

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON MONDAY 12th OCTOBER 2020, AT 19:38

Present: Cllrs Mrs. L. O'Flynn (Chairman) T. O'Flynn, D. Loveridge, I. Thompson, E. Larcombe, I. Bacon, A. Corcoran, D. Buckley, Mrs. M. Davies, P Hough, P Bicknell and Mrs M Fitzgerald A. Clemens (20:35)
The Clerk Mrs K. Jones
Apologies: Borough Councillors D. Cannon. There were 3 members of the public present.

20.061 ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE

20.062 PUBLIC QUESTIONS - NONE

20.063 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS Cllr. Loveridge declared an interest in planning application 20/01790

20.064 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER AND RECONVINED 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Pg 16, 20.051 Cllr Larcombe pointed out typo error CITFA should read CIPFA

The minutes were approved as a true record, subject to the above change, and signed by the Chairman. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

20.065 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

Pg. 13, 20.047 Cllr Hough asked why was the DRCCT meeting cancelled, Cllr Larcombe responded that was unable to arrange it.

20.066 GENERAL

Cllr Hough asked if the NAG meeting had taken place, the Chair advised no, it will be held later.

Cllr Hough asked of the 4 councillors who have not given details for the website. The Chairman responded she will get the details from Cllr's Mrs. P. Barnes-Taylor, Mrs M Fitzgerald, D. Loveridge and P. Bicknell. Cllr Bicknell said he was happy to for his information to go on and asked for the original email to be resent by the clerk.

20.067 FINANCE AND 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 Mrs M. Davies and **RESOLVED** that the payment sheets be approved and the income sheets be noted. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

There were discussions regarding the painting works at the Bridge Café not following Standing Orders correctly. Cllr Mrs. Davies advised that this was not a project, but rather repairs and maintenance work.

- ii. To consider and approve the proposed timetable to prepare next year's budget.** Cllr Hough asked for comments on his draft timetable and stated he was happy to take ideas. Cllr Mrs. Davies commented it was better when the Lead Member for Finance and deputy were there, along with the Clerk. Cllr Buckley said the main point is to fit in enough time to debate this fully before the budget and precept is set and look at all projects. The Chair suggested to consider having an extra ordinary meeting for discussions to take place. Cllr Corcoran suggested 16th / 28th Nov being a good time for Grounds, Properties, and Events. Cllr Thompson agreed with the dates as it gives time to schedule things. He said grounds and properties items will need to go back in to balance the budget. Cllr Hough to re-tweak and circulate this week.
- iii. To receive a half year summary of this year's budget and review as necessary.** Cllr Hough had previously circulated spread sheets showing the agreed budget as of February 2020, and then his prediction at the end of year. Income £60k less, and expenditure £120,000 less than budgeted, so the Council is in a stronger position. Cllr Buckley stated it's about having time. There is a backlog of work that has not been done this year so carrying forward a surplus, but it needs to be completed.

Cllr Thompson had reviewed the projection for the projects, which due to Covid had been put on hold, and changed the end dates to put on a year. So the council will have a surplus but this is not spare funds. This will be used next year when projects can be continued, however with a 2.5% rise in everything need to be careful with the money we currently have. Cllr Hough advised that more time is needed to discuss this with regard to the long term future.

- iv. **To consider and agree the revisions to the council's Standing Orders.** The Chair apologised to Cllr Hough as she could not see what he had written. He advised he would re-circulate his comments to all tomorrow, and ask for any other comments to be added by next Monday so the Working Group can meet and give feedback before November meeting where it can be signed off.
- v. **To consider and agree the letter drafted by Cllr's Hough and Corcoran to the RBWM Library consultation on opening hours.** Cllr Bacon suggested it would be a good idea to be open on the same day as the Post Office is in the Village. After discussions regarding reducing the rent in exchange for more/different opening hours it was **AGREED** that Cllr Hough would rewrite the letter and circulate for approval at the November's meeting.

20.068 PLANNING

- i. **To consider new applications** listed on the planning addendum and note planning decisions. Cllr Buckley asked members if they had any further comments on his report which had been previously circulated. A summary of the recommendations is below, with more detailed comments on the planning sheet to be attached to these minutes.

20/0230418 Linchfield Road, Datchet.

Datchet Parish Council had **NO Objection** to this application but would like the following noted:

1. We would request that any approval would be subject to the maintenance of the style and height set out by the roads precedent.
2. Concerns of the neighbouring boundary wall to the right of the applicant's property that is joined to the boundary wall of No.18 be maintained and not damaged to maintain the style precedent in the road.
3. The height limit of the application should be set as shown as a precedent in the road of a maximum of 4' and no more to maintain the character of this established road within Datchet.
4. Additional reference to the Borough Design Guide that gives reference to street styles and maintaining of the character of streets within villages

ALL IN FAVOUR except Cllr. Corcoran

20/01790 Land at Datchet Common, Mill Place, Datchet.

Cllr Loveridge was removed to the waiting room for this item.

Cllr Buckley explained he had reviewed all the history of this site, including the referral to the Secretary of State judgement, which was successfully appealed by the applicant and planning granted on 23rd April 2020 into application Ref 17/02404 dated 26 July 2017.

He had also had a detailed discussion with the Planning department at RBWM who are in support of this application and felt the concerns of residents on flooding, green belt, highways and environmental issues had all been met by the applicant within this application.

He had taken into consideration access rights to this site in particular the lease giving access to the site, granted by RBWM as a sub-lease through Datchet Parish Council and taken into consideration its usage within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which this application meets.

He had also been advised that RBWM are obligated to allow within the Borough Local Plan a higher number of allocated sites for use by the Gypsy and Traveller community within the Borough and RBWM are well below the allocation as they have not set out any further sites in RBWM at this time to meet the quota. This is another key support of this application by RBWM planning.

He had taken into consideration the ability to supply additional residential accommodation for the existing families and communities to create additional family support to the community living within the site, and the past disputes on land usage over the many years and feel this new use is an improved development for local residents than the previous commercial usage and should be supported by the community as an improvement to the site.

Following discussions, where concerns were raised regarding tree protection, new tree planting, flood risk assessments, environmental and climate issues, the number of pitches gradually creeping up, and the incremental erosion of the green belt, and taking into consideration all the points reviewed above the Chair moved that this be taken to the vote.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Buckley, and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Bicknell that there be **No Objection** to this application, subject to the following points being taken into consideration of any permitted application, and used as recommendations to any approval given.

1. Control to the perimeters of the site are set as shown in the plans proposed, and no increase of area is submitted, as shown here in application, so to maintain green spaces and Tree Boundaries.
2. That the surrounding tree lines are adhered to as shown in the plans attached, and suggested that mature trees are planted to improve the views over the development from adjoining properties as set out in the application plans here, and in line with RBWM's biodiversity policies.
3. That all requirements and recommendations of Environmental Agency, Highways and Environmental Protection Memorandum, as set out in the documents dated 24th September 2020, are met and monitored within the application.
4. That any further changes to this application be submitted back to the Parish Council and neighbours for local input and comment before any approval is permitted.

Cllr. Larcombe called for named vote, the voting being:-

8 In Favour: Cllr's P. Bicknell, Mrs L. O'Flynn, I. Thompson, Mrs M. Fitzgerald, D. Buckley, T. O'Flynn, Mrs M. Davies and A. Clemens

2 Abstaining: Cllr's I. Bacon and P. Hough

2 Against: Cllr's A. Corcoran and E. Larcombe.

PROPOSAL AGREED

ii. Planning General – Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, regulation 19. The consultation email had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Buckley said the response sheet was in the form of a survey and the deadline was 15th October. Cllr Corcoran asked how enforceable the recommendations the council make are. Cllr Buckley replied if written into planning approval then it is enforceable.

20.069 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT Given by Cllr Larcombe

- i) Budgeting issues – an extra ordinary meeting is to be held on Wednesday to consider a short-term finance strategy.
 - ii) Jubilee River – technical issues so unusable at the moment.
- Cllr Buckley suggested a site visit visiting water courses.

20.070 GROUNDS

The Lead Member, Cllr Thompson, summarized his reported for Grounds.

- i) He confirmed the following costs on grounds works; - the Ha-Ha £350, Rec Ditch £1,220, Mays Island £360, North Green £380, and Hedge by Sub Station £175.
- ii) Now using a 'mulching' mower which is putting the grass into a better state, allowing it to grow stronger. We are cutting 1/2 inch longer then before which has allowed the greens to recover. The Football Club are also very pleased and another team commented that the Datchet pitches are better than others they have played on.
- iii) Waiting for a quote for repairs to the new path by the tennis courts as accidentally damaged by the tractor and stealth.
- iv) Changed supplier of the cemetery bins to Grundon who are cheaper than previous company.
- v) Obtaining a quote for lifting the crowns of the trees over grave stones in the cemetery.
- vi) Rectifying the areas on The Cut which were damaged by British Gas then will invoice them the costs.
- vii) Datchet Milestone – Will chase but not urgent.
- viii) Village Greens Edges – Will go into next year now as the season has gone.
- ix) New Contract – preparation is underway, but there is no rush as grass cutting will stop soon. Just be a tidy up before Christmas. Cllr. Hough asked for a time schedule to be given to council.
- x) Will need to confirm a date with Dean Smith to arrange a scissor lift for the Flag Pole but need a dry day. Also the finial needs to be re-gilded.

Cllr Corcoran asked about an article in The Link magazine stating there would be new paths and edges in the cemetery. Cllr Loveridge said resurfacing had been done a few months ago and nothing else was planned.

20.071 PROPERTIES

The Lead Member of Properties reported on the following:

i) Bridge Café toilet had a structural fault. The external wall had been re-plastered and the electrics had been fixed today. Everything is finished apart from the decorating of the vestibule and the toilet. A quote has been received from Mr. Freeman to do both in the sum of £1,000. Because he has done quite a bit of work already, taking him over the limit in financial regulations, Cllr Mrs. Davis requested Council to approve this. The Clerk explained that she needed to ask for Standing Orders to be suspended to allow Mr Freeman to continue to work over the £3,000 limit.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bacon, **SECONDED** by Cllr Loveridge and **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders and proceed with Mr Freeman as this was the last order to allow him to finish the work. **ALL IN FAVOUR except Cllr. Corcoran.**

ii) Cemetery Lodge. A report had been received from Bennett's on the state of the windows. Received 1 firm quote for this and another company is looking today. There is also a problem with the guttering and a roof inspection is required. Montague House and 24/24a The Green also require a roof inspection. Cllr Corcoran suggested having a plan written down so we know what each building needs. The clerk reminded council that there is no provision in this year's budget for any of these works.

iii) Library heating. A quote had been received from SSE in the sum of £4,986.55 to replace the five heaters. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Mrs M. Davies, **SECONDED** by Cllr Bacon and **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders and place an order with SSE for the works. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Because of the time it was AGREED to take Cllr. Larcombe's motion next, then public questions.

20.072 MOTION 2) Cllr Larcombe. That Datchet Parish Council look at the 4 villages of Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury and Old Windsor working together with the objective of reinstating Channel 1 of the RTS.

Wraysbury have raised an 'e petition' for the reinstatement of the RTS channel 1. £43 million is required for the contribution. If the parishes work together they are more likely to get a reasonable response. Cllr Larcombe also commented that the Thames not been maintained for 20 years, nor had the normal water courses. If there was a flood event now we will be in a very bad way. He would be discussing this with Wraysbury and Horton Parish Councils next week. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Larcombe, **SECONDED** by Cllr O'Flynn and **RESOLVED** to agree the motion and send out request to sign the e-petition. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

20.073 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

i) A resident advised Cllr Buckley that the Borough Design Guide offers guidelines for things like walls etc. and the Datchet Design Guide in process.

ii) A resident asked Cllr Larcombe how many signatures are needed for the e-petition to be heard and how many do they have so far. Cllr Larcombe replied will need 1,500 to get it onto the Council Agenda for discussion, and none so far as not accepted by the Borough and not published.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mrs. L O'Flynn, SECONDED by Cllr D. Buckley and RESOLVED at 21:57 to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on Monday 19th October at 19:00 to deal with the remainder of the agenda. **AGREED BY ALL**

Datchet Parish Council Meeting Reconvened on 19th October 2020 at 19:08 Via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs Mrs O'Flynn, T. O'Flynn, A. Corcoran, I. Bacon, P. Hough, D. Loveridge, and Mrs M. Davies
The Clerk Mrs K Jones

Apologies: Cllrs E. Larcombe and A. Clemens

There was 4 members of the public present

20.074 HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSES. No Lead Member present, and no report given in advance.

Cllr Corcoran gave a report on the Outreach Post Office and ways for the council to consider funding this. A questionnaire had been put on Datchet Eye and a paper copy left in local venues. So far 135 replies, of which 98% would like a permanent Post Office in the Village. He will get a print out of the results at the end of the month to support funding. It was stated that the Post Office LTD are having difficulties and we need to support the outreach station or it can be taken away from the village. Use it or lose it. The council could support by paying the cost of the hall hire and ask the WI to invoice monthly. The questionnaire will be running to the end of the month. Will wait until November for a decision and vote.

20.075 FLOODING. No Lead Member for flooding present, however the report had previously been circulated to all.

20.076 EVENTS

- i) Remembrance Sunday. Discussions had been had not to promote the event so not to encourage crowds. Father Darcy will do a service and 1 wreath will be laid. This will be live streamed on Datchet Eye and YouTube. The Government advice is for people to stand in their front gardens for the 2 minutes silence.
- ii) Ellis Journey. The Chair advised not to think about this until the New Year as details are changing. Cllr Corcoran would like the support of DPC for the use of The Cut, Village Greens and Recreation Ground and any road closures. He asked for this to be on the next agenda for discussion.
- iii) Wildabout Datchet. Community litter pick on 25th October would like Cllrs to be involved.
- iv) Christmas Window Competition, to decorate windows, will ask for sponsors. To coincide with the Boroughs televised switch on and could do the winner on the same night. All in favour for Cllr Corcoran to look into this.

AGREED

20.077 WORKING GROUPS

- i) Standing Orders. Cllr Bacon reminded all councillors for comments by Wednesday so these can be turned into a document to be sent to all for adoption at the November council meeting.
- ii) Environment Awareness. Cllr Corcoran asked for comments on the tree plan. There were 55 new tree positions and 2 copses. Cllr Mrs. Davies mentioned underground services, the clerk to check and confirm. Need to look at suitable types of trees and ideas of costing.
- iii) Develop long term plan. Cllr Hough asked for comments on the documents he had circulated and where to take it next. Cllr Buckley had emailed on a couple of points. The DHEF and DRCCT should not be in council strategy plan, they need their own. Cllr. Hough explained it was to develop the process and not the detail. Councilors need to contribute to what goes on the plan. Cllr Buckley said to keep it to 2025, and if structured properly the next administration can carry forward. Lead Members for Properties and Grounds to share ideas as to what should go on the plans as both are the main areas that need a plan to keep processes under control. This will fit in well with the budget process and make it easier for the public to see what the council are trying to achieve.

20.078 MOTION 1) Cllr Larcombe. That Datchet Parish Council request RBWM to carryout initial consultation in respect of 20mph speed limit in the village.

Cllr Corcoran initially raised this and Cllr Larcombe suggested it be a motion for RBWM to carry out initial consultation. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Corcoran, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hough and **RESOLVED** that they (Cllr's Corcoran and Hough) put the wording together. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

20.079 MOTION 3) Cllr Corcoran. That Datchet Parish Council considers 'no idling' signs whilst vehicles are waiting for the trains to clear the level crossings.

The Chair advised to link this in with motion 1 above. Stage 1 – Need to contact RBWM and Network Rail. Stage 2 –Speak with Cllr Cannon re the platform length, which would take some of the problem away. Cllr Corcoran stated it was a lot deeper, affecting air pollution and safety of cycling. It was **AGREED** to proceed with stage 1 and include the Borough Councillors.

20.080 MOTION 4) Cllr Buckley. That Datchet Parish Council set up a working group between Parishes on CCTV.

Cllr. Buckley called for better coverage and better types of cameras. Wraysbury have been let down, and we should work together with our neighbours to get best for all of us and share the cost. **Page 23**

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Buckley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Bacon and **RESOLVED** to back the proposal. **AGREED**

20.081 NOTICE OF ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Clerk – Budget is priority
Cllr Hough – Library consultation and Post Office support.
Cllr Corcoran – Ellis Journey
Cllr Bacon – Standing Orders
Cllr Buckley – to have Flooding higher up.

20.082 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- i) Cllr Hough asked about Co Option. The Clerk confirmed this will be on November's agenda
- ii) Cllr Corcoran asked about repairs to the Recreation Ground Path and sees no reason for money to be spent. Also asked about landscaping at the path at Tesco's end. The Clerk replied that she had designed this and asked twice for quotes nothing had been sent back.
- iii) Cllr Mrs. Davies commented she was having difficulty in entering the Cemetery Lodge to get quotes as tenants nervous about getting Covid
- iv) Cllr Bacon had also looked at the Recreation ground path and had difficulty seeing the damage, only slight cracks and chipping of the edge. He was against spending money on it. Councillors were advised to email the Lead Member to let him know thoughts.
- v) Cllr Hough asked for a Review of Covid fund. Clerk though only £60 had been spent so far.
- vi) Cllr Buckley gave an update on the Corona Volunteers. They had asked by RBWM to put in more support in the background particularly as self-isolating was being taken seriously and need to support.

20.083 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- i) A resident raised a question regarding the extension of the Traveller site from 4 pitches to 7. When this was originally raised there was a substantial public investment required. RBWM Cabinet agreed to lease the land in question at £30,000 per year, with a second capital investment of £700,000 for development cost and to prepare the site for use. Is public investment required for either the 4-pitch site which was approved on appeal and/or for the 7-pitch site, as it is a very significant amount of public investment? Cllr Buckley reported that this was the case in 2013/14 and he had not seen anything for this in the last two years budget for RBWM. He was pretty confident that no development money has been allocated to this. He would find out who pays for the lease and development of the site and get back to the resident.
- ii) A resident asked regarding the 5-year strategic plan, and will the public get a chance to comment on this before it is agreed by DPC. They were advised that it will be a public document and, on the website, but there is no intention to hold a formal public consultation however feedback would be welcome.
- iii) A resident asked, as Cllr Cannon is consulting with Network Rail regarding the platform, who is actively supporting him and putting forward suggestions from the council. Cllr Buckley said that he and Cllr Mrs. Fitzgerald had met with Cllr Cannon last year on this issue and he was not supportive. Cllr Buckley did ask him to take this further and offered to be involved, but is still waiting for further input. It was Cllr Buckley's understand that there is not the motivation to do this, but he would follow this up.

MEETING CLOSED AT 20:15

**THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 9TH NOVEMBER 2020
VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM**

CHAIRMAN

Distribution:
All Councillors, Datchet Parish Council Website

KJJ..DPC.12.10.20