

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ON MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 19:00

Present: Cllr's Mrs L. O'Flynn (Chairman) P. Bicknell, T. O'Flynn, Mrs. M. Fitzgerald, E. Larcombe, Mrs. M. Davies, I. Thompson, I Bacon, D. Loveridge.
The Clerk Mrs K. Jones and Assistant Clerk Ms J. H. Jilani

Apologies: Cllr's D. Buckley, Mrs. P. Barnes-Taylor and Borough Councillor D. Cannon.

There were 4 members of the public present.

21.074 ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Clerk informed members of the resignation of Cllr A. Corcoran

21.075 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – A resident advised that good progress is being made with the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan and asked if councillors would be interested in a question-and-answer session. The Chairman agreed and a meeting is to be arranged.

21.076 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – None.

20.077 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 9TH AUGUST 2021

Subject to the Clerk amending the members of public present from 1 to 2, and in item 21.067 removing and the 2nd "Proposed" the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting. *ALL IN FAVOUR*

21.078 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES – Page 14 - Cllr Bicknell made the comment that if the meeting was not recorded on the audio system, then there was no record of what was discussed about flooding and Thames's scheme sub-committee, and when he talked about dredging, he was told that there is nuclear waste at the bottom of the river which will make it impossible to dredge. He stated that if there is nuclear waste in bottom of the river the Datchet residents should know about it, and the Council should be getting on to the Environment Agency. He was concerned that there was nothing in the previous minutes about this. Cllr Larcombe commented saying that Aldermaston had been releasing low level waste since 1950, and was one of many that the E.A. licenced and still do. The material at the bottom is hazardous liquid waste and would need to go into specialist storage so it is safer to it where it is. Cllr. Bicknell stated that he would at least like to know the radiation level as residents, especially children are subjected to this as they are not aware. Cllr Thompson stated that people were made aware of this 3 years ago when the councils plan for the riverside jetties were overwritten when the EA said the council could not dredge the river bed to make it deeper because of the hazardous waste.
Cllr Larcombe recommended that Cllr Bicknell talk to the Lead Member at the Borough Council to assess the level of protection required.

21.079 GENERAL

The Chairman's report – Register of Interest. The Chairman reminded members that when they sign up, they all have to register any interests relevant to the Council. She asked everyone to check their forms on the DPC website and make sure everything is up to date, and contact the clerk regarding any changes/questions

The Clerks report-

- i. Vacancies on DPC- Following the resignation of Cllr. Corcoran there is now a second vacancy on the Council, but this one is subject to the Local Government Act 1972 and notice has been given of a casual vacancy which will be filled by election if, any ten parish electors submit a written request to the Borough. Consequently, the Clerk recommended that council hold off on the co-option for the earlier vacancy until the outcome of this one is known which will be on the 23rd September. She would write to the 3 candidates who have shown an interest in co-option to inform them of this and state co-options are now likely to be at the November/December meeting. *AGREED*
- ii. The Clerk called for nominations for Lead Members for Highways and Events. Cllr Bicknell advised he would be happy to take on the position of Lead Member for Highways. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn and **SECONDED** by Cllr D. Loveridge that Cllr Bicknell be

the new Lead Members for **ALL IN FAVOUR**. As regards a Lead Member for Events, since there were no volunteers or nominations Cllr. Thompson suggested that this was spread out amongst councillors to help Cllr Clemens, who is the Deputy Lead.

21.080 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- i. 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 Mrs. M. Davies and **RESOLVED** that the payment sheets be approved and the income sheets be noted. 7 in Favour and 2 Abstaining.
- ii. **AGAR-** The Clerk reported on the completion of the review for 2020/21 and stated that this has now been completed and has been approved by the external auditors. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has gone up on the notice boards and web site and copies are available to view in the Parish Office, or at a cost of £25 for a copy to take away.
- iii. **Back dated water bill** – The Council had been asked to consider a request from the DRCCT for the council to pay 70% of the water bill, in the sum of £5333.51, going back to 2016. The background to this is that following a massive water leak in February 2020 at the meter on Horton Road, which feeds all 6 buildings in the village hall complex, anomalies had been found and meter readings had been lost in transit. Moving forward it was recommended that each building should have its own water meter to monitor exactly how much they are using and pay accordingly. However, DRCCT have settled the outstanding bill and are asking DPC to stick to the previous arrangement of paying 70% of this to cover the parish office and changing rooms. Following discussions where questions were asked regarding needing to get the split right, DRCCT covering the cost of the water in the rent charged for the bungalow and in the hire rates for the Village Hall, it was **AGREED** to use the historical figure of 70-30 split to sort this out for now and in the future each building will be billed accordingly. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Mrs M. Davies and **SECONDED** by Cllr I. Thompson that DPC pay the £5333.51. 8 in **FAVOUR** – 1 **ABSTAINING**
- iv. **To consider the quote received for phone and broadband provision from Mainstream Digital for the next 3 years and agree the way forward.** The Assistant Clerk had obtained an alternative quote for a VOIP system. This is an app system which works wherever you are on WI-FI. Following discussions, the Clerk advised that this system needs more research and a demo, and it will be bought back to the October meeting as a proposal.
- v. Councillors Questions – None.

21.081 WARD COUNCILORS REPORT'S

Cllr E. Larcombe presented his report. He advised regarding the bin services. The black and the green bins will now be collected every fortnight. His views are that the black bin should be collected every week otherwise the smell will become very unpleasant.

He has two questions for the next Borough Council meeting.

1) River Thames Scheme. We were all to put money in the Scheme, but because RBWM did not we lost the full Scheme. Now we need to know if we will have partnership funding or not, and whether that demand from the Environment Agency is actually legal and proper, because (in his opinion) it did not go through the House of Commons. He believes the partnership funding is a DEFRA policy which was introduced 10 years ago, where they said if the Borough Council put money in, they (DEFRA) would also put money in. Over the years things have changed and now it is the Environment Agency and they are suggesting they want £50 million partnership funding for the flood alleviation scheme, and if the Borough do not pay we won't get a Scheme. Cllr Larcombe suggested he has got some support for this view from the National Infrastructure Committee who advise regarding the River Thames Scheme. One of the objectives of the Environment Agency is to maximise the income from the partnership funding contributions. This is suggested as not correct, as in the first instance the flood alleviation was based on the cost benefit analyses and in the Boroughs case, we passed that.

2)The Wraysbury Drain has not worked this year because it has not been looked after. This is an ordinary water course which is the responsibility of the Borough. The Borough, at the moment, have no system for monitoring and maintaining the status of the conveyance of the ordinary water courses. Cllr E. Larcombe advised he has asked the question "when will the Wraysbury Drain work" and he did not get a satisfactory response so he has contacted the Ombudsman and they are quite positive to take on the case.

21.082 PLANNING

The Lead Member had circulated his report and recommendations which the clerk read out in his absence.

i. Appn. no 21/02452 149 Slough Road Datchet SL3 9AE

Datchet Parish Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

The voting being 8 in **Favour**, 1 **Abstaining**

ii. Appn. no 21/02244 127 Horton Road Datchet SL3 9HW

Datchet Parish Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

The voting being 8 in **Favour**, 1 **Abstaining**

iii. Appn. no 21/02449 24 Ruscombe Gardens Datchet SL3 9BG

Datchet Parish Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application, but made the following recommendation. Refer to Tree officer at RBWM, it is noted by the resident that the tree is diseased, but this needs to be followed up officially by the Tree officer. If diseased we would recommend no objection, however if this is not the case, we feel this tree should continue to be protected for the benefit of all. We would also recommend that a replacement should be part of this planning application and added as a condition to be agreed with the tree officer and environmental officer at RBWM

iv. Appn. no 21/02434 Riverbank 9 Southlea Road Datchet SL3 9BY

Datchet Parish Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application, but made the following recommendation. A decision has already been reached by the Borough officers to permit this application, which the Parish council would support to mitigate a previous application to fell the important tree.

v. Appn. no 21/02287 Riverbank 9 Southlea Road Datchet SL3 9BY

Datchet Parish Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application, but made the following recommendation. A decision has already been reached by the Borough officers to permit this application, which the Parish council would support to mitigate a previous application to fell the important tree.

As pointed out by a member of the public, it was noted that there was an error in the description of this application in that it is a Tree in the Conservation Area (TCA) and not a TPO.

21.083 FLOODING & DRAINAGE

The Lead Councillor, I. Thompson had circulated his report to members. In regard to the situation raised on nuclear waste he said that he had quite a lot of data from engineers on this and was happy to pass this onto Cllr. Bicknell. As concerns the Flood Risk Action Group, (FRAG) he was looking to put this together as a completely separate group to RBWM. The group would contact the Government in reference to the 8.2 billion pounds of funding available for local flood defences. This would be a separate application and would not take any money from RBWM or the Channel One scheme. The Chairman is to write to the other Parishes, Horton, Wraysbury and Old Windsor regarding setting up the group. He had also had contact from the EA regarding their flooding data from 2014 and he was surprised that Datchet Village Centre was not recorded as being flooded and that the Recreation Ground and the ditch were separated. This was an area of concern and could mean that their flood values and modelling could be considerably wrong, so he will send them our records. Cllr Bicknell suggested that we contact the fire authorities that attended the flood event in 2014 as they will have the data.

Cllr Thompson also said that the Barrell Arch was a key element to clear water in the village from houses and gardens and get it into the river. As such the Barrell Arch must be repaired and maintained in good working order. He had sent his report on the survey to Volker Highways and was hoping to get a response at a meeting this week with Sue Fox from RBWM, and would also discuss the flap valve controls at Penn Road and Eton End. Cllr. Mrs M. Davies said that the Borough had stated that the survey showed the Barrell Arch was in good condition, but DPC were saying it was not. Cllr Thompson agreed with this and stated that the risk levels were 1 to 5, and most were level 5 and he agreed with the engineers. Cllr. Bicknell said if the river levels are high this is why we need to dredge. He also requested to be sent a copy of the survey.

21.084 GROUNDS

The Lead Member had circulated his report.

- i. The Clerk presented her report on the 2 size options for the Christmas Tree. Following discussions, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bacon, and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bicknell to go for the bigger 25ft tree at the cost of £ £3,680.00 + VAT **ALL IN FAVOUR**
- ii. **Decorative Street lights for 2021-** The Clerk advised that the council may not get extra street and mistletoe lights in the time for switch on, which is the 19th of November. Following discussions, it was agreed to still go ahead and meet with the lighting contractor and get a quote for these as they may still arrive by December and if not we would have them in hand for next year.
- iii. **To consider and agree football fees for the 2021/2022 season.** Following discussions, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr D. Loveridge and **SECONDED** by Cllr P. Bicknell to keep the fees the same as last year at £750 per adult team, and free for the under 16. **ALL IN FAVOUR**
- iv. **New CCTV cameras -** The Clerk appraised members of the revised quote received from Audio and Visual Security Services for the additional CCTV cameras without the ANPR option, which would mean that the existing monitor would be sufficient. Cllr, Bicknell mention the new Ring type doorbells which could do the same thing. Following discussions Cllr. Thompson recommended that the council go with the quote which the council have already and get the additional cameras installed as soon as possible as the system costs less than the items lost in the recent theft. Cllr Bacon supported this as it is a system we know and understand. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thompson and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bacon to accept the quote from Audio and Visual Security Services for the additional CCTV cameras in the sum of £4,557.00. **ALL IN FAVOUR**
- v. **Councilor's Questions** – Cllr Thompson requested that Council get the replacement red telephone box project started and would talk to Cllr. A Clemens in this regard.

21.085 PROPERTIES

- i. **Lease Agreement between DPC and Datchet Football Club for the Youth Club Building**
The Lead Member, Cllr Mrs. M. Davies, advised that Cllr A. Verma had kindly prepared the draft lease for DPC which needed a few amendments. Once these had been made the lease will be sent to the Football Club for their comments and any changes. Then it will be bought back to the October Council meeting for approval.
- ii. **Service Level Agreement (SLA) with RBWM for the Library Service in Datchet -** The SLA had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting for comments. Following discussions, it was **AGREED** that the Council's representative on the Library Liaison Board would be whoever was the Lead Member for Properties at the time. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Mrs. Davies and **SECONDED** by Cllr T. O Flynn that the SLA be approved. **All IN FAVOUR**
- iii. Councilor's Questions- None.

21.086 HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSES

Cllr P. Bicknell advised he will be Lead Member for Highways and General Purposes and will work alongside Cllr Mrs. M. Fitzgerald to look at issues like turning off engines when waiting at the level crossing, re-routing HGV, a 20MPH speed limit and reducing the flow of traffic in the town. Cllr Mrs. M. Fitzgerald also mention that pedestrian crossing lights were needed on the zebra crossing in the village.

Councillors Questions- None.

21.087 EVENTS

Following Cllr Corcoran's resignation there is no one at the moment to take over as Lead Member. Regarding the Queens Platinum Jubilee Event, it was agreed that the membership of the working group should be reviewed and Cllr. Mrs. M. Davies volunteered to join. Cllr Buckley to be asked to call a meeting of the group and to enlist help from other village organisations (W.I.) and the public. Cllr. Thompson advised that he and the clerk had met the stone mason regarding the cleaning of the Jubilee Memorial for this event. Clerk to chase up a report and quote for this work.

21.088 WORKING GROUPS – None

21.089 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – None

21.090 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS – Cllr Bacon asked if the meeting tonight was being recorded and the clerk said hopeful it should work as changes had been made to the system. He also said he would like to put on record all the hard work that Cllr. Corcoran did for DPC during his time as a councillor.

Cllr. Mrs. M. Davies commented on the nuclear waste at the bottom of the river and stated that as a rule of thumb if you do not disturb this it is not a problem and may be in the future, they will find a way of dealing with it. Cllr Bicknell still felt this should be followed up and had concerns about river users and if this was being brought into the food chain.

Cllr. Larcombe commented on the green bin collection and asked regarding a presentation from DNP group, which the chairman confirmed is to be arranged.

21.091 PUBLIC QUESTION'S - A resident commented that the DNP group have a lot of data regarding highways and there is a list of highway / biodiversity problems that are being faced.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.08PM

THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 11TH October 2021

_____ **CHAIRMAN**

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