

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021, AT 19:03

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

The Clerk Mrs K. Jones

Apologies: Cllr P. Hough

There were 4 members of the public present.

20.168 ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Chair reminded members how to behave in a public meeting. She informed members that she had spoken with Cllr Hough who advised that he was resigning as Councillor and would submit his formal letter of resignation in due course.

20.169 PUBLIC QUESTIONS – None.

20.170 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – Cllr Corcoran declared an interest in planning application 21/00452 which is for work to a neighbour's tree.

20.171 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2021

The minutes were approved, subject to the following amendments, as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

ALL IN FAVOUR

20.163 – Add 'Conservation Area Working Group is currently suspended'

20.164 – Events ii) Add the end of the paragraph add 'Cllr Corcoran responded that closure of High Street was not necessary.'

20.172 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES – None.

20.173 GENERAL

i) **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman commented on the format of the forthcoming Parish Meeting, where the Council reports to residents on what has been achieved in the past year. Although the attendance of the public at this meeting has been generally low, she advised that it would have to be a virtual meeting this year and asked for suggestions of who could be invited to give a talk. Cllr Larcombe offered to put a presentation to the meeting regarding the Channel 1. Cllr Corcoran suggested ideas be put forward to the Clerk over the next 2 weeks by email.

ii) **Clerks Report** – A draft Protocol for the Death of a Senior Royal/National Figure had been issued to all members for discussion. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr L. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr M. Davies and agreed that the protocol be accepted.

ALL IN FAVOUR

iii) **Correspondence** – The Clerk advised that she had received correspondence from the RBWM monitoring officer regarding the complaint against Cllr Loveridge.

20.174 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT Cllr Cannon commented on the following:

i) Liquid Leisure Enforcement Appeal – Interested in the Parish's views.

ii) Flood Alleviation Consultation (RBWM/EA) He advised that Cllr Thompson had sent papers to the EA with a number of suggestions. He stated that the group were still awaiting returns but the first meeting with the EA was very positive and the EA were exploring funding options.

iii) Road surface issues – He advised everyone to use the RBWM 'Report It' page on the website and come back to himself or Cllr Larcombe to chase up if there was no action.

iv) Library Consultation – Still running and need everyone to put forward their views. He asked the Parish Council, as the lease holders, if there was anything that could be done to reduce the costs to help keep the library in place and to demonstrate how much it is valued.

v) Manor Hotel – Planning application has been withdrawn, it is still being used to house homeless from the Borough until the contract ends.

vi) Policing – Lack of police contact is an issue at present. Incidents are happening where after a theft, although the police attended the scene, there is no follow up to contact the victims.

vii) Joint Emergency Planning Debrief – Clerk had circulated this to the flooding team.

Questions – Cllr Thompson commented he had not heard some of the report and Cllr Cannon advised that in relation to the RTS proposals, the EA are looking at what can be accessed with the money and if it will be eligible.

Cllr Corcoran commented that there was no response date on the RTS letter for suggestions, Cllr Cannon advised that there is currently no date and it is still open for suggestions.

20.175 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 T. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr Bicknell and **RESOLVED** that the payment sheets be approved and the income sheets be noted. **ALL IN FAVOUR**
- ii) **Update on the Applications for Assistant Clerk.** The Clerk advised members that she had received 2 applications and 1 late application and asked if the Council wished to extend the application date. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr I. Bacon, **SECONDED** by Cllr A. Corcoran to look at all three applications and arrange interviews. **AGREED**
The original group put together to do the interviews consisted of Cllrs L. O'Flynn, T. O'Flynn, Cllr P. Hough and the Clerk, with the resignation of Cllr P. Hough it was **ROPOSED** by Cllr L. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn that Cllr D. Buckley replace Cllr P. Hough on the interview group. **AGREED**
- iii) **Purchase of Mobile Phone.** The Clerk updated members of the cost of the purchase of a new mobile phone and sim package. Following a comment regarding coverage of the provider it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr L. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn that the purchase be agreed, subject to research on the coverage of the provider. **AGREED**
It was also **AGREED** that the Clerk should follow up getting costing for a new office lap top.
- v) **To Consider disbanding DRCCT.** Cllr Larcombe asked members for a show of hands to demonstrate support for bringing the DRCCT in house as a committee of the Parish Council. Following questions raised he advised that this was just to get a feel for if members wanted to look at options. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Corcoran, **SECONDED** by Cllr Buckley that a 10 point plan be put together of what is involved for all to see. **In Favour: 9** **AGREED**
Cllr Thompson raised a question on the ownership of the Sabatini land and it was agreed that this would be one of the points to be discussed.

20.176 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 21/00086 North Green, The Green, Datchet, Slough SL3 9JH

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

Application 21/00328 39 Fairfield Avenue, Datchet, Slough SL3 9NF

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

Application 21/00362 4 Cobb Close, Datchet, Slough SL3 9QZ

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

Application 21/00373 Innescrone Cottage, 2 Buccleuch Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9BP

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

Application 21/00523 94C Penn Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9JE

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue **an Objection** to this application on the grounds of over development in the flood plain.

1. It being greater than the max 30sqmin allowed in flood zone.

Application 21/00615 101B Slough Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9AQ

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

Application 21/00492 Riverbank, 9 Southlea Road, Datchet, Slough SL3 9BY

The Parish Council would like to raise an **OBJECTION** to the felling of this tree.

1. In 2019 an application was refused (application 19/00050) on the basis that alternative solutions had not been explored. Following that precedent for refusal, the applicant has not looked at alternatives or taken reasonable steps other than felling a historic, established and substantial tree that is a main visual point within the Datchet conservation area.

The Sequoiadendron giganteum (Wellingtonia) has, owing to its size and location, significant prominence in the local area, it has outstanding amenity value. It is referred to in the Council's Conservation Area statement, reflecting this importance.

The Parish council would also like to list an opportunity to “call in” this application should the officer feel it necessary to permit but we feel there is clear evidence to refuse on the precedents set in 2019 and again on this application.

Liquid Leisure Appeal – Cllr P. Bicknell declared an interest in Liquid Leisure.

The Clerk recommend that the Parish Council respond with previous objections /comments **AGREED** Cllr Cannon asked what DPC were opposed to as this is all retrospective. The Chair said yes and DPC should repeat the comments it had made previously.

20.177 RBWM LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

i) The Chair advised that there was a need for members to consider the response to the Library Transformation Strategy Consultation. Members were reminded that RBWM were looking into reducing the library service to save money. A meeting had been held with RBWM, it was noted that Datchet Library is the only one this side of Windsor, it is a community asset, it is located in the centre of the village close to the school and with easy access for older people, but there was a need to find a way to reduce the costs in order to keep the library.

Following discussions, suggestions and questions the Chair asked Cllr T. O’Flynn to put together a report on the running costs of the library and then call a Part II Meeting to discuss this.

ii) Banners.

The Clerk had circulated the details and costs of a ‘Save Datchet Library’ banner. It was requested that 2 be ordered and put up. It was noted that RBWM notices were on the notice boards.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bacon, **SECONDED** by Cllr T. O’Flynn and agreed that the banner be approved, as presented, and 2 be ordered and installed. **AGREED**

Cllr Thompson commented that leaflets were needed to be put in shops and The Bridge to highlight this consultation. He advised that he had produced a leaflet and would like this agreed. The Clerk advised that the banner would be produced as a leaflet and would be laminated for the shops.

20.178 RBWM MILESTONE STATEMENT & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL REVIEW

The Clerk advised that the Borough would like the PC to advise of what footpath areas are in need of repair or improvements. Cllr A. Corcoran volunteered to walk the routes and informed members of an addition for a new footpath suggested in the DNP report at the Cemex site, which has been rejuvenated. The new path could run from the Riding Court bridge to join with Cemex and connect with Slough.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr L. O’Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr T. O’Flynn and **AGREED** that the Clerk and Cllr Corcoran be given delegated powers to respond the review. **AGREED**

20.179 PROPERTIES

i) **The Lead Members report** had been circulated to all members and she advised that she had 2 estimates for the library roof and that a 3rd contractor did not turn up. It was noted that the 2 quotes were for different works and it was suggested that a structural engineer be asked to look at the roof and for 2 more quotes to be obtained. **AGREED**

20.180 GROUNDS

i) **The Lead Member’s report** had been circulated to all members.

ii) **Parish Yard Break In.** Cllr Thompson commented on the break in and that quotes for the replacement trailer and fence repair were being obtained, which would then go to the insurance company.

iii) **Grounds Maintenance Options.** Cllr Thompson gave a presentation on the grounds maintenance costs for 2019/2020 and the expected costs for 2021/2021. It was noted that a considerable cost saving was to be made by not employing a groundsman and he did not believe it would be beneficial to employ a groundsman.

iv) **Dog Bin Waste Removal.** Cllr Thompson commented on the current situation and the problems experienced. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr D. Loveridge that the dog bin waste removal contract be placed with Shorts Waste Management for a trial period of 6 months.

AGREED

Cllr P. Bicknell recommended using the RBWM Contractor and it was agreed to ask who the Borough Council use.

v) **Options for transportation, erecting & dismantling football goals.** Cllr A. Clemens advised that a vehicle had been offered to the club for use with the football goals and would require storage in the parish yard. The Clerk advised that insurance would be an issue with this. Cllr Loveridge offered to give the vehicle to the Council. An update would be provided at the next Council meeting.

Cllr Clemens thanked Cllr Loveridge and Cllr Cannon for their help with the parish yard break. Cllr Loveridge advised that he had found new fence panels and suggested putting bollards inside the fence to make it more secure.

vi) Councillors Questions. a) Cllr Buckley commented that most of the riverside lights were not working, he has reported this several times but no action has been taken. Cllr Cannon would follow this up. b) Cllr Clemens commented on the need for a CCTV extension on the recreation ground and was waiting for a quotation. c) Cllr Corcoran asked for a grounds maintenance comparison between employee and contractor and stated he did not see how this report covered/compared to the list and specification sent out by the Clerk. Cllr Thompson advised that he had put a lot of work into this doing a summation and he did not need to do anymore. The Chair advised that current arrangements on maintenance are going to be reviewed as operations are going well at present.

Due to the time Cllr Buckley **PROPOSED** that that the meeting be moved to public questions and the remaining items on the agenda be moved to a future meeting, date to be agreed. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Larcombe and **AGREED** with the **proviso** to take item 15. Flooding and Drainage ii. first - To receive a proposal to provide funding of the channel one section of the River Thames Scheme - Cllr Thompson.

20.181 Flooding and Drainage

Cllr Thompson **PROPOSED** that his report for the Channel 1 River Thames Scheme funding, as distributed, be approved. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Loveridge and **AGREED**

20.182 PUBLIC QUESTIONS – None.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT **21.43PM** with all outstanding agenda items to be carried forward to an extra ordinary meeting of the council, date to be agreed.

**THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 12TH APRIL 2021
VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM**

_____ **CHAIRMAN**