

## **Dorchester Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Back Room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Mark Williams, presided with Cllrs Rob Ballantyne (Vice-Chairman), Mike Corran, Maurice Day, John Edwards, Chris Hill, Mike Rimmer and Keith Russell present and the Clerk, Geoff Russell, in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were County and District Cllr Robin Bennett and three residents.

### 1/4. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Cllr Williams thanked the four councillors who have decided not to stand for re-election on 4<sup>th</sup> May including Maurice Day who this month completes 40 years of service.

### 2/4. 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.

### 3/4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Rob Ballantyne that the Minutes as circulated should be approved as an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Corran and passed unanimously. The Chairman signed the Minute Book.

### 4/4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Council noted that at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March the District Council's Planning Committee had approved Applications P20/S4467/FUL and P20/S4469/LB which included the creation of a new vehicular access to Bishop's Court Farm from Abingdon Road.

### 5/4 County and District Council Reports

Reports from Cllr Robin Bennett have been received for both the County and District Councils. They will be published in Dorchester News and on-line.

Cllr Bennett agreed to assist the Parish Council in its attempts to have the police stop members of the motor bike owners group that meets on Monday evenings at H Café from driving along the A4074 Dorchester by-pass route at excessive speed which causes noise that it is intolerable for Dorchester residents. Contact with Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, is needed once again.

### 6/4 Planning

#### a. Applications:

P23/S1094/HH The Brook House 2 Drayton Road

Single storey rear extension, rear balconies, two storey front extension, side canopies 2 bay garage block with home office above.

The Council agreed to contact the Planning Officer because this Application proposes a significantly larger extension to a building that has already been extended (in 1980 and 1983) and members consider that the new Application may constitute overdevelopment. It was also noted that the Drayton Road extension is in close proximity to the neighbouring property.

In addition, the Council agreed that some aspects of the SODC Joint Design Guide have not been entirely satisfied; in particular that an extension should respond and respect the character and appearance of the area and the street scene and that it maintains the established building lines and predominant plot plans.

There were also concerns that the proposed two storey garage may encroach on the historic village ditch and some of the tree root protection zones.

P23/S0793/LB 2 Queen Street

Removal of modern paint finishes to original facing brickwork. B. Half-timbering - External decoration. C. Chimney Stacks.

The Council noted the comments that have been made by the Conservation Officer, Emily Tucker, regarding the technique used to remove the existing wall surfacing and will write to the Planning Officer in support of her comments.

b. Allen's Pit and Affordable Housing

Cllr Rob Ballantyne reported a further change of staff at Sovereign Housing but was able to report that Hastoe Housing Association has now indicated a serious interest in taking over the scheme. Hastoe specialises in small rural affordable housing projects in contrast to Sovereign, which tends to be involved in larger schemes. Hastoe is known to have made contact with both Sovereign and the landowner and progress will be reported at the Council's May meeting.

c. Other Planning Matters

The Council noted that the next Bishop's Court Farm presentations will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April with sessions at 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm. It is hoped that by that time all the findings of the Farm's Housing Needs Survey will be made available.

#### 7/4. Finance: Bank Balances and Payments

NatWest Reserve Account 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	£48,272.57
NatWest Current Account 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<u>£23,723.49</u>
	£71,996.06

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

Q Transport (Oxford) Ltd (Container rental)	116.76
The Landscape Group Oxford (March grass cutting)	758.10
The Landscape Group Oxford (footpath surface shingle from Rotten Row to Allotments)	294.00
WEL Medical new defibrillator for The White Hart	1,057.14
Dan Haines Signs (new event parking signs)	603.60
SODC Business Rates for Cemetery 2023/24	661.18
Shield Maintenance (Dog bin services)	108.79
Shield Maintenance (General waste bin services)	181.99
Going Forward Buses (Dorchester Flyer March)	50.00
G F Hobbs hedge trimming Recreation Ground	384.00
G Russell (salary)	<u>905.89</u>
Total	£5,121.45

The Council has been informed that it will shortly be receiving a CIL payment of £1,591.39 arising from the development of a larger dwelling at 55 Abingdon Road. It was agreed to enter a new three-year agreement with Zurich Insurance from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 which means that the renewal premium will be reduced by approximately 9%. Before the renewal date a new valuation of the Pavilion and Tractor shed buildings is required. It was agreed to accept the quote of £120 from local surveyor Mark Bristow.

#### 8/4/ Chairman and/or Clerk Correspondence

i. River Users Group; The Parish Council has been invited to attend the next committee meeting of the River Users Group. The Clerk confirmed that Simon Broadbent has agreed to continue to represent Dorchester Parish at these meetings.

ii. The Clerk had circulated a copy of the letter from a young Dorchester resident in which he described the damage to both his health and his quality of life caused by the noise from motor bikes being driven along Dorchester bypass at excessive speed. He has copied this letter to the Clerk of Berinsfield Parish Council so that she can bring this matter to the attention of her councillors.

iii. Disabled parking space outside 11 High Street;  
The County Council is considering a private application to remove the restricted use of this space. The Parish Council has not been officially consulted but the Clerk was asked to contact the County's Traffic and Road Safety Officer and ask about alternative spaces being made available.

#### 9/4. Celebrating the Coronation in Dorchester-on-Thames

Cllr Mike Corran reported that there have been several offers of assistance at the Street Party on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May and that 118 tickets have been sold so far. He will liaise with Queen Street residents about the placing of serveries and the location of music. The School has agreed to make its play area available for stalls and other entertainment. The Clerk has arranged for the Temporary Road Closure and the Event Licence. It is confirmed that access for Emergency vehicles will be available. Following the submission of risk assessments, the Parish Council's insurers have agreed that the existing policy provides sufficient cover both for the Street Party and, subject to a few conditions, the day of volunteering on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

#### 10/4. Playground Improvements

Cllr Rob Ballantyne said that he has invited the short-list of potential suppliers to re-examine their proposals over the next four weeks. He would like to hold an exhibition of the various concept drawings so that comments can be gained from all those who have expressed their interest through attendance at the working parties to date. Adrian Brookes has been asked to provide some artwork which will give the area around the playground some local colour and excitement. One of the residents present at the meeting asked if anti-social behaviour is a problem in and around the playground. He was assured that it is not.

#### 11/4. Council Elections and date of May Meetings

Following the Local Elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the regular monthly Parish Council meeting, could be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June but this will need to be decided at the Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May. The viability of this plan depends upon the expected length of the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### 12/4. Village Maintenance Master Plan and Volunteer Projects

Andrew Clements has written to the Chairman about the arisings which have resulted from the recent tree and hedge work carried out by the volunteers. He has discussed this with Lee at TLGO and it is recommended that the arisings are removed rather than shredded/chipped on site. This was agreed and will be actioned.

It is hoped that the County Council will agree to relocate the newly planted elm tree from the grass area off Drayton Road.

#### 13/4. Defibrillators and Training

There had been a very well attended training meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March, following which some YouTube training videos have been made available.

It was suggested that Cabinets should all have same access codes and this is being followed up. One of the now-surplus Nihon Kohden units has been given to the Abbey; it is suggested that the other is kept at the village hall. Cllr Chris Hill suggested some follow-up CPR training and he is researching the availability of such courses from local sources.

#### 14/4. . . . . Orientation Boards

The photographs of village views will be taken in a few weeks when more trees have full leaf growth in place but apart from these the new copy, maps and other amendments are being progressed with the designer. The Clerk thanked Cllrs John Edwards and Rob Ballantyne, Becky Waller and Louise Auckland for their help with special mentions to both Malcolm and Thom Airs for the photography, including some very impressive aerial shots.

#### 15/4 . . . . . Traffic Control

New event parking signs and cones have been purchased.

#### 16/4 . . . . . Village Hall Development

Cllr Mark Williams said that the kitchen refurbishment would go ahead once Sean Harris at The White Hart had been able to source the required equipment.

#### 17/4 . . . . . Routine Reports:

##### a. Sports Pavilion, Recreation Ground & Playground

The outdoor table tennis table is now in play. Its exact location is to be agreed and then it will be fixed permanently. Some photographs have been taken for local publicity purposes prior to the public launch which will be co-hosted with SODC. Playground Safety Inspections need to be resumed. Training is available for any volunteers.

The Electric Wiring Certificate for the Pavilion has been received from Agey Bosse who has also suggested some improvements for future discussion.

A major pitch improvement programme has been agreed with the Football Foundation with expenses met by the Football Club.

New nets need to be purchased for the basketball hoops and the mini- football goal.

##### b. Footpaths; Cemetery/Closed Churchyard; and Allotments

Nothing to report.

#### 18/4. . . . . Any Other Urgent Matters

a. An Application for funding another Henge project has been received from Adrian Brooks and will be discussed at the May Council Meeting.

b. It was noted that The Fleur de Lys is expected to re-open for The Coronation weekend. It is understood that the Aunt Sally area is to be re-established.

c. Cllr Rob Ballantyne said that although he is standing down at the forthcoming elections, he will be happy to assist with the project to improve the Playground. He hopes that the Allen's Pit Housing Project will be successfully concluded and that the village bus schemes will continue.

d. All the other councillors expressed thanks to their colleagues and those not standing for re-election expressed an interest in continuing their involvement on an informal basis if this would be helpful

The Chairman expressed his thanks and appreciation to the whole Council and closed the Meeting at 9.04 p.m.