

DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 11th October 2021

AGENDA ITEMS 10 & 11

1. **Report to Council** **Dated 10-10-21**
2. **Subject:** Grounds and Flooding
3. **Report Prepared By:** Cllr Thompson

Lead Members Report

GROUNDS REPORT OCTOBER 2021

1. Katy and I have completed two surveys, firstly for identifying locations for the additional Christmas Lighting in Horton Road. And secondly where new trees can be located on the recreation ground. We have a number of oak tree whips in pots ready for planting and plan to relocate a small oak tree from the Cemetery, Cllr Loveridge has kindly volunteered to provide the means for excavating the necessary holes, Cllr Larcombe has volunteered to supply the oak whips, and Cllrs Mrs Monica Davies and Cllr Thompson have volunteered two more mature oak saplings.

One of those saplings, subject to Council agreement, as a proposal, can be planted on Memorial Green as a recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and a suitable ceremony arranged next year.

This will accord with the planting of our current Jubilee oak which was planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. This new one will take 100 years to mature and act as a future replacement for the current tree.

2. During the second survey above, we identified areas of the recreation ground which could be planted with wild flowers, Katy has identified a source of flower plugs and contacted Wild About Datchet for assistance in planting them.

3. It is intended that a ground survey of services beneath Memorial Green be made for two reasons, firstly the DPC does not have an accurate record /location of services, as found when excavating for the milestone root. Also, should any other excavation take place i.e. the proposed memorial tree or the replacement flagpole.

4. Re new equipment,

It is proposed within the current agenda that a fund be allocated for the Purchase of a mobile small general-purpose tractor / trailer vehicle for small works Grounds Maintenance. The reasons given with cost offset proposals are set out in a previous submission email.

It is proposed that the DPC purchase a 200litre skid mounted water tank with pump and wand, for watering of the new trees, this can be mounted within the trailer of the above vehicle.

It is proposed that the DPC purchase a new hedge trimmer to replace the stolen one.

5. Katy has contacted the Borough to take action re the removal of the refuse tip sign at Green Lane entry. Also, the water leak at the Riverside Garden drinking fountain, and ensure the lighting pillars on the river frontage are working again.

6. Cllr Clemens has been requested to follow up an approach by Datchet Golf Club to hire our large tractor, with retention for DPC us in an emergency provision, i.e. flood events.

FLOODING REPORT OCT 2021

1. The EA completion report for the Black Potts weir has been issued to all Cllrs and on the DPC website.

2. A meeting has taken place with Borough Officers regarding the provision of a control valve within the intersection chamber of the Datchet Common Brook and the Recreation Ground ditch, the Borough state that approx. £3,000,000 is going to be available each year for Parishes Flood defences. They intend that this project will proceed. The Borough to liaise with Thames Water.

The further issue of flood protection at Eton End rail tunnel has been modelled by the EA and concurs with the DPC report and proposal in general which denotes considerable beneficial protection to a large number of residences. To get this project moving the Borough advised that they would be contacting British Rail and their engineers. Mean time the deteriorating sand bags placed in 2014 are still in place but cannot be assured of Condition or effectiveness this coming flooding season. We await news of their progress.

3. Thames Water have still not contacted the DPC regarding the clearing of the Datchet Common Brook and inclusion of the Control Valve, despite promises to do so.

4. We await the Borough's response to our report on the Volker Highways Survey and what actions they intend, or not, to rectify the Barrel Arch structure which is a critical part of Datchet Flood defences.

Cllr Ian Thompson LM Grounds, LM Flooding and Drainage.