**Dorchester Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Back Room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th November 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 G Russell (Council Clerk) in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were two residents.

1/11. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from County and District Councillor Robin Bennett who was away.

2/11. 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

3/11. Public Participation

With the Coronation Date for His Majesty King Charles III now confirmed as Saturday 6th May, the Council was encouraged to start thinking about ways in which this should be celebrated in the Parish. Monday 8th May will be an extra bank holiday. Monday 1st May and Monday 29th May will also be bank holidays.

4/11. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2022

It was proposed by Cllr Rob Ballantyne that the Minutes as circulated should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Corran and passed by all who were present at that Meeting. The Chairman signed the Minute Book as a true and accurate record.

5/11. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. The original artwork for the Orientation boards has not yet been located but the designer, Carrie Webb, says this is not a costly problem. Her most important requirement is for high resolution images.

The new design will include the new Village Greens. Cllr John Edwards has so far received updated copy from The White Hart, The George and Snug Café. It was suggested that a sponsor(s) should be found to offset the cost. The work is scheduled to be completed within the present financial year, which ends on 31st March 2023.

Councillors are asked to view the YouTube video about training in the New Code of Conduct and the link was supplied. Cllr Mike Corran asked Councillors to pay particular attention to the training about the procedure to be adopted when a member of the Council has an interest in a matter that is going to be discussed by colleagues at the meeting.

6**/**11. County andDistrictCouncil Reports

Written reports have been received and circulated. Cllr Robin Bennett was unable to be present due to a commitment elsewhere.

7/11. Planning Applications:

P22/S3780/HH Tall Trees, 6 Manor Farm Road

New metal automated gates within existing stone wall arrangement.

The Council agreed that it had no comments on this Application.

P22/S3721/HH 9 Manor Farm Road

Single storey rear extension

The Council agreed that it had no comments on this Application.

P22/S3615/FUL Dorchester Lake, Drayton Road

Retrospective permission for ground works including recontouring land and redistribution of soil to create a stock pond for fishing.

The Council agreed that it had no comments on this Application.

**Other Planning Matters:**

Bishops Court Farm;

Trevor Avery and Yolandi Evans from LAPD Architects presented the proposed Bishop’s Court Farm Masterplan Site Strategy drawing dated October 2022.

The Parish Council’s opposition to the proposed new access road was confirmed. It is understood that this matter is being referred to the Planning Committee of SODC.

It was reported that some complaints have been received from residents about noise on Sunday evenings. The architects said that these had come from functions held in a small marquee adjacent to The Snug Café with permission granted under Temporary Event Notices. It is intended to create a new and larger hospitality area around the corner from the present café, which will then be used exclusively for retailing, so these problems will not continue.

Concerns were raised about facilities which are described as being of benefit to the whole community – e.g. a ‘village park’ - remaining in the control of private ownership which could change hands in future. Trevor and Yolandi explained that their client is working on the creation of a ’Community Land Trust’ which would deal with these concerns. Further details will be supplied in due course. The creation of ‘community facilities will involve discussion with Dorchester Abbey PCC and the trustees of Dorchester Village Hall.

The BCF consultants agreed that ‘Community Hub’ was not a good description for what is proposed and stressed that their client ‘does not want to compete with the Village Hall’.

The findings from the recently conducted Housing Needs Survey are still being digested. It is likely that the next planning application will be to seek approval for the ‘eco-pods’ by the lake.

Allens Pit Progress Report P/19/S4508/FUL

Cllr Rob Ballantyne has spoken to Nick Fisher of Sovereign Housing and discovered that although the Allens Pit project was not discussed at the October Board Meeting after all, the funding from Homes England is still in place as is Sovereign’s commitment to the project. It is likely, however, that imminent staff changes will cause the delay to be prolonged.

Councillors wondered whether it would be prudent to consider the possibility of an alternative developer and Cllr Ballantyne said that he would discuss this with the team at South Oxfordshire District Council.

8/11. Finance: Bank Balances and Payments

NatWest Reserve Account 9th November 2022 £48,105.22

NatWest Current Account 9th November 2022 £27,352.05

£75,457.27

Unity trust bank balance £428.00

Total £75,885.27

The Council noted that cash receipts in October included £2,511.34 (C.I.L.) £845 (Cemetery) and £395 (Parking fees)

The following payments were unanimously approved:

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental) 92.76

The Landscape Group Oxford (October grass cutting) 1,149.66

The Landscape Group Oxford (Albert Place) 162.60

JRB Enterprise Ltd (dog waste bags) 255.84

SODC – final invoice for dog bin emptying (Apr. to Jul.) 1,251.94

Shield Maintenance Ltd (dog waste collection service October) 108.79

Going Forward Buses (Dorchester Flyer October)

Southern Electric (Pavilion) 242.57

Phil Greenaway War Memorial planting 37.99

Trevor Greenaway – removal of rubbish near Pavilion 50.00

WEL Medical Defibrillator at Pavilion 965.94

CPRE Annual subscription 36.00

Playsafety Limited (RoSPA inspection) 42.00

Open Spaces Society (annual subscription) 45.00

Geoff Willis (Village Handyman) 304.00

G Russell (salary) 851.72

Jill & Mike Corran (bulbs) 14.90

Town & Country Memorials (Cemetery plaque) 271.48

Total £5,883.19

An appeal for funds has been received from Citizens Advice and a repeat donation of £300 was agreed.

9/11. Chairman and/or Clerk Correspondence

a. It was confirmed that the arrangements for the service on Remembrance Sunday are all in place. The Parish Council will pay for the City of Oxford Silver Band to play at the war memorial.

b. The recent correspondence about Conservation Area boundaries was noted. SODC has created a new procedure with the intention of extending the protected areas.

The District Council’s Waste Team has offered to put on a talk about recycling. It is an attempt to spread more confidence in the system and the Clerk is following this up to see what could be arranged in 2023.

c. The Council was advised that very large numbers are expected to attend a Memorial Service in Dorchester Abbey on Thursday 17th November. The organisers are providing several marshals to assist with the arrangements for off-street parking.

d. The Council noted complimentary remarks from former Council Chairman Jenny Nudds about the tidying up work which has been carried out by TLGO at Albert Place, between Bridge End and Samian Way.

10/11. Playground Improvements

The Chairman said the project reports both in Dorchester News and on line had been good and informative.

Cllr Rob Ballantyne confirmed that he has started to arrange some in person meetings starting with one in The White Hart on Monday 14th November. In addition to improvements to the facilities for children there is also some interest in providing equipment for adults. It was also noted that SODC has some outdoor table tennis tables that it would like to donate.

Councillors will try to assess the usage that this sort of kit will get and submit their comments over the next few days.

Cllr Ballantyne is progressing the capital grant applications that both need to be submitted in the near future.

11/11. EV Charging and Climate Emergency Action Policy

The Clerk has circulated his correspondence with OCC and the project ‘s feasibility and cost will be considered in due course.

The Council noted that a letter has been received by the Clerk from a Malt House Lane resident who would like to be near a charging point.

12/11 Village Maintenance Master Plan

a. The email from Andrew Clements dated 3rd November has been circulated and noted. It was agreed that the full parking capacity of AbbeyView Meadow should be retained and not partly given up for tree planting, but two apple trees could be placed near the entrance.

b. Abingdon Road weeds; action by TLGO has been requested.

13/11. Gigaclear Progress Report

The Company’s report was received just before the meeting started. The Clerk will ask for another report which can be circulated in time for it to be digested before the December meeting.

14/11 Village Defibrillators and Training

A new defibrillator has been purchased for the Pavilion and a meeting with the new Area Manager from WEL Medical is fixed for 14th November. Training will be on the agenda. WEL Medical is an Ambulance Service approved supplier.

All three of the village defibrillators have now been registered with ‘The Circuit’ - the service run by the Ambulance Service.

15/11. Routine Reports:

a. Sports Pavilion, Recreation Ground & Playground; An Access survey was carried out by RoSPA last month to provide additional information for the grant application.

The Chairman will look at the options for a replacement elm tree.

b Footpaths; The County Council Countryside Officer suggests recruiting a group of volunteers to remove the barbed wire but the Council decided that this work is better carried out by a team of properly equipped professionals. The Chairman will ask TLGO to take on this project in the near future.

The Clerk has reported the damaged Footpath finger post on Drayton Road and has been told by OCC that it will be repaired.

c. Cemetery/Closed Churchyard;

Dorchester Abbey Wardens have asked if the Parish Council would make a financial contribution to the cost of re-establishing the Rose Walk. The Council does not consider that such expenditure is included in its general responsibility to maintain the Abbey Closed Churchyard. The Clerk will convey this message back to the Wardens.

The Parish Council has been invited to purchase some official Commonwealth War Graves Commission signs to indicate the war graves that are located with Dorchester Cemetery. It was agreed that this should be progressed and the information will be passed to Cllr Chris Hill and colleagues in the Dorchester Branch of The Royal British Legion so that they can recommend which signs should be ordered and how many.

d. Allotments.

Nothing to report

16/11 . Any Other Urgent Matters

The Council noted that the copy deadline for Dorchester News is Friday 11th November.

The Meeting closed at 10.02 p.m.