

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2021, AT 19:02

Present: Cllrs Mrs. L. O'Flynn (Chairman) T. O'Flynn, E. Larcombe, I. Bacon, A. Corcoran, D. Buckley, Mrs. M. Davies, P. Hough, I. Thompson, A. Verma, A. Clemens, RBWM Cllr. D. Cannon (Part)
The Clerk Mrs K. Jones

Apologies: Borough Cllr Muir, Cllrs Mrs P. Barnes-Taylor, D. Loveridge
There were 3 members of the public present.

20.130 ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

20.131 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

i) A question was asked regarding an update on discussions about British Rail and the level crossing, it was advised that as far as the Council were aware this has not been raised again, although Cllr Buckley commented that Borough Cllr Cannon had noted this. Cllr Buckley would be happy to follow this up.

ii) It was asked if the £10 million for flood defences, noted in the 14.12.20 meeting, was available from the Borough or not and what would be done now the RTS scheme is not going ahead as these were not mentioned in the flooding report but would affect the DNP. Cllr Larcombe advised that alternative arrangements were being considered by the Borough but he was not being kept informed, a Flood Liaison meeting is due to take place this week.

20.132 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – The Clerk recorded a block dispensation under item 10.iv) for those councillors who live in the parish to allow them to discuss and agree the Precept.

20.133 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2020

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. *ALL IN FAVOUR*

20.134 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2020

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

20.123 – Page 35 i) Working Groups–Standing Orders – Add at the end of the paragraph ‘The voting being: In Favour 7, Against 1 and abstaining 2’. ii) Strategic Plan Working Group Update - In the first line replace ‘he and Cllr Hough’ with ‘the working group’.

20.126 – Page 35 i) Add at the end of 5th item ‘The answer was yes.’

20.135 PART II MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2020

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. *ALL IN FAVOUR*

20.136 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

14.12.20 Minutes – 20.122 – It was noted that there was no need for a call for new volunteers and the Chairman confirmed that the CEMT was in place.

20.137 GENERAL - None

20.138 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Larcombe commented on a council tax increase of 5%. He said there is £10m in the budget but it may not be available due to other pressures. Cllr Clemens commented that RBWM have released budget proposals for discussion and that bin collections will go to fortnightly.

Cllr Thompson commented the Borough Council Lead for Flooding has not communicated to the Parish regarding the work on the flap valve at Penn Road, Common Brook intersection and that the no feedback has been reported back in relation to the Barrell Arch survey.

Cllr Larcombe advised that a Flood Liaison meeting is being held on Wednesday 13.01.21.

20.139 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 any questions asked and answers given it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr L O'Flynn and **RESOLVED** that the payment sheets be approved and the income sheets be noted. *ALL IN FAVOUR*

ii. 2021/2022 Budget – Questions were asked and answered on the draft budget but it was felt that the

details of the budget needed to be looked into more before approval, so it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Hough, **SECONDED** by Cllr O’Flynn and **RESOLVED** to bring the budget detail for 2021/2022 back to the meeting in February. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

iii. Precept 2021/2022 – Following discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Hough, **SECONDED** by Cllr Clemens and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to keep the Precept the same as last year with a Band ‘D’ property being £63.70. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

iv. Authorise the Clerk to Formally advise RBWM of the level of Precept required for 2021/2022– It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr O’Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr Clemens and **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to complete the Precept form and advise RBWM of the Council’s decision. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

v. Internal Auditors Report first half of 2020/2021 – The internal auditors report and conclusions were noted. The Chair thanked the Clerk and the Finance Assistant for their help with this.

20.140 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.

Application 20/03303. 112 London Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9LH.

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue **NO Objection** to this application.

Application 20/03306. 112 London Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9LH.

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue **NO Objection** to this application.

Application 20/03336. 5 lawn Close, Datchet, Slough SL3 9JZ.

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application based on our original objection to application 20/02453, for the following reasons:

1. Objection due to size of footprint, which is similar to the existing residential property in size which would lead to concerns on the type of use and over development of the plot. There have also been many concerns raised by local residents to this application including the adjacent local place of worship which we feel should be taken into consideration and adds further weight of our objection.
2. This applicant is showing a requirement to extend this property further and it is of concern as to the use of the plot as an additional residential use. If the officers permit this application, we will request clear conditions of use be applied to the development.
3. The overall size and height of this “residential” addition is clearly over development of the site as the footprint is far greater than the original residential property.

Application 20/03529. Priory End, The Green, Datchet, Slough SL3 9JL.

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application for the reasons below:

1. This application has been refused on two previous occasions due to concerns over the flooding and surface water risk and we support this argument by the officers on previous applications and this current application.
2. Additionally, we would raise the attention of the case officer to the fact that the applicant wishes to convert the property into 3 units when its history has only ever been a single dwelling and two dwellings which have been supported in the past. 3 dwellings are out of scope of any previous history or usage.
3. We would also like to draw to the officer’s attention to the TPA report appendix A where they rely on the proposed RTS Channel one river defence scheme which has since been cancelled by the EA & RBWM and further contradicts and reduces the weight of the applicants Flood risk on 6.5 of their attached report

Application 20/03526. 14 Priory Way, Datchet, Slough SL3 9JQ.

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application for the reasons below:

1. Development within a Flood zone and concerns over surface water risk as the extended footprint of the proposed property extensions within a flood zone that has historic flooding in 2014 are over 30m2
2. Again, this applicant has used TPA as a response to flood risk assessment and again as with other applications this month they refer to the potential RTS scheme as a defence to flood zone concerns. However, this scheme is cancelled by RBWM and will not mitigate flood risk on this application. See point 6.5 on report and in appendix A.

i. Planning General – Cllr Buckley commented that DPC decisions were becoming much closer to those of RBWM. Cllr Clemens commented on the high fence erected at the property on the corner of Slough Road/Eton Road which was blocking the sight lines of the cars and there had almost been two accidents there as cars were unsighted.

He said that this has also been raised by the police. Cllr Buckley advised that DPC did raise an objection to this application with RBWM, but they approved it. Cllr. Thompson commented that previously the property owners were told that they could not do this and a lower height fence was installed but RBWM have changed their decision and a higher fence has been installed, he said that residents have already complained to the Traffic Division at Thames Valley Police. Cllr Cannon advised that this had been passed to the Borough Enforcement Department.

20.141 PROPERTIES

Cllr Mrs. M. Davies' report had been circulated to all members and she advised that with regards to the Library and Cemetery Lodge she could not do anything further at the moment due to lockdown and not being able to gain access to the properties.

Cllr Corcoran referred to her report on the library roof and suggested that an independent survey take place and a specification be put together before quotations are obtained.

Cllr Mrs Davies advised that two contractors had looked at the roof and would provide quotes

Cllr Thompson advised that there were loose slates on the roof which needed to be dealt with and suggested that this been done now, to make the roof safe, and a survey of all council owned buildings be carried in the summer.

Cllr. Buckley said because of the Health and Safety issues this needed a risk assessment and a process in place to manage this. Cllr Mrs. Davies confirm an assessment had taken place and she was awaiting a quote and date to deal with the loose tiles based on a daily rate.

Cllr Hough asked about progress on the rent reviews and Cllr Mrs Davies commented that the Library and Police Point should stay the same. 24A The Green and 38 Ditton Road would be reviewed by the Managing Agent, BS Bennetts, in April when they compare the market rate for similar types of properties. However, because of ongoing issues with the premises, which were being dealt with, the rent would generally stay the same. Cllr Hough asked if the council could have this in writing. Cllr Mrs Davies said yes, in April.

Cllr Hough commented that the if the council did not increase the rent for the library other options may be considered following discussions with RBWM.

20.142 GROUNDS

Cllr Thompson's report had been circulated to all members.

He commented that he had been looking into the contract costs on the Recreation Ground and the Village Greens and he hoped to have a meeting shortly to put forward ideas.

Following a question regarding using contractors or employing a groundsman the Chair commented that it would stay as is and a proposal would be put forward to a future meeting.

Cllr Hough commented on the three-month interim contract, the end of which had rolled forward to November/December. He questioned the legality of this and that he had not seen any reports/analysis/documents. He questioned that if the council use contractors, what do we do with the ground's maintenance equipment?

The Chair advised that this did need to be addressed properly and it would go on the agenda for the February meeting and Cllr Thompson advised that he would produce a report in this regard.

20.143 HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES

In the absence of the Lead Member, Cllr Buckley commented that he would take up the matters raised in public questions re the Railway line, level crossing and the platform extension.

Cllr Corcoran advised that he was keen to get RBWM highways and the E.A. working group involved in works that need doing around the village and projects that need moving forward but felt this was going nowhere and was holding the movement back. He felt Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald or someone needs to take the lead on this. It was noted that the Chair had been trying to get Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald online but with little success, Cllr Buckley advised that he was happy to take temporary lead and Cllr Clemens also stated that he was happy to help.

Cllr Larcombe commented that parking on pavements was still an issue that needed dealing with.

Cllr Thompson commented on a suggestion that was put forward to RBWM that speed tables be put in Slough Road to slow down the traffic before the roundabout at Eton Road junction, but although well supported nothing happened and hoped that Cllr Buckley could take this forward.

20.144 FLOODING

Cllr Thompson's report had been circulated to all members. In addition, he commented on an assessment of the Black Potts defects and this would go to the Borough Flood group meeting.

In reference to the RTS, Cllr Larcombe will be asking for an un-redacted copy of the all the agendas / minutes with names on.

Cllr Corcoran referred to the DPC Community Flood Plan and the CEMT, which is in place in structure only with no names / wardens. He was looking at the inaccuracies and would like to do corrections to bring it up to speed and proposed that after this, a yearly review carried out. He was happy to get a group together or take it on himself.

Cllr Thompson advised that due to the current Covid restrictions, the public or councillors would not be involved in the Flood Plan only the Chair and Vice-Chair. If needed they would go to the Emergency Services at the Borough and if necessary, the Army. When the Covid situation has passed this can be looked at again and re-evaluated.

Cllr Corcoran commented that he is talking about corrections to the actual document, emergency phone numbers, web addresses, maps etc. The Chair suggested he do the inaccuracies to the document only and bring it back to the Council. He requested a word copy of the document from the clerk. **AGREED**

20.145 WORKING GROUPS

Revised Standing Orders are now on the website. Clerk to email a copy to all Cllrs.

E.A. group - Cllr Corcoran asked if he could talk with Cllr Mrs Davies regarding solar panels on the Village Hall and said he is still waiting for the E. A. training manual to be sent to him.

20.146 EVENTS

Cllr Corcoran had circulated his report to all members.

- i) The Post Office would not be opening until further notice due to lockdown.
- ii) Christmas window competition went down well and as the Santa Sleigh could not take place, he hoped to do something this year or in the summer. Cllr Buckley commented that Cllr. Corcoran had worked hard, and well done for trying to get something in place, and hoped something would take place to re-engage with the residents when we can.
- iii) Cllr Mrs Davies commented on the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and suggested may need to start booking acts etc now. Cllr Corcoran advised to get the Jubilee Memorial cleaned in time for this.

20.147 ITEMS FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

- i) Grounds Maintenance Contract/Employee – Cllr Thompson
- ii) Details of the 2021/22 Budget – Cllrs T O’Flynn and Hough
- iii) River Thames Scheme (RTS) – Cllr Larcombe
- iv) Protocol for Death of a Senior Royal - Clerk
- v) Position for Assistant Clerk – Clerk and Chairman

20.148 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- i) Cllr Hough – i) Cllr details still missing on the website, ii) asked re a date for the library meeting, advised scheduled for 12.02.21, iii) Covid budget £10,000 not spent not suggested carried forward
- ii) Cllr Larcombe advised of a DRCCT meeting on 25.01.21 at 7pm.
- iii) Cllr Clemens asked i) if the Manor Hotel is still homing the homeless, Cllr Cannon advised yes and ii) any update on adding CCTV at the recreation ground, he was advised no, Cllr Clemens to take this on. Cllr Buckley asked if this included CCTV with Horton & Wraysbury P.C. on highways and was advised no, this needed to be taken up separately with the other parishes.

20.149 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- i) Borough Cllr Cannon apologised for being late and asked that any matters for his attention to be emailed to him. He commented that the Borough have a lot of information regarding the death of a Senior Royal and in relation to pavement parking he advised to report this on the RBWM website. He asked for a copy of Cllr Larcombe’s report.
- ii) A resident asked Cllr Cannon about the railway platform extension and Cllr Cannon advised that his last update from Network Rail was 6 months ago and that they said it was not a priority as it did not impact on safety, but he will chase this up.
- iii) They also asked Cllr Cannon for an update on the £10 million for flood protection for the area as nobody knows what was suggested. Cllr Cannon advised that the EA are formulating a list of projects and he will be issuing a letter to Parish Councils by next Friday.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.21PM

**THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 8TH FEBRUARY 2021
VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM**

CHAIRMAN