

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON MONDAY 22ND MARCH 2021, AT 19:07

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

Apologies: None
There were 2 members of the public present.

20.183 ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Chair reminded members how to behave in a public meeting.

20.184 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – None.

20.185 ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 8TH MARCH 2021

i) AGENDA ITEM 14 - HIGHWAYS

The Lead member had nothing to report but stated that she was getting back into things and would be walking around Datchet from now on.

Cllr Buckley informed members that he was meeting RBWM officers and members this week regarding an extension to the platform on Datchet Station and that and B. Cllr Cannon was instrumental in this. They want to work together with DPC on this issue. The next meeting would be in April and he would bring this to the Highways Working Group.

Comments were made regarding cars idling engines whilst stationary and other traffic issues within the Village. Cllr L. O'Flynn advised that RBWM are going to gather together all the evidence and a meeting will be arranged to discuss these in 3 to 4 weeks' time.

ii) AGENDA ITEM 15 – FLOODING & DRAINAGE

Cllr Larcombe commented on his report which was issued 2 weeks ago. He noted that the EA had previously admitted that RBWM were unwilling/unable to give partnership funding in relation to the River Thames Scheme. A petition of more than 1,500 signatures has been given to the RBWM, which will be looked at on the 22.04.21 and the Council or members of the public will be able to speak if they write in and ask to do so. The Chairman commented that Cllr. Thompson would be the best person to do this on behalf of DPC

Cllr Larcombe also noted that the Channel 1 had been deleted from the EA website and the maps have changed.

iii) AGENDA ITEM 16 - WORKING GROUPS

Long Term Strategic Plan, Quarterly Review – Cllr T. O'Flynn advised that there was nothing to add to the plan, everything still stands, and the next review would be in June. Cllr Corcoran said the idea of the plan was to timetable projects, discuss them, gather information and agree. Putting off the review does nothing to get projects underway and there should be a proper discussion and debate. The Chairman said the plan should be added to as things happen and reviewed every quarter. Cllr Bacon said if nothing else council should discuss and update the end column which gives the council meeting each project should be reviewed at, or we are not achieving anything. The Chairman said the plan had to be led by the lead members who input the information as a living document

iv) AGENDA ITEM 17 – EVENTS

Ellis Journey – Cllr Corcoran advised that discussions had taken place with RBWM regarding holding the event on The Greens, and the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) had made a list of issues/concerns but had not given advice on how these could be improved. He requested permission to hold the event on the Sabatini Land and for the council to hire the village hall, although this would depend on the Government 'road map' for coming out of the pandemic. He asked for availability of the hall, and Cllr M. Davies is to advise.

Following discussions where the need was highlighted to find out why the SAG felt using the greens was dangerous and what specific improvements could be made to make them, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Buckley and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bacon and **AGREED** to use the Sabatini Land for the Ellis Journey Event this year, and for future events look at how we can take back control of the Greens.

The voting being - **8 in Favour - 2 Against - 1 Abstaining.**

The Clerk to check with the DPC insurance company where they would stand in regard to DPC having future events on the Village Greens despite recommendations to the contrary from the SAG .

v) **AGENDA ITEM 18 – ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING** – None.

20.186 GROUNDS

In the absence of the Lead Member the Clerk reported on the following:

i) **Grass Cutting Contract** – The Clerk updated members on the current situation.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge, **SECONDED** by Cllr Clemens and agreed that the grass cutting contract be given to Albert Huber and Garden Designs for a period of 1 year. **AGREED**

The voting being: - **10 in Favour - 0 Against - 1 Abstaining**

ii) **Hanging Baskets** – The Clerk outlined the background and proposal.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge, **SECONDED** by Cllr Buckley and unanimously agreed that Windowflowers be given the order for the hanging baskets and watering of plants at the Parish Councils cost. **All in Favour** **AGREED**

iii) **Play Area Repairs**. The Clerk outlined the quotation.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge, **SECONDED** by Cllr Clemens and unanimously agreed that an order be placed for the play area repairs. **All in Favour** **AGREED**

iv) **Cemetery Fees and Charges** – It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge, **SECONDED** by Cllr Buckley and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that there be no change to the Cemetery Fees and Charges for 2021/2022. **AGREED**

A question was asked if there would be any leeway for deceased family members, who had left the village, to be bought back for burial in the village at local rates. The Clerk advised that a request would need to be put in writing to the Council.

v) Cllr Clemens advised that football would be starting on 03.04.21 until June and asked that Albert Huber, who has been agreed to cut the grass, be asked to carry out the pitch marking as previously. **AGREED.**

As Cllr Thompson had managed to join the meeting at this stage Cllr Larcombe asked a question regarding Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury and Old Windsor working together on flooding issues.

Cllr Thompson confirmed that yes they would like to come on board with Datchet.

1) He proposed to form a flood risk group to put pressure on RBWM and the Government in relation to the River Thames Scheme which would also allow people from Runnymede and Egham to be bought in.

2) He further proposed to try to obtain some of the monies the Government have quoted as being available, for Channel 1 to improvement Datchet flood defences. He had already sent a copy of all 7 schemes and drawings to all members. He had submitted a report to the EA and he was waiting for a response. He also had asked B. Cllr Cannon about progress on the Barrel Arch and Common Brook.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr Larcombe and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that council adopt the above 2 proposals made by Cllr. Thompson.

20.187 PUBLIC QUESTIONS – None.

THE CHAIR MOVED TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING

THIS PART OF THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.12PM

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

CHAIRMAN