**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Back Room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th June 2022 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Mark Williams, presided with Cllrs Rob Ballantyne, Mike Corran, Maurice Day, John Edwards, Chris Hill, Mike Rimmer and Keith Russell present and with G Russell (Council Clerk) in attendance.

1/6. Apologies For Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from County and District Councillor Robin Bennett.

2/6. 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. It was also noted that Cllr Williams lives close to the proposed new vehicular access to Bishop’s Court Farm.

Cllr Keith Russell said that as a close neighbour of 36 Martins Lane he would take no part in the discussion about the Planning Application P21/S5128/HH

3/6. Election of Parish Council Chairman 2022/23

Cllr Mark Williams vacated the chair and Geoff Russell, Clerk, asked Councillors for their nominations. Cllr Mark Williams was proposed by Cllr Rob Ballantyne and seconded by Cllr Keith Russell. There were no other nominations and Cllr Mark Williams was declared elected to serve as Chairman for 2022/23. He resumed the chair.

4/6. Election of Parish Council Vice-Chairman 2022/23

Cllr Rob Ballantyne was proposed by Cllr Keith Russell and seconded by Cllr Chris Hill. There were no other nominations and Cllr Rob Ballantyne was declared elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2022/23.

5/6. Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

6/6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2022

It was proposed by Cllr Chris Hill that the Minutes as circulated should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Rob Ballantyne and passed unanimously. The Chairman signed the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

7/6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Platinum Jubilee; the new picnic bench for the Play Area needs the Jubilee logo adding to it. Dan Haines has been asked to do this. Following the Abbey’s Party in the Cloister Garden on 5th June, Cllr Mike Corran will recover any unused party hats and accessories for storage.

b. Premises Licence Application for The Snug Café; confirmation of the planned opening hours was received today. The Council has already responded to the Application and referred the licensing officer to the NDP Planning Policy DOT 14 Peace & Tranquility of Dorchester-on-Thames.

This emphasises the importance residents placed on this aspect when contributing toward data gathering for the NDP. Those potentially impacted by the extension of licensing hours and associated activity at The Snug Café include new residents of the barn conversions on the Farm as well as existing residents in the vicinity.

The Parish Council recommends that should this licence be approved mitigation measures are put in place to limit the impact as described above. It is expected that several village residents will also communicate with the licensing officer.

c New Council photograph; all Councillors expect to be present on 6th July.

d. The Clerk is progressing the reprinting of Parish guides with updates where required since the editions of 2017. He is also investigating the costs involved with restoring or replacing the 5 ‘Orientation Boards’ that were produced with funding provided by ‘Hidden Britain’ in 2006/7.

e. The Clerk confirmed that he has met with Adam Russell, the site manager of the team that is now working at The George. Although the emphasis to date has been upon repairs and refurbishment, the new owners will soon be submitting applications for planning permission and listed building consent. It is understood that members of the District Council’s planning team are regularly making site visits to monitor the work in progress.

8/6. County and District Council Reports

Apologies for absence have been received from Cllr Robin Bennett who is away. His reports have been circulated in advance of the meeting and will appear in the Dorchester News and Village website.

Cllr Bennett has said that he will contact Sovereign about the status of the Allens Pit project. The Parish Council is concerned about the lack of any recent progress towards achieving this development, which is part of the approved NDP.

9/6. Planning Applications:

P22/S1802/FUL Land to the east of Oxford Road and North of Minchin Recreation Ground; Demolish all structures, clear the site and erect a single storey 2-bed dwelling. Resubmission of P19/S1825/FUL with additional info in respect of Trees, Landscaping, Materials, Soil Contamination, SuDS, Surface water and Foul water.

Noted; the Parish Council had no comments

P22/S1943/HH 26 Martins Lane ; Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) in application P20/S2127/HH. To include a revised version of the drawings. Proposed demolition of existing garage, extension and alterations to existing dwelling, erection of new detached garage.

Noted; the Parish Council had no comments

P22/S1878/N4B Bishop’s Court Farm 93 High Street

Prior approval for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building to use as a dwellinghouse (use Class C3).

Noted; the Parish Council had no comments

P22/S1826/FUL Bishop’s Court Farm 93 High Street

Relocation of agricultural barns - part retrospective amendments to previously approved planning application P21/S4380/FUL.

Noted; the Parish Council had no comments although one councillor queried whether this is a rebuild rather a relocation.

Councillors wondered whether there is any limit to the number of barn conversions that can take place under Permitted Development rules. Could there come a point when new barns have to be built for agricultural use?

P22/S1723/LB and P22/S1722/HH The Chequers 20 Bridge End; Single storey lean-to rear extension and fitting of solar panels to existing garage roof

Noted; the Parish Council had no comments and is expecting the Conservation Officer to ensure that the visibility of the solar panels is not a problem in the Conservation Area.

P21/S5128/HH 36 Martins Lane (amended by plan received 10th May 2022)

New roof to provide living space; porch on front of property; rear extension to fill in small courtyard; pitched roof on existing extension

(As a near neighbour Cllr Keith Russell declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about this planning application)

There were no objections.

10/6 . Bishop’s Court Farm; Consultants’ Reports

The Traffic Survey results will be reviewed. Do they meet the concerns that were previously raised about the impact of the proposed new access? Cllr Mike Corran will facilitate contact with the Farm’s professional team and the Clerk will ask for the Planning Officer’s permission to allow the Parish Council to discuss the matter at its July meeting

The Council agreed that the proposed new Housing Needs Survey should be carried out by Community First, the organisation that assisted the Parish Council with the last Housing Needs Survey, which was conducted in 2018.

The Council welcomed the suggestion to improve communications between the Council and BCF with regular contact between councillors and Yolandi Evans for the Farm and by having BCF representatives attend a Council meeting in the near future.

11/6. Finance: Bank Balances and Payments

NatWest Business Reserve Account 8th June 2022 £48,068.73

NatWest Current Account 8th June 2022 £17,641.56

£65,710.29

Unity trust bank balance £464.00

Total £66,174.29

Cllr Mike Corran proposed that the following payments should be made. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Rimmer and approved unanimously:

Zurich Insurance (annual premium) 2,257.75

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 92.76

The Landscape Group Oxford (May grass and bus stop) 1,497.66

Insignia Ltd (Jubilee book marks) 600.00

Malcolm Lucas (Jubilee Party decorations) 102.45

Phil Greenaway (War Memorial planting) 37.71

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) 370.50

G Russell (salary) 851.72

£5,810.55

12/6. Chairman and/or Clerk Correspondence

a. The White Hart planning breach; it is understood that the Planning Enforcement team at SODC is taking action over the newly fitted doors and windows which do not conform with the planning permission.

b. Women’s Cycle Race Saturday 11th June; Village residents are being informed about the timing of the Race which is routed along the by-pass and then into Burcot rather than through the village itself. It is expected that local traffic will be delayed due to road closures..

c. The Car Boot Sale in support of the Nasio volunteers which was provisionally booked for 26th June is now believed to have been postponed

d. It has been confirmed that the Scouts’ ‘Aqua Camp’ on Bishop’s Court Farm is going ahead 17th – 19th June. The Recreation Ground will be used as a drop-off/pick-up area on the Friday and Sunday with some parking for staff and instructors.

13/6. ` Matters arising from Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May

a. The suggestion of placing a barrier at the bus stop opposite Meadside has been turned down by County Highways.

b. Treescape and OX10 Group; the information received from these groups is being circulated to councillors and Andrew Clements. It was agreed that an elm tree should be planted on the Oxford Road boundary of the Recreation Ground to replace the silver birch that had to be removed due to its decay (Tree Ref 973). This would be done later in the year.

c. There will be a Village Information evening in February 2023.

d. The Development and Improvement Plan for the Village Hall is being revised.

14/6 Pavement and Event Parking Controls

Pavement obstructions; no action taken by police as far as is known. Complaints, including photographs, continue to be sent to the Community Support Team.

Event Parking; more advance publicity about parking locations for visitors will be supplied to event organisers with the request that this is passed on. The Village website displays the parking map, which can be downloaded.

15/6. Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion, Recreation Ground & Playground (including plans for improvements);

i. Gigaclear has been asked to supply the pavilion with a connection to broadband.

ii. Play area improvements; a new multi-use roundabout is estimated to cost £10k. It was suggested that the Council should provide half and that the balance should come from a fund-raising scheme, possibly including a grant from the Council.

iii. Pavilion improvements; nothing to report.

b. Footpaths;

i. The Parish Council no longer has its own strimmer and so The Landscape Group would be asked to cut the area around the car park in Bridge End.

ii. The Blackwell Family memorial bench should be delivered soon. It will be located against Abbey churchyard wall opposite Dorchester Fireplaces.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

Nothing to report.

d. Allotments.

Some plots are available.

16/6. . Any Other Urgent Matters

a. Mike Corran said that he understood that the recent Dorchester Festival had raised over £50k. The Council would send its congratulations to Festival Organiser Steph Forman.

b. John Edwards reported that the boundary between the Drayton Road/Hurst footpath and the Demesne Field includes areas where there is barbed wire. The Clerk will report this to the County Council footpaths officer and seek advice about what can be done to have this safety hazard removed.

c. Chris Hill reported that The Green at Bridge End is being damaged by careless driving. He has reported this and would like the Clerk to write in support of his complaint.

d. The Council’s ‘Four Year Vision’ will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the July meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.