

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2021, AT 19:00

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs P. Barnes-Taylor and P. Bicknell
There were 22 members of the public, no press and PCSO Les Bradfield present.

20.150 ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Chair will rearrange this agenda to suit the needs that have arisen and which members of the public are directly interested in. It is proposed that following the Borough Councillors report the Chair will take items 9) Planning, 10) Library transformation strategy and 14) Flooding. Following these items the Chair will continue in line with the published agenda. **AGREED**

20.151 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A resident commented on the number of public present and reminded the Chair that it had been agreed that all participants should identify themselves on screen first. The Chair said she would do this as and when people wanted to speak. The Chair asked if any members of the press were present, no reply was received.

20.152 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – None.

20.153 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2021

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

20.154 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES – None.

20.155 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT Cllr Cannon commented on the following:

- i) Advised that the draft budget went through the Cabinet and will be discussed at the February meeting.
- ii) Manor Hotel - Planning Application for HMO – Cllr Cannon advised he had opposed the application and has called it in. At the Planning Panel meeting he will stand down and will speak against the application as a Ward Councillor.
- iii) Library services – It is proposed to reduce services across the Borough, and to close Datchet Library. He advised he would be campaigning against the closure of Datchet Library as it is a massive community asset and there would be no service this end of the Borough until Windsor.
- iv) Flooding – He gave an update on the current situation regards river levels and flooding and advised that a joint consultation with the E.A. will be going to all Parish Councils within the Borough to ask for suggestions in relation to affordable alleviation schemes which will be reviewed by EA & RBWM to best protect the village.

20.156 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 20/03510 Orchard Cottage, 61 Horton Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9HD.

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application due to the following weighted arguments;

- 1) The applicant has on two previous occasions submitted very similar applications and has not mitigated against the concerns of previous planning decisions and this has also been tested under appeal, which again found in favour of the planning officer's decision to refuse. We therefore further support previous concerns and support the concerns to the impact to the historical listed building, public comments, tree officer, conservation considerations, Flood and over development concerns.
- 2) We would also draw the officer's attention to page 6 and Appendix B of the flood risk assessment submission by the applicant whereby they refer to the River Thames Scheme to support this application but as the Borough have concluded not to invest in this scheme, this argument should be removed and is misleading to the future flood risk of the area and in particular this application.

Application 21/00087 North Green, The Green, Datchet, Slough SL3 9JH.

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue **NO Objection** to this application but would like the following comment to be noted;

Notes: This application is on a property inside the Conservation Area of the village Green and we are concerned to the removal of the chimney and the change in the skyline from the conservation area aspect as this is visible from the village greens. We would like a referral to the conservation officer for input.

Application 21/00143 The Manor Hotel, 1 High Street, Datchet, Slough SL3 9EH.

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application on the following grounds;

Notes: We support our local ward councillor's request to call this application into the Borough Development Management Panel and we support the objections listed below:

- The application to change Hotel C1 to Hotel C1 and HMO C4 is a substantial impact on Tourism and Visitors in Datchet.
- Substantial impact from the loss of a community heritage asset.
- Building inappropriate for use as HMO due to present structure/ layout and kitchen.
- Change of use would have flooding impact due to known flood risk and evacuation of 30 HMO residents would place duty to house on RBWM which Hotel does not...
- The application contains insufficient detail and raises question as to whether it should have been validated.
- Unreasonable additional strain on local services including already over capacity primary care (Doctors).

We would also request that Cllr Cannon supports the further input from the local Parish Council to the Planning Panel to put forward a local presentation on this application at a future time.

The Chairman allowed public questions on this application.

A resident commented that he agreed with the Lead member's recommendation but felt that this application should not have been validated as it does not come under C4 and should be C2a.

Application 21/00155 122 Horton Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9HE

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application on the following grounds;

- This property is in Flood zone and there is no risk assessment presented with the application
- Over development in flood zone that would affect the flow of flood water.
- Concerns on the side extension as it is out of character with the rest of the street and properties. If it can be advised to reduce the side extension to be in line with the side of the property so as to maintain the design and character of all properties in the street to maintain and enhance the positive key features

Application 21/00201 93 Ditton Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9LX

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

Application 21/00280 Kingsley, 67 Slough Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9AL

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

Application 21/00211 16 Castle Avenue, Datchet, Slough

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue **No Objection** to this application but would like the following noted;

Notes: Please note applicant makes reference in the Flood risk assessment to the River Thames Scheme as a supporting evidence on the Flood risk and this is not supported by RBWM at this time and should not be taken into consideration on this application.

Application 21/00300 2 Queens Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9BN

This application is to fell a Lime tree (TPO 21 of 1992)

Datchet Parish Council would like the Borough Arboricultural Officer to investigate this application further as permission was granted in 2017 to trim this tree as long as the works did not affect its longevity. Datchet Parish Council would also like the Ward Councillor to call this application in.

20.157 RBWM LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

Cllr Hough summarised where the Parish Council are at this moment and advised that a meeting had been scheduled for January to discuss the reduction in hours but this was moved to February and the Boroughs position had changed to closure.

Cllr Cannon advised that he is fully behind keeping the library open in the village and members agreed with this. As the Parish Council sub-let the Library building to the Borough, he felt that if the Parish Council could offer a way to reduce the cost it would go a long way towards retaining the service.

Comments were made regarding to what extent to reduce the rent and was it a permanent closure or would it re-open once balances were made. Also, that the key is finding out what young people want from the service and promoting the service to a wider audience so they make better use of it.

Cllrs Hough, Mrs L. O'Flynn, Corcoran and the Clerk would be attending the meeting with RBWM in February and following discussions, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn and **AGREED (with one against)** that Cllr. Mrs M. Davies be part of this group as lead Member for Properties and since she has a knowledge of the lease.

It was noted that the Thames Valley Police Point, who also have a room in the building, have a separate lease agreement to the library.

20.158 FLOODING & DRAINAGE

i) Cllr Thompson's report had been circulated to all members. In addition, he commented on two urgent issues in Datchet a) The Flap Valve on the Datchet Common Brook which he has taken up with Borough Cllr Cannon and b) The Rail Arch Bund which he was pleased to advise had no water coming down on the North Side but stated that this needed formal protection.

The Barrel Arch – He confirmed that RBWM have no costings in their budget for the work to this as they have not assessed the CCTV survey with an engineer so have no idea of the costs involved. He asked Borough Cllr Cannon to advance this at the Borough.

In the absence of the River Thames Scheme he felt these are the 3 main areas for protection, for the village.

ii) Cllr Larcombe referred to his report and noted that he was not aware of DPC/Wraysbury/Horton Parish Councils having been properly informed that the RTS has been dropped. He expressed his concern that the RBWM council tax would be increasing whilst cutting libraries, bin collections and increasing car parking charges. He recommended that the Chair ask former RBWM Cllr. P. Bicknell, Cllr Cannon and Cllr Muir to enlighten DPC about how the Borough got into this situation and how to get out of it and he ask the council to resolve to ask Borough Cllrs Cannon and Muir against adopting the RBWM budget.

Cllr Cannon advised that Cllr Larcombe is aware of the position and history of the RTS as it has been laid out clearly. He further commented that he does represent the community and that flooding issues are very important and if the RTS could have been funded it would have. He is fully supportive of protecting the village and those downstream and now need to work out how to protect the village and residents.

Following a question from Cllr Davies regarding re-joining the RTS Scheme, Cllr Cannon said that it would have to be a separate scheme now as channels 2 and 3 are underway, but all options are still open.

20.159 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

i) **To approve the Income & Expenditure Sheets.** The Lead Member for Finance presented the income and expenditure sheets for approval with the addition of an invoice for the telephone and broadband. Subject to questions asked and answers given it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr P. Hough and **RESOLVED** that the payment sheets be approved and the income sheets be noted.

ALL IN FAVOUR

ii) **Details of the Budget 2021/2022.** Discussions took place on the budget sheets that had been previously circulated. Comments were made on outstanding work/projects and answers were given to questions raised. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr I. Thompson and **RESOLVED** that the details of the budget sheet as presented be approved. On being put to the vote there were; **For: 11 Against: 1 Abstaining: 0**

Therefore it was **RESOLVED** that the details of the 2021/2022 budget be **APPROVED**

iii) **Vacancy for Assistant Clerk.** The job description and advert for the position of Assistant Clerk had been circulated to all members. Further to discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr L O'Flynn and **SECONDED** by Cllr Hough and **RESOLVED** that these documents be approved and the position be advertised

ALL IN FAVOUR

Following discussions, it was **AGREED** that the advert be put on the SLCC website with a closing date of the end of the month.

20.160 PROPERTIES

i) The Lead Members report had been circulated to all members and she advised that she was trying to get hold of contractors to make the roof at 8 Horton Road safe, but would look to do a full roof repair in the summer. She had 2 quotes for the full repairs and was waiting for a third. Cllr Hough asked to see what was involved as these would have to come back to council for approval at some stage.

She was arranging for boiler safety checks to be carried out at both the Library and the Village Hall.

She advised that there had been a problem with the boilers in the village hall but this had now been rectified. Cllr Bacon asked if the small leak under the stage had been repaired. **CLERK to check.**

20.161 GROUNDS

- i) The Lead Member's report had been circulated to all members. He commented that now the budget details had been agreed he would analyse this and put together a proposal for works. Cllr Loveridge commented that he now had details on companies who could do sealed gravel around the Village Greens. Cllr Thompson asked that the Clerk forward the 3 specifications for this work to Cllr Loveridge. Cllr Hough stated that in regard to the grounds contract there was not a clear picture and that a schedule / details and a timeline need to be put together for proper discussion at a council meeting first. The Clerk said she would circulate the specification that was drawn up for the interim grass cutting contract to all.
- ii) **Options for transportation, erecting and dismantling of football goals.** Cllr Thompson commented that either a 4x4 vehicle was needed to do this or for a person to be contracted to do this for the Parish Council. He asked Cllr Clemens if he knew of anyone and Cllr Clemens suggested that the grounds team look into this and put forward a proposal.

20.162 HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES

- i) The Lead Member apologised for not being around and thanked Cllr's Buckley and Corcoran for their assistance. Cllr Corcoran said that Cllr's Buckley and Clemens were going to talk about projects linking highways and the EA Working Group, the Chair suggested they meet.

20.163 WORKING GROUPS

- i) **Environmental Awareness Working Group** – Cllr Corcoran had circulated his report and asked Council for approval to promote for the working group's survey. Following discussions, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Corcoran, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hough and **AGREED** that the survey be promoted around the village, on social media and put in The Link magazine, and the results be put on the Datchet Parish Council website.
- ii) **Councils Long Term Strategic Plan** – Cllr Hough said the plan was finished and it should be reviewed every quarter starting in March.
- iii) **Conservation Area Working Group** – Covered in flooding report.

20.164 EVENTS

Cllr Corcoran had circulated his report to all members and commented on the following:

- i) The Post Office was still on hold.
- ii) Ellis Journey – He advised members that he had put a proposal to RBWM and the Safety Advisory Group to use the village greens for this event which would keep everything on one side so there was no need to cross the road. He felt that support was needed from Councillors and Borough Councillors to convince RBWM that this is a safe event which cannot be held outside the village centre. Bor. Cllr Cannon to raise this with the RBWM officers and see it is taken forward. **CLLR CANNON** Cllr's Thompson and Loveridge felt there was no need to close roads as this was just causing problems.

20.165 ITEMS FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

- i) To consider liquidating the DRCCT and DPC to take over the assets – Cllr Larcombe
- ii) Library Consultation follow up – Cllr Hough
- iii) Grounds Contract Presentation – Cllr Thompson
- iv) Long Term Strategic Plan - Quarterly review Cllr Hough
- v) Protocol for the death of Senior Royal - Clerk

20.166 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Cllr Bacon reminded Cllr Larcombe that he was waiting for a document from Pangbourne ref the DRCCT. He also advised that The Stag had been subject to vandalism again and asked if Cllr Cannon had spoken to them, he said he was only made aware of it via social media. Cllr Hough asked again for all members to provide information for the DPC web site. Cllr Larcombe stated that if council was not getting through the work it should hold an extra ordinary meeting.

20.167 PUBLIC QUESTIONS – None.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.48PM

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

CHAIRMAN