the next week. The Clerk will meet the inspector on site.

b. Footpaths;

The Clerk will photograph the section of the footpath which leads from Rotten Row to Allotments to show the puddles that form after heavy rain and which need filling in.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

The Council agreed that there are several graves which are no longer being maintained by family members where trees have become established and should now be removed.

The Landscape Group Oxford has repaired two benches including the one that commemorates the life of Denis Cooper. A contribution towards the cost of this may be forthcoming from the family.

The existing Cemetery Regulations from 2007 will be reviewed for publication on the village website along with some general information about the Cemetery.

d. Allotments

The Allotment Society has paid £144 as a contribution toward the cost of recent skip hiring. Another quotation for the repairs to the perimeter fence will be obtained along with costings for cutting back some perimeter hedging.

18/8. Any Other Urgent Matters

Cllr Viviane Quirke said that she had greatly enjoyed her time on the Parish Council. She had been taught a lot about local affairs and was therefore very grateful for the opportunity.

Cllr Keith Russell said that he hopes the Parish Council would soon be able to hold its meetings in the Village Hall. As Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee he feels that this would send a good message to other potential Village Hall clients.

The Meeting closed at 9.43 p.m.