

# Datchet Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 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, I. Thompson, A. Verma  
The Clerk Mrs K. Jones

Apologies: Cllr A. Clemens, Borough Cllr D. Cannon and Cllr Larcombe would have to leave early for  
another meeting  
There were 2 members of the public present.

**20.189 ANNOUNCEMENTS** – The Chair welcomed those present and reminded members that the meeting  
had been postponed by 1 week out of respect for the loss of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

**20.190 PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.

**20.191 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** – Cllr Loveridge declared an interest in planning application  
20/01790 and will leave the meeting during discussions.

**20.192 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

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

**20.170** – Delete ‘neighbours tree’ and replace with ‘his own tree’.

**20.178** – In the third line delete ‘which has been rejuvenated’ and replace with ‘is to be rejuvenated’

**20.193 MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH  
2021**

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

**20.194 PART II MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup>  
MARCH 2021**

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

**20.195 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES**

08.03.21 – 20.173 iii) Correspondence – The Clerk advised that she had received the Monitoring  
Officers initial assessment decision in regard of Mr Claspers complaint against Cllr Loveridge and the  
decision was to take No further action.

08.03.21 – 20.174 v) – Manor Hotel Update- RBWM contract with Manor Hotel has ended but a  
contract has been agreed with the Prison Service for use of the hotel for people on remand.

08.03.21 – 20.180 Parish Yard Break-In – Bollards have been installed inside the fence line for added  
protection and another 10 bollards are to be manufactured for the Parish Yard.

**20.196 GENERAL**

i) **Chairman’s Report** – The Chairman informed members that the Annual Parish Meeting, where  
Lead Members report back to residents on the past year, would need to be held virtually this year due  
Covid restrictions and she could not think of a guest speaker this time but asked for ideas. The Clerk  
advised that because of the legal situation the APM would need to be re-scheduled from the 26<sup>th</sup> April  
and held before the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Following discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Buckley,  
**SECONDED** by Cllr T. O’Flynn and **AGREED** that the Annual Parish Meeting be moved to be held  
on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021, with no speakers invited and the agenda be issued tomorrow (20<sup>th</sup> April).

*ALL IN FAVOUR*

ii) **Clerks Report**

a) **Annual Statutory Meeting.** The Clerk commented on the need to change the date of this  
meeting to Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, in line with the recommendations from HALC.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Buckley, **SECONDED** by Cllr T. O’Flynn and **AGREED** that the  
Annual Statutory Meeting be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 *ALL IN FAVOUR*

The Clerk also commented on the need for Delegated Powers to be in place between 7<sup>th</sup> May and  
21<sup>st</sup> June 2021, when normal face to face meetings including the public can reconvene.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O’Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr D. Buckley and **AGREED** that  
Delegated Powers be used, where necessary, between 7<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. *ALL IN*

*FAVOUR*

- b) **Co-Option.** The Clerk advised that 3 people had shown an interest in being co-opted to the Parish Council. It was noted that this would be best to take place when face to face meetings were resumed, probably August, Clerk to draft an open ended advert.

**20.197 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT** In the absence of Borough Councillors Cannon and Muir a report had been passed to the Chair, who advised:

- i) Progressing the Datchet Crossing issues
- ii) In touch with the police over the causes of the accident in Penn Road last week.
- iii) Progressing flood alleviation with the EA at a monthly meeting and now have an idea of initial funding together with Project management staff and RBWM resources in place to identify and progress identified projects. Still keen to hear any further ideas.

Cllr Thompson added – the EA response had been circulated to all regarding local flood defences and this would be taken forward with Scott Salmon.

And there are still some outstanding issues with i) Barrel Arch and ii) Datchet Common Brook, there had been no response from Thames Water, waiting for Borough Cllr Cannon to deal with this.

**20.198 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

i) **To approve the Income & Expenditure Sheets.** The Clerk advised that because of the re-scheduling of the meeting, out of respect for the loss of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the expenditure sheet had been authorised and payments made under delegated powers to avoid any delays and the possibility of incurring any charges for late payments. The Lead Member for Finance asked Council to ratify the payments made as presented on the income and expenditure sheets. Subject to questions asked and answers given it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr Buckley and **RESOLVED** that payment of the expenditure sheets be **RATIFIED** and the income sheets be noted.

*ALL IN FAVOUR*

ii) **Contract with Laptop Doctor.** Cllr Buckley advised that Laptop Doctor was prepared to help Parish Councillors improve and set up their internet connections and that an initial report and overview on equipment, and possible training for virtual meetings would cost approx. £500.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr D. Buckley, **SECONDED** by Cllr I. Bacon and **AGREED** that the Laptop Doctor be engaged to look at and provide an overview of councillor's IT equipment with recommendations of any remedial works required.

*ALL IN FAVOUR*

**20.199 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.

**Application 20/01790 Land at Datchet Common, Mill Place, Datchet**

Cllr Loveridge was moved to the waiting room during this discussion.

Taking into consideration all the points reviewed in relation to the history, Datchet Parish Council would have **NO Objection** to this application but would like the following points taken into consideration of any permitted application and used as conditions to any approval given:

Control to the perimeters of the site are set as shown in the plans and no increase of area is submitted so to maintain green spaces and tree boundaries. That the surrounding tree lines are adhered to and suggested that mature trees are planted to improve the views over the development. All requirements and recommendations of Environmental Agency, Highways and Environmental Protection Memorandum are met and monitored within the application. 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. Restrictions on noise, movements of traffic and minimal disturbances are set out clearly in the application. There needs to be clarification and installation of the emergency exit into Mill Place onto Horton Road. We would like to see any trees removed by the applicant previously and as shown in their plans reintroduce the tree lining to improve the existing land as set out in their planning application. This would include the removal of hardstanding on the remaining area of the site outside the red area but within the blue area of the plans submitted. We feel that this should be added as a condition to the amended application that the remaining area is returned to suitable green belt and scrubland with all hardstanding being removed. There should be no further reduction in trees and any removal should be replaced to maintain the biodiversity of the development. We would recommend a TPO being placed onto all mature trees currently in location.

We refer at all times to the conditions set out by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2020 and our requested local conditions should be added to support this amended application as set out in points 7-9 above. *All councillors present in the meeting at this time were In Favour of this recommendation (8)*

**Application 21/00734 – Verge at Junction o Majors Farm Road and Ditton Road, Datchet**

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application on the following grounds: Objection on sighting of the mast and cabinets. This is a clear green verge area on the approach into Datchet and this would stand alone making it extremely more visible than necessary on the approach into the village. We feel a better area for installation would be on the adjacent opposite side of the main road on the verge to the side of the motorway, further away from residential properties and would merge visually into the Motorway furniture. This is a very high 15m mast and very large cabinet which would look out of place in the middle of the proposed triangle verge entering the village OR Over the other side of the motorway on Riding Court Road again merging into the motorway furniture.

We refer the planning team to the statement in the National Planning Policy Framework – “Existing masts, buildings and other structures should be used, unless the need for a new site has been justified. Where new sites are required, equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate’ 10.”

**Application 21/00769 26 Ruscombe Gardens, Datchet**

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application on the following grounds: Application has not submitted a flood risk report and the applicant sits inside flood zone and has a history of surface and flood water to this area. Proposed footprint reaches just within the limit of 30sqm in a flood zone but we need to be concerned with any additional structure within the flood zone that would potentially increase the risk to adjoining properties of flooding or reduce the soakaway of flood water. Therefore, we recommend this application be refused. Ruscombe Gardens has historic flooding and is a natural water runoff and has a high level of surface water when we enter flooding season.

**Application 21/00784 The Cottage, 27 High Street, Datchet**

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

**Application 21/785 The Cottage, 27 High Street, Datchet**

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

**Application 21/00790 2 Fairfield Avenue, Datchet**

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application on the following grounds: Overdevelopment as a 3-story property. Plans were approved with no objection from DPC in application 15/03709 as a two-story property and we feel a 3-story extension creates a precedent for over development in the area. Out of character and design on properties in the location. No flood risk report included with the application.

**Application 21/00834 Land at Swan Court, Southlea Road, Datchet**

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application on the following grounds: The heritage statement supplied by the applicant is misleading and inaccurate in reference to local listed buildings and their proximity to this development. This development proposes the removal of many established protected trees within the conservation area, this should be a weighted argument to refuse planning. This development would be seen from the Southlea Road views and does not maintain the style or design of the properties within the Conversation area of Datchet. The development is in the flood zone and is a statement of excessive over development within the flood zone. We refer you to the recently adopted Datchet Design Guide where the proposed development does not meet a number of referenced elements and therefore planning permission should not be granted.

There is restrictive parking to this site and would remove current parking facilities for properties using this site, totally unsuitable.

**Application 21/00921 Evans Cottage Ditton Park Conduit Lane, Slough**

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application for the following reason: No Flood risk assessment or report on the application. This property sits adjacent to Datchet Common Brook, which is a historic flood risk to neighbouring properties.

**Application 21/000931 66a London Road, Datchet**

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application with the following concerns:

Infill is too close to the neighbours' boundary wall. The previous application was submitted and granted under permitted development, but we feel this is an over development of the site with this further application and conflicts on the boundaries. Excess proposal was previously granted at 46.9sqm over above the 30msq for flood zone but now being extended further to 62.63sqm which we would like to object to as over and above flood zone restrictions 30sqm as a maximum.

**Application 21/01049 – 24 Fairfield Avenue, Datchet**

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application with the following concerns: Objection as development site sits in flood plain and there is no flood risk report attached to application. Over development of property as new footprint is similar in size to existing footprint and changes to character of the street, roofline and any development should be following the guidance of the Datchet Design Guide to maintain street character and styles.

**Permitted Application 21/00429 – Felling of TPO Tree, 9 Southlea Road, Datchet**

Cllr Buckley had spoken at length to the Borough Tree Officer about this application and had asked for it to be called in but was told this is not allowed for tree applications. He stated that there is no reason to take this tree down other than Insurance, as the applicant could sue RBWM and if they win the fee could be £200,000. The report by the tree specialist gave lots of alternatives to felling but the insurance company has not looked at these.

It was **AGREED** that the local press be contacted regarding this and that Cllr Buckley write to our MP, Adam Afriyie.

**Application 21/00854, 4 Horton Road, Datchet**

Council **Objected** to this application on the grounds that the tree is actually owned by, and is on land owned by, Datchet Parish Council so the application form is incorrect. And, on the grounds that removing up to 5m on one side of the tree could potentially lead to the tree becoming unbalanced and hazardous in a public open space and close to a public building – Datchet Library.

**20.200 EVENTS**

**i) Ellis Journey Event.** Cllr Loveridge advised that a meeting of the Safety Advisory Group was due to take place tomorrow (20.04.21) and the parishes request to use The Cut, rather than the agreed Sabatini Land would be put forward.

**Cllr Thompson put forward his motion to change the previous DPC agreement to hold the event on the Sabatini land (ref DPC meeting 22nd March 2021).**

In order to comply with Standing Orders the requirement to change a Council decision within the 6 months period that a decision normally would stand until a second vote could be made, the new proposal needs to have the support of five Parish Councillors.

The five Councillors supporting the proposal were:-

**Cllr Loveridge, Cllr Clemens, Cllr Mrs Davies, Cllr Larcombe , Cllr Buckley.**

Following discussions on concerns raised regarding safe vehicle access onto the Sabatini Land, lack of toilets and other facilities, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr Loveridge and **AGREED** that, subject to SAG approval, the Ellis Journey Event be held on The Cut. The voting being:

**For: 7                      Against: 0                      Abstaining: 2**

**20.201 FLOODING & DRAINAGE** – Cllr Thompson had circulated his report and reported on the following:

**i)** Issues outstanding with the Borough Council are the Barrel Arch and Datchet Common Brook.

**ii)** He was supporting Wraysbury Parish Council in relation to answers from the Borough on the River Thames Scheme. The Chair asked if a formal group would be formed to deal with this and Cllr Thompson said he hoped to do this as more information would be forthcoming and he hoped to involve Egham and Runnymede Councils.

**20.202 PROPERTIES** – The Lead Member reported on the following:

**i) Cemetery Lodge Windows.** She was waiting to hear from B. S. Bennetts to gain access to the Cemetery Lodge to photograph the windows and process an application to the RBWM Conservation Officer.

**ii) Library.** She had met a 3<sup>rd</sup> roofer at the library regarding ongoing problems and was awaiting a quote. She was also looking at different ideas for the use of the library.

**20.203 GROUNDS** – The Lead Member's report had been circulated to all members and report as follows:

**i)** 10 new posts are to be made by the Blacksmith.

**ii) Hedge cutting of the Green Lane Ha Ha** – The Lead Member had concerns regarding the level of the hedge and it had been agreed that it be left to grow over the summer and the contractor re-level it in September.

- i) **Village Greens** – The greens are very dry so not cutting at the moment, following a period of rain these will be mowed and feed.
- ii) **Etesia** – It is being assessed for scrappage, there are issues with the machine including engine leak.
- iii) **Riverside Grass** – Grass rectification following flooding is on hold due to the dryness and new chains and posts to be considered to help grass to recover. A sample chain will be installed, Cllrs to look at.
- iv) **CCTV Dome Camera** – Not working, to be chased.

**20.204 HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSES** - No report available, defer to next meeting.

- i) Cllr Buckley informed members of an accident in Penn Road, he is currently talking with the family and waiting for a response from TVP.

**20.205 WORKING GROUPS**

- i) **LAANC** – Cllr Buckley had attended a LAANC meeting about night flights – he would give an update at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**20.206 ITEMS FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING** – None.

**20.207 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS** – None.

**20.208 PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – A member of the public asked if a Council meeting would follow the Annual Statutory Meeting (05.05.21) and was advised YES. She also made an observation on the flooding report and the lack of communication with Borough Cllr Cannon and RBWM, and asked why a FOI request for the Barrel Arch report had not been submitted. The Clerk commented that, in conjunction with Cllr Thompson, she could raise this FOI with RBWM.

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

THIS PART OF THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.09PM

**THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021  
VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM**

\_\_\_\_\_ **CHAIRMAN**