

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ON MONDAY 11th OCTOBER 2021 AT 19:00

Present: Cllrs D. Buckley (Chairman) E. Larcombe, Mrs. M. Davies, I. Thompson, I Bacon.
The Clerk Mrs K. Jones and Assistant Clerk Ms J. H Jilani
Apologies: Cllr's Mrs. P. Barnes-Taylor, Mrs L. O'Flynn, T. O'Flynn, A. Clemens, M.
Fitzgerald and Borough Councillor D. Cannon.

There were 5 members of the public present, and 1 guest speaker, Mr. Harry Buck.

21.092 ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Clerk informed members that Cllr's Mrs M. Fitzgerald and Mrs P. Barnes-Taylor were poorly and both were in hospital. The office has a card for Cllr Mrs M. Fitzgerald, and will get one for Mrs P. Barnes-Taylor, for anyone to come and sign.

21.093 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Mr Corcoran, informed members that the Post Office was closed last week and this. Local residents have personally been asking him about the situation and he felt that someone on the council needs to take over the responsibility. He advised he is happy to continue looking after this until someone is found.
Cllr Buckley asked if this is a council or a commercial responsibility? Mr Corcoran advised that DPC has been pursuing this, trying to establishing both an outreach post and a permanent site. He felt that DPC should continue pursue the matter of keeping a post office service in the village. Cllr Buckley asked for Mr Corcoran to put a message on Datchet Eye for someone to take over the contact side, and the Clerk with Cllr Mrs M. Davies would look at the possibility of getting a slot in Datchet Library now that their opening hours have changed.

21.094 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – Cllr E. Larcombe has interest in the agenda item on the DRCCT and the sound system. Clerk noted that All Cllrs are Trustees of DRCCT.

20.095 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021
The minutes were agreed as a true record subject to the following amendments; - page 16, 21.081 2) Cllr Larcombe advised 3rd line from bottom water causes should be water "courses". Page 17, 21.083 Cllr Thompson advised 4th line from bottom add ...but DPC "and Volker Highway's" were saying it was not. *ALL IN FAVOUR*

21.096 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES – Page 18, 21.084 Cllr Bacon asked for an update on the CCTVs. The Clerk stated that the order had been placed and we are just waiting for the company to give us a date to commence the work. Page 19 21.090 Cllr Thompson remarked that he had made the comment that the RTS channels allowed for additional flow volume without disturbing the river bottom /silt/waste. To lose channel 1 was a critical mistake as it increases the risk of flooding to that area of Berkshire/Surrey, as opposed to channels 2 and 3 that reduce flooding risk by increased capacity.

21.097 GENERAL

The Chairman's report – Cllr D. Buckley advised he is acting Chairman for tonight and has had nothing specifically handed to him to report.

The Clerks report-

- i. Vacancies on DPC- The Clerk advised that we heard back from the Borough on the 23rd of September saying no one had written to them requesting an election so the council can fill the two vacancies by co-option. After meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chair it was recommended that, because of other commitments, the best time to look at co-options would be in January or February 2022. The Clerk also gave her apologies in advance for the November meeting.

21.098 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- i. Cllr Buckley said he had been contacted by a member with a query which would need to be raised at another time since the Lead Member for Finance was not available tonight. The councillor concerned, Cllr I. Bacon, stated it was a concern about the quarterly balance sheet and the fact that in Standing Orders a first pass should be made, at the end of September, at the project sheets for the budget setting process. Cllr. Buckley suggested all Lead Members sit

down and discuss this, this month, for report at the next meeting. The clerk also advised that the half yearly balance sheets had been sent out with the pink and green sheets. The income and expenditure sheets were put up for approval. Cllr Buckley suggested any question relating to finance and administration should be discussed at the next meeting when Cllr T. O'Flynn is back from his holiday.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr D. Buckley, **SECONDED** by Cllr E. Larcombe. and

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure sheets be approved. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

- ii. **RBWM budget timetable-** The Clerk advised members of the Borough timetable for budget setting and that the Lead Members need to look at their section of the 2022/23 budget by the end of November/early December for council to look at this at the December meeting. The deadline for the council's precept demand to the Borough is the end of January, date to be confirmed.
- iii. **To consider a proposal for 18 new microphones to connect to the AV system and recording unit and agree the way forward-** Mr Harry Buck gave a presentation on the new microphone system, which would cost £2,791.00 including VAT. This will replace the 8 mics we have at present and the unit in the hall which channels them. This system is not wireless, however is reasonable in price and we get 18 mics. If we were to buy 10 more mics of the existing model it would cost us £9,920, which is very expensive. Following questions and answers concerning the pros and cons of cables v a wireless system Cllr Buckley thanked Mr Buck and asked members to vote if they were happy with the system Mr Buck introduced. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr M. Davies and **RESOLVED** to go with the new proposal. The Voting being **4 in Favour 1 Abstaining**
- iii. **To consider the options for the office phones and broadband provision for the next 3 years and agree the way forward.** The Assistant Clerk had circulated her report and stated that she had obtained two quotes for Voice Over the Internet Provider telephones (VOIP), and a separate telephone line/broadband. One from the councils existing provider Mainstream Digital, and one from Callsure. There were 3 options in her report
- Option 1** – A new three-year contract with Mainstream Digital, with no change to the phone system. **Total cost £156.48 per quarter, plus one-off charge of £18.00**
- Option 2** – A new three-year contract with Mainstream Digital for both the Broadband and Alarm line for £111.30 and a VOIP system for £99 quarterly. **Total cost £210.30 per quarter plus a one-off charge of £160.** In this option we are renting the phones from them and not owning them.
- Option 3-** A new flexible contract (end at any time) with Call-Sure. We keep the Broadband and Alarm line with Mainstream Digital for £111.30 a quarter and use Call-Sure for a new VOIP system at around £9.55 a month for calls and standing charges **Total £139.95 per quarter plus a one-off charge of £19.99.** We will need to purchase the new handsets in this option at a one-off charge of around £209.99 but we will own them, not rent.
- Following discussions, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr I. Bacon, **SECONDED** by Cllr E. Larcombe and **RESOLVED** to go with option 3 from Callsure. **ALL IN FAVOUR**
- iv. **To receive a copy of the DRCCT 2020/21 accounts.** The accounts were circulated to all the Councillors and were noted. Special thanks were said to Cllr Mrs Davies for her hard work.

21.099 WARD COUNCILORS REPORT'S

Cllr E. Larcombe presented his report.

- i) The Borough Corporate Plan is being discussed this evening. Looking to invest £10 million in Datchet/Horton/Wraysbury and Old Windsor in partnership with Environment Agency. He will find out if this money is there at the Flood Liaison meeting on Wednesday and would not be happy if this is to be spent on riparian owners who, in his opinion, should cover costs for themselves.
- ii) Bins - RBWM promised weekly bins collection would be kept.
- iii) There is a Flood Liaison meeting on Wednesday. They will be seeking a development consent order for the River Thames Scheme
- iv) Jubilee River - He has spoken to the Borough to limit the through put at Taplow Sluice in time of Flood. The problem is their system does not monitor the water levels at Datchet.
- v) Black Potts repairs are complete and the Environment Agency have advised on progress, but the only thing which was not included was the cost, which he will be asking for on Wednesday. he believes the cost will be in the magnitude of £10million.

- vi) The Windsor Park Gauging Station has built a big wire enclosure on the river front which is out of order, and they did not seek permission. They have filled in the only place you can stand and look at the river towards the castle with wires.
- vii) A video on the Myrke Stream pollution was shown to members. The condition is absolutely disgusting and it is hidden with shrubbery. This is the water which comes out into the Thames. He will be bringing this up at Wednesday's meeting.
- viii) Dorney Common Pipeline. Thames Water want to dig up Dorney Common to lay a sewage pipe running from the Slough sewage works straight into the Thames. In his opinion this is total unnecessary.
- vx) The Myrke - the first 8 houses are in Datchet, and there are parking issues. Also, the Datchet sign has been taken down and not replaced.
- x) Land at Mill Place requires an inspection
- xi) The New Bridge and Railings at Riding Court Farm – concerns that the railings maybe too low and do not address the previous problem at the bend of the road with the gap and sharp fall away of the land.

21.100 PLANNING

The Lead Member had circulated his report and recommendations

Application 21/02517 93 Ditton Road Datchet SL3 9LX

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application. This revised application would now clearly affect the natural historic light on the neighbouring property. The previously approved application 21/00201/FULL for a smaller extension would mitigate this concern and we feel this should be supported by officers.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr D. Buckley **SECONDED** by Cllr I. Thompson

ALL IN FAVOUR

Application 21/02594 2-4 High Street Datchet SL3 9EA

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue **NO Objection** to this application, objection but as the property sits in the middle of the Historic Conservation Area, we would refer to the conservation officer for oversight and scrutiny of the application. We would also refer officers to the Datchet Design Guide as a point of reference. It

was **PROPOSED** by Cllr D. Buckley **SECONDED** by Cllr I. Bacon

ALL IN FAVOUR

Application 21/02584 10B – 10C High Street Datchet

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue an **Objection** to this application. The property sits in the middle of the Historic Conservation Area and roller shutters would not be suitable. We would refer to the conservation officer for oversight and scrutiny of the application and in particular we would strongly recommend the avoidance of shutters. We would also refer officers to the Datchet Design Guide Chapter 5, as a point of reference.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr I. Thompson **SECONDED** by Cllr E. Larcombe

ALL IN FAVOUR

Application 21/02645 Longwood House Fairfield Avenue Datchet

Datchet Parish Council would like to issue **No objection** but we would like officers and applicant to refer to the Datchet Design Guide to maintain the street view and furniture in line with the Design Guide.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The Lead Member advised of Enforcement issues at 122 Horton Road and Cllr Larcombe advised that he would notify RBWM. Cllr Mrs. M Davies advised of a wall that had been built outside 42 London Road behind which was a huge extension with no planning permission Cllr Buckley will follow up with enforcement
The Clerk advised that there was no CIL monies from RBWM at this time.

21.101 FLOODING & DRAINAGE

The Lead Member had circulated his report and asked for any questions. Cllr. Mrs M Davies asked if the parish is in a worse place this year that last re flooding. Cllr Thompson conformed Yes. The sand bags at the Eton End tunnel have deteriorated. These held last year but no guarantee that they will this year. The problem is that RBWM have to get British Rail to agree access under the railway line to look at these. He would raise this at the Flood Liaison meeting on Wednesday. The E. A. have completed a full appraisal and modelling of Datchet Common brook and the prevention of water going into Recreation Ground Ditch. Area of Southlea Road is un-protected at the moment but we have 1000 sandbags in storage,

ready to go if required and have the tractor for distribution. Because there had been no event to test the Windsor Gauge since it was redone after the 2014 floods, Cllr Thompson confirmed that he would be monitoring water levels himself and would do daily bulletins. Cllr. Buckley recommended that due to shortages in supply it would be worth checking our stock level of sand bags as may need to order more. Cllr Thompson said our storage capacity was full and if any more sand bags were required the Borough would supply.

21.102 GROUNDS

The Lead Member had circulated his report and asked for any questions.

i) Regarding the proposal to rationalise the Councils grounds maintenance machinery he had given reasons for this along with costs which were to be met by the sale of the Stealth, the scrapping of the Etesia and the monies from the insurance claim from the theft of the trailer. This would give enough to purchase a good second-hand motorised trailer unit with full-service history and road ready. He also proposed a watering unit with power wand to water any new trees planted at around £840 and a new hedge trimmer.

He hoped the council would support the following recommendations: -

1) Approval for the sale of redundant items and purchase of a motorised trailer unit

2) Approval for the purchase of the watering unit and hedge trimmer.

Following discussions, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr I. Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. M. Davies and **RESOLVED** to award delegated powers to the clerk and the lead member for grounds to proceed on these 2 recommendations, if necessary, before the next meeting so if a suitable second-hand motorised trailer unit became available it would not be missed.

ALL IN FAVOUR

ii) Tree Planting. Cllr Larcombe stated that there are 2 trees which require replacing on The Cut, and said it is very difficult to get new trees established because of the weather and vandalism and by the time they show signs of stress it is often already too late. Cllr Thompson spoke of getting a replacement oak tree on Memorial Green for the major oak in the village, as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. This would require a cross section survey to establish the underground services. He had a tree in mind which is currently in the Cemetery but which requires transplanting as it is growing in the wrong position. He had had an offer to do this for free along with the planting of a oak tree on the Recreation Ground close to where one of the black poplars was removed, and about 20 oak saplings in a designated area. The clerk reminded council that an official replacement for the major oak had been planted on Gossip Green a few years ago.

21.103 PROPERTIES

The Lead Member had circulated her report.

i) Still waiting for Listed Building Consent for the replacement window at the Cemetery Lodge before we can start works.

ii) The new lease for the Library is for 5 years and the building needs a new roof. As this will be over £25,000 it will have to be put out to tender and on the government's contract finder web site.

iii) Lease of the Youth Club building to Datchet Football Club is presently with the club for them to agree the terms before signing. There is a problem with the roof and gutting which DP will need to fix. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr I. Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. M. Davies and **RESOLVED** to award delegated powers to the clerk and the lead member for properties to sign and agree the lease with the Football Club, if it comes back before the next meeting, in order not to hold this item up.

ALL IN FAVOUR

21.104 HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSES

In the absence of the Lead Member the clerk updated members regarding the 'No Idling' signs that the Borough were offering in their recent Parish Newsletter, and stated that she had contacted them and they would look at providing these for the roads either side of the level crossing and the center of the village.

21.105 EVENTS

At present there is no lead member.

i) Queens Platinum Jubilee – The clerk updated members on the memorial plaque and that she would get costings. Cllr Thompson suggested stainless steel to look like platinum, instead of bronze. He also stated that the Women's Institute would like to plant a tree, and it was agreed that this could be one of the replacements on The Cut.

ii) Christmas – Clerk to arrange a zoom meeting to discuss this and Mr Allen Corcoran to be included.

21.106 WORKING GROUPS – None

21.107 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – None

21.108 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS – None

21.109 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- i. Milestone Plaque – DVS to resend details to the clerk so she can chase up the Borough.
- ii. What size will the new Oak trees be – Cllr Larcombe confirmed these were around 6 foot tall and 20 would be suitable for planting out, but would need protection.
- iii. In regard to climate change has the council looked at electric vehicles for the replacement motorised trailer unit - Cllr Thompson said he had looked and was shocked at the prices and at present it was not a viable option for the council to invest in. Cllr Buckley stated that going forward DPC should be looking at this, but for now the purchase will be an interim vehicle. Cllr Thompson stated the purchase would be a second-hand vehicle, which was within the budget available and which could be quickly sourced. An electric vehicle would need a much larger budget, including the adaption of the garage for a charging unit.
- iv. Is there going to be a groundsman for the new vehicle and machinery. Cllr Thompson confirmed that Dean Smith (DAS Services) will be using the new equipment, but that the majority of the work is done by the main contractor.
- v. In regard to the library roof, is there a specification by an independent surveyor as do not understand why the whole roof is in need of replacing. Cllr. Mrs M Davies said a survey had taken place to inspect the rafters in the loft and that these are all fine. Now waiting for a decision on which company, as this needs work. The older roof needs replacing, re-tiling, re-felting and tiling, as it consists of broken/split Welsh slate, along with all the ridge tiles, and one gable end looks like it is collapsing. The resident asked if a specification had been written up and was told that this would be part of the tender process.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.13PM

THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

_____ **CHAIRMAN**