

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON MONDAY 10th August 2020, AT 7.38PM

Present: Cllrs Mrs. L. O’Flynn (Chairman) T. O’Flynn, I. Thompson, E. Larcombe, I. Bacon, A. Corcoran, D. Buckley, A. Clemens, Mrs. M. Davies, and P Hough.
Borough Councillors D. Cannon
The Clerk Mrs K. Jones

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs P. Barnes-Taylor, Cllr. Loveridge and Bor. Cllr. G. Muir.
There were 7 members of the public present.

20.019. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

20.020. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- A resident asked in reference to the minutes of the last meeting and the ASB at the Stag P.H, did the Chairman take this to the NAG meeting? Chairman replied that there had not been a meeting yet and would she publish the date as soon as it was arranged.
- A resident asked in reference to item 7 on tonight’s agenda could this include communications between councillors and members of the public/village societies. Cllr. Hough said this would be discussed when we get to it.

20.021. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – Cllr. Clemens declared an interest in the football items on the agenda under Correspondence and Grounds.

20.022. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH JULY 2020

Pg. 1 20.006 part iii) Cllr Hough advised afterwhere needs are, add the sentence *‘To be reviewed at the October meeting’*

Pg. 1 20.007 par.1 Cllr Hough. Replace ... He recommended a review of the budget over the next 6 weeks to report back in late August/early September with *‘He proposed to review the expected spend and report back at the next meeting in August’*

Pg. 1 20.007 v. a. replace Government with *‘Governance’*

Subject the above changes the minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

ALL IN FAVOUR

20.023. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

Page 4 20.011.ii. Cllr Corcoran asked again re the coping stones around the Chapel and was advised by Cllr. Thompson that everything had been completed and had been paid for. Cllr. Corcoran asked that when the stone mason comes to do the other works he be asked to inspect the coping stones and give his opinion.

20.024. GENERAL

- i. Chairman’s Report;** The ‘Forward Plan’ for the council, which had been requested by Cllr Bicknell, was discussed and following it was proposed by Cllr. T. O’Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Hough to set up a working group to look at the process of how this Plan would be set up, how it would work and how it would be reviewed, with Cllr. T O’Flynn heading the group along with Cllr’s Bacon, Hough and Corcoran.
ALL IN FAVOUR.
- ii. Clerks report;** Further to emails recently sent out reminding councillors to review their details on the DPC web site the Clerk thanked Cllr’s Bacon and Mrs. Davies for completing their profiles and asked the others to send her any missing items before the next council meeting.
- iii. Correspondence;**
Swan Radio – The Clerk read out a request from Swan Radio for support from DPC to help keep them afloat until they can be self-sufficient once more. Members noted that the monthly outgoings for rent and licence fees are around £1300. Further to discussions the Clerk was asked to write to them

requesting information on the following; How much are they looking for from Datchet Parish Council and how much have they received so far from; i) RBWM, ii) Wraysbury Parish Council and iii) from any other sources that they have applied to. The Clerk to also advise them that another option would be to apply to the Datchet Hall Endowment Fund at their next meeting in September.

The Bridge Café – The Clerk read out the letter from the Bridge Café requesting a rent rebate for the period from the 19th of March until the proposed re-opening date of 3rd September. Applied to their annual rental bill this is approx. 50%. Further to discussions it was proposed by Cllr. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. Bacon and **RESOLVED** to grant this request and give a rebate of £2,145. The voting being; For: 7 Against: 0 Abstaining: 1

Datchet Football Club - The Clerk read out the letter from Datchet Football Club requesting a credit of £750 for the next season 2020/21 in respect of the fees for the matches that they were unable to play due to the Covid pandemic. Further to discussions it was proposed by Cllr. T O'Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Buckley and **RESOLVED** to grant this request for a £750 credit to next season.

ALL IN FAVOUR

20.025. Finance & Administration

- i. To approve the Income & Expenditure Sheets.** The Lead Member for Finance presented the income and expenditure sheets for approval. Subject to questions asked and answers given it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hough and **RESOLVED** that the payment sheets be approved and the income sheets be noted.
ALL IN FAVOUR
- ii.** Cllr. Hough asked for any questions on the **finance report and the budget re-forecast sheet** which he had circulated. He explained that the re-forecast was the best estimate of what DPC would end up spending by the end of March 2021. Cllr. Buckley asked for confirmation that the closing balance would be £261,119. Cllr Hough confirmed yes, this is what the council would end up with given that we had been in limbo for 4 / 5 months.
- iii. Acceptable standards of communication between councillors.** Cllr. Hough stated that communications had been challenging and the tone, style and content were, in his opinion, not compatible with those holding office of councillor. He asked what happens in these circumstances and that the Chairman of the council should take action. The Chairman explain that there are very limited sanctions in parish councils. This was backed up by the Clerk. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk circulate the Nolan Principles as a reminder to all of the expected standards of public office. Cllr Thompson asked that councillors refrain from speaking to each other like a member of a 'Firm', there should be more interaction not just talking down to people as this creates a reaction. Everyone should be more respectful and not circulate every smallest detail to all. Cllr. Clemens agreed stating short and direct is better as points get lost if the message is too long. Cllr. Hough agreed and said he hoped all would take this on board. Cllr Corcoran stated it was easier to email than talk and he felt that all councillors should have a good overview as to what is going on. As such he felt emails should be sent to a wider audience. The Chairman concluded this item by asking councillors to please only email the person who sent the item and not to all, keeping the response to a short, brief statement.
- iv. Measures required for the safe re-opening of the Parish Office.** Following discussions, it was **AGREED** that Cllr's Hough and Mrs. Davies would carry out a risk assessment for re-opening and obtain quotations for any mitigating measures required.

20.026. Borough Councillor's Report - Cllr. D Cannon reported the following;

- **The Barrel Arch** – The survey work has been done and has identified Borough issues in the channel between Flowerz and The Manor Hotel where the brickwork is in a poor state due to mortar missing from the side walls. Upstream, on the other side of the Green, where it goes under the tree there is a carpet of fine roots on both sides which if removed would displace the brickwork. Downstream from Flowerz to the Library the condition is not great with some root inclusions and from the car park to Green Lane it is relatively sound to the concreting under Green Lane although by the pumping station it appears crack /fractured. All these matters have been reported back with a view to remedial works in these areas. Cllr. Thompson asked if there was a survey from the Garage to the man hole on North Green. Cllr. Cannon said he would ask for this.

- Changes in Planning Law – There is a new white paper out for consultation and DPC should comment.
- ASB – has been raised with the three new TVP officers for the area at a meeting 2 days ago and they are liaising with the BBHT re the situation at the Stag P.H.
- White Van on Horton Road – has had 5 parking tickets and is now being dealt with.
- Double yellow lines by The Swan Sanctuary are being looking at.
- River Thames Scheme – The RTS sponsoring group has taken the decision to progress the scheme without channel 1. They will be progressing with channels 2 and 3 so Datchet to Bells Weir will not be progressed at this time as the Government have failed to provide the funding mechanism to enable the 2017 commitment to be maintained. There will be the capacity to take on any subsequent flow created by the later addition of channel 1. Cllr. Thompson said this was a great disappointment and that the funding had been promised by RBWM not the Government. It should have been allowed for in the previous council. The money was not there, but we were promised it. Cllr Cannon said the funding was always subject to the Government allowing a flood levee to be put in place. He stated that we need to look at a way forward and how we can protect our residents.

20.027. Planning

i. **To consider new applications** listed on the planning addendum and note planning decisions.

Cllr. Buckley asked members if they had any comments on his report which had been previously circulated. It was agreed that Mr. Clasper could speak on application 20/01696. **ALL AGREED** with the recommendations made, a summary of which is below, with more detailed comments on the planning sheet to be attached to these minutes.

Application 20/01534 2-4 High Street, Datchet. No Objection, but would like the following noted: object to single change of use to include D2 subject to its use and potential impact on parking at the location. This use would substantially increase parking requirements that are at a premium in Datchet currently. We do not feel this change of use is suitable to the premises in question.

We recommend that change of use from B1 to B1/ A2 & D1 would be suitable and increase the best opportunity to rent out the premises while making practical use of the space.

Application 20/01660 Laurence House, 5 The Drive, Datchet. No Objection

Application 20/01696 Yew Trees Cottage, 5A Southlea Road Datchet. Mr Clasper voiced his concerns that the current application is totally unchanged from the previous one and the problem is the proximity to the boundary, only 40cm, which will cause damp. There should be a minimum 1 meter gap which is not being addressed. In 2019 objected to the application due to the impact on the yew hedge and lime trees. This time there are proposing mitigation measures in the form of an independent assessment before, during and on completion but need to ensure what they are promising to do is actually done.

Cllr. Buckley said these points were already covered in his recommendations which area as follows.

Objection on grounds of: Over-development within Flood Zone 3. This area is prone to annual flooding and any over development would reduce the drainage and place occupants at risk. This property was originally an annexe converted to a separate property and now request is further development without need or suitable reason. This over development would fall within the conservation area and we feel reduces the area away from space and openness of mature trees and green areas. This property is set next to and within the grounds of a substantial period property and we feel this development would affect the character of this period adjacent property that sits within the conservation area.

Application 20/01742 Saram, 2 Eton Road, Datchet, Objection on the following grounds: Concerns as to height of proposed fencing at an important and very busy road junction that joins 3 exits and entrances to a roundabout and we would recommend planning should only be approved subject to a reduction in height to give clear vision across the boundary to on-coming traffic.

Existing boundary fencing is much lower and presents a more suitable height for this boundary on a junction, giving sight of oncoming bicycles and vehicles. Photographs presented in the application are not relevant to a road junction of this type and position. They are misleading and should not be

accepted as a precedent. Concerns for safety if this application is accepted in its current form and we would like to state our recommendation to lower the height of this fencing if approval was to be approved. This is a key visual entrance to the village of Datchet from both Eton and Slough areas and this height and design of fencing is not in character. Nor has any precedent been set at a junction for this height of fencing to block bicycles or vehicles visual capacity.

The applicant was allowed to speak and explained the application was essentially the same as the one for a 2 metres high wall which was approved by RBWM in 2010. As such she felt there should be no issues of concern as it was previously passed by highways. Cllr Buckley said he had made a site visit and 2 meters was far above what the sight line is.

- ii. Planning General** Cllr Buckley stated that he felt that after we have put our comments through to the Borough, we should be involved if things change as at present DPC are cut out. Cllr. Cannon asked for him to put this in writing to him and he would raise it with the Planning Team.

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Hough to extend the meeting to 10:15 to deal with remaining important issues and to hold an Extra Ordinary Meeting next week to complete the remainder of the Agenda - AGREED

20.028. Grounds.

- i Grounds Maintenance** – Cllr Thompson gave an update on the current position in that he was currently preparing documents relevant to all operations. There will be a meeting of the grounds team and the clerk to input into a final document to be put to council for consideration. In the short term we are looking to place orders with sub-contractors which we know and who have/are presently working with the council. The clerk explained she had contacted 3 local companies to quote for grass cutting for a period of 3 months from now until mid-November. She had received 2 quotes already and was waiting for the third to come in by the end of the week. Cllr. Corcoran asked if we had approached the Golf Club and the clerk said not for the short term work but they would be welcome to quote for the long term contract. He also asked if DPC were going to employ a Grounds Person because we have all the kit and was advised this would be part of the long term report being prepared by Cllr. Thompson. Cllr Hough asked if members could see something at the next meeting with a view to trying to set a timescale to have this document finished. Cllr Thompson advised he had only just started and it would take time.

20.029. Events

- i** The letter to be sent out to local groups and organisations, as drafted by the Environmental Awareness Group, was **APPROVED**. Clerk to put on headed paper ready to be sent out. **CLERK**

20.030. Councillor's Questions

- Cllr Corcoran informed members of the latest position regarding a Post Office facility in the village and that the Post Office had pulled out at the last minute. He asked councillors to support him in perusing this matter and asked the Borough Councillors and Deputy Mayor to assist. Cllr Cannon asked to be included on emails and he would pursue also.

MEETING CLOSED AT 22:15

**THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020
VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM**

CHAIRMAN

Distribution:

All Councillors, Datchet Parish Council Website

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