**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Back Room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th August 2022 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Mark Williams, presided with Cllrs Rob Ballantyne, Mike Corran, John Edwards, Chris Hill and Mike Rimmer present and with G Russell (Council Clerk) in attendance. Also present were County and District Councillor Robin Bennett and one resident.

1/8. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Maurice Day and Keith Russell

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2/8. 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

3/8. Public Participation

A resident told the Council that she and her husband are very concerned about the condition of a neighbour’s tree and believe that it is unsafe. The Clerk will pass on this information to Sarah Venners, the Council’s arboricultural expert, and ask her to make direct contact with the resident to offer her services.

4/8. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th July 2022

An addition to the final section of the paragraph headed ‘Planning’ was suggested by Cllr Mike Corran and this was accepted. Cllr Mike Rimmer proposed that the amended minutes should be approved and signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Chris Hill and unanimously approved. The Chairman signed the Minute Book to confirm this.

5/8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. The Chairman said that he had held a meeting about several village maintenance matters with Andrew Clements. He circulated a written report of this meeting on 9th August.

b. Cllr Mike Corran said that he would make enquiries about the status of the 20 mph Village Speed Limit application made by Dorchester Parish Council.

County Cllr Robin Bennett commended OCC’s web page on this subject at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/requesting-20mph>

c. Pavement obstructions; the Council is not aware of any action which has been taken by the Police to tackle this problem.

6/8. County and District Council Reports

Written reports have been received and circulated.

7/8. . Planning

a. Applications:

P22/S2632/HH 32C High Street; Single storey extension

The Council had no comments to make upon this Application.

P22/S2606/FUL Land adjacent to 55 Abingdon Road; Erection of a dwelling house, including creation of garden, parking and other associated infrastructure.

The Council agreed that that this Application should be recommended for refusal as being contrary to the Dorchester NDP policy DoT 8. A detailed explanation of this recommendation will be sent to the Planning Officer.

P22/S2600/HH 5 Martins Lane; Removal of existing garage and erection of 3 bay oak framed garage.

The proposal has been developed based upon the comments received from neighbours about a recent similar application. The Council had no comments.

b. Other Planning Matters:

i. Allens Pit; Cllr Rob Ballantyne will continue to communicate with Sovereign Housing in order to discover the proposed timing for this approved development

ii. Housing Needs Survey; the survey will be distributed in Dorchester News.

iii. Developments at Bishops Court Farm

The pre-application report had suggested that a master-plan would be required and Councillors believe that such a plan would assist in their decision-making when specific aspects of the development are being proposed. The current application for a new access from Abingdon Road is a good example of this. Further contact on this matter will be made with the Planning Officer.

8/8. Finance: Bank Balances and Payments

NatWest Business Reserve Account 10th August 2022 £48,076.50

NatWest Current Account 10th August 2022 £13,169.23

£61,245.73

Unity trust bank balance £464.00

Total £61,709.73

Approval of the following payments was proposed by Cllr Rob Ballantyne. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Rimmer and unanimously agreed.

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 92.76

Denis Froud Pest Control (July to October) 875.00

SSE (Pavilion electricity) 240.52

Dorchester on Thames Cricket Club (2021 grass maintenance) 850.00

The Landscape Group Oxford (July grass/ some hedge cutting) 1,863.66

JRB Enterprise Ltd (dog waste bags) 255.84

Shield Maintenance Ltd (dog waste collection service 1 week July 25.99

Trevor Greenaway (memorial plaque, move dog bin, fix bench) 320.00

Dorchester on Thames Village Hall (room hire) 59.00

Going Forward Buses (Dorchester Flyer July) 50.00

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman 4 weeks) 323.00

G Russell (salary) 851.72

Information Commissioner (annual fee) 40.00

£5,847.49

It was agreed to make a donation of £500 to The Pride of Nasio Appeal. This supports the arrangements for groups of local teenagers to travel to Kenya to carry out practical tasks which improve conditions for the local people and provide life-changing experience for the volunteers. This year eleven of the volunteers are from Dorchester.

It was agreed to make a donation of £100 to the Wallingford Green Gym to thank them for their assistance with Village Maintenance, most recently in Watling Lane.

9/8 . Chairman and/or Clerk Correspondence

Following correspondence received from a local resident it was agreed that two round posts can be fitted into the river close to the landing area at Waterloo. This is to assist users of paddle boards, canoes and the other small craft that are allowed to use this area, especially as the ground gets very slippery.

10/8. Playground Improvements

Cllr Rob Ballantyne has arranged site meetings with three different suppliers and an initial spend of £10k from Parish Council funds was agreed. Additional sums may be available through grants from local organisations and from voluntary fund-raising. Once plans are developed there will be further consultation with village parents.

11/8. Orientation Boards

The Clerk reported that the estimate for renovating and updating the boards is £1,000 - £1,250. The project will be progressed by Cllr John Edwards and the Clerk.

12/8. Gigaclear Progress Report

It has been confirmed by Gigaclear that a connection to the Sports Pavilion can be provided.

Following a site meeting along Watling Lane between local residents and Gigaclear, the Company has confirmed that it will now plan for all the properties along the Lane to be connected.

13/8. Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion, Recreation Ground & Playground

The Play area inspection by RoSPA previously scheduled for July has been postponed for a few weeks.

The Jubilee bench has now been installed

b. Footpaths;

The Shield Group has taken over dog waste collection services throughout the Village. The bin that was no longer needed on the Allotments has been re-located to the top of Oxford Road.

The Clerk will try to contact the owner of the ‘demesne field’ about replacing the barbed wire sections of the fencing between the field and the public footpath that runs from along the full length of the field from Drayton Road to The Hurst Water Meadow.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

Nothing to report.

d. Allotments.

The Allotments Society AGM is arranged for Wednesday 21st September.

14/8. Any Other Urgent Matters

Cllr John Edwards reported that he understands that the sale of the fishing lake on Abingdon Road has not progressed.

The Meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.