

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ON MONDAY 10th JANUARY 2022 AT 19:02

Present: Cllr. Mrs L O'Flynn (Chairman), Cllr. T. O'Flynn, Cllr. D. Buckley, Cllr. Mrs. M. Davies, Cllr. I Bacon, Cllr. E. Larcombe and Cllr. A. Verma, Cllr A. Clemens, Cllr D. Loveridge and Mrs K. Jones-Clerk
Apologies: Borough Cllr. Cannon, Cllr. I. Thompson, and Ms J. H Jilani -Assistant Clerk

There were 3 members of the public present.

21.147 ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk advised that a RBWM/Parish briefing session would be held on Friday the 14th of January at 12:30pm. She would circulate the invite to all members. Also, councillor code of conduct training is being arranged by RBWM/BALC/DALC – date to be advised.

21.148 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – A resident asked if there was a response to an email sent in as a consequence of time running out at the last meeting. The email had asked that, before the decision is taken to approve the budget, and parish precept, will the residents and councillors be presented with the DPC's financial strategy for the coming year? The Chairman advised that herself and the Lead Member for finance had held meetings with the other Lead Members regarding the budget, and it took longer than expected. A finance Working Group is going to be set up to do this, after which there will be an answer to the question.
There was also a question about the part two meeting, asking when the minutes would be made being available to the public. The Chair advised the outcome of the Part two minutes will be discussed, however the rest of the information is confidential as it concerns staff.

21.149 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – None

20.150 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2021
The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, subject to adding that a presentation by the Neighbourhood Plan Group took place before the meeting. **ALL AGREED**

20.151 MINUTES OF THE PART II COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2021 The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, the decision being to increase the hours of the Assistant Clerk. **ALL AGREED**

21.152 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES – None

21.153 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- i To receive a recommendation from the Lead Member for Finance regarding the Budget for the Financial Year 2022/2023.** The Lead Member of Finance proposed that for the next financial year, the Council have a status quo budget. Several meetings have been held since December and it was felt that there was no need to increase in the precept. He also commented that a fair number of projects have not been started and that the movement of funds from EMR reserves could hopefully release about £30,000 from 106 monies for projects to allow more flexibility. It was planned to arrange a finance working group to review and sort out the details along with the 3 to 5 year forward plan. Following further discussions and questions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O' Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr D. Buckley and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget in principle and bring back the detail to the February meeting. **ALL IN FAVOUR**
- ii To determine the level of Precept for the Financial Year 2022/2023.** It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T.O' Flynn and **SECONDED** by Cllr A. Clemens that there be no increase in the precept for 2022/2023 and it be kept the same as last year at £63.70 per Band D property **Total £144,531.** On being put to the vote there were

For: 7 Against: 2 Abstain: 0 So the proposal was **AGREED**

- iii The Lead Member authorised the Clerk to the Council to take the necessary action to formally advise the Borough Council of the level of Precept required by the Parish Council for the Financial Year 2022/2023
- iv Approval of the Income & Expenditure sheets. The Lead Member advised that there were three more invoices added to the expenditure sheet which were:- Grundon £193.64, Slip Stiches £99.00 and Midget Skips £497. The Green Sheet showed an income on £5,026.62 Following questions asked and answers given it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr D. Buckley and **RESOLVED** that the payment sheets be approved and the income sheets be noted. **ALL IN FAVOUR**
- v The Lead Member advised Council of the Internal Auditors report for the first half of the financial year 2021/22, and the findings. He updated members on the recommendations made;
 - R1- Nominated members to sign monthly bank rec. sheets *Action – Chair and Clerk*
 - R2- Council should update the posting of monthly payments sheets on website. *Action– Clerk*
 - R3- Nominated members should initial debit card statements. *Action – Lead Members*
 - R4- Increase fidelity guarantee to cover *Action – Clerk*
 - R5- To Develop and formally adopt an investment strategy. *Action – finance working group.*
- vi **Scheme of Delegation** (originally adopted in March 2020) The Chairman said this is a very important document and still needs to be in place if the council could not meet if COVID restrictions come in again. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr D. Buckley and **RESOLVED** to reconfirm approval of the Scheme of Delegation **ALL IN FAVOUR**

21.154 PLANNING

The Lead Member for planning, Cllr D. Buckley, advised that at the last meeting it was approved and agreed to accept the Lead Member's recommendations. He asked if this would also be the case for this meeting. **AGREED - ALL IN FAVOUR**

Appn. no 21/03675 43 Horton Road Datchet SL3 9EP

Datchet Parish Council has **Objection** to this application, based on the apparent size of the development within a flood zone. Unfortunately, the plans are not clear enough to establish the floor plan. They are vague for interpretation and reviewing the size of the new building against the existing footprint of the property (the only way to view the plans as unclear) we have concerns it is over development within the flood zone. There is no flood risk assessment attached to the document and we would like to draw both planning concerns to the attention of the officers and recommend a planning application should be submitted and this Certificate be rejected

Appn. no 21/1981 Cemex Datchet QUARRY Riding Court Datchet

Datchet Parish Council has no **Objection** to this application but we would like to bring the officers' attention. That the same weighted arguments of residents and conditions to the previously permitted applications be applied and carried forward from onto this variation and any future variations or changes to protect the local residents and the historic conservation area of Datchet.

NOTE: Residents have requested that should a new access point be approved could the existing public access be moved closer. The current public access is much further away from the village and it would be advantageous to move it to the nearer end to the village to give residents more access.

Appn. no 21/03671 133 Slough Road SL3 9AE

Datchet Parish Council has **Objection** due to size of the development in a flood zone (lack of a flood risk assessment), loss of green space, loss of natural drainage of surface water and total loss of historic privacy for neighbours due to the height of the new development. If the points raised could be mitigated against then this would be a compromise for the local area, residents and the applicant.

Appn. no 21/03695 26 Linchfield Road Datchet SL3 9LZ

Datchet Parish Council has **no Objection** but we would like a condition added to use the adopted Datchet Design Guide for the maintenance of street view.

Appn. no 21/02954 26 Ruscombe Gardens Datchet SL3 9BG

Datchet Parish Council has Objection as this appears to be over development in the flood zone. We say “appears” as there are no measurements on the application to establish the additional square footage proposed by the applicant but viewing the outline on the layout plans it is clear the overall footprint has grown over 50% doubling the size and as this area is in a location that regularly floods (taken from recent flood maps from 2014 flood event) and has a high probability to flood in the future. Additionally, there is not an adequate flood risk assessment but just a formal letter from the EA which does not quantify as a suitable flood risk assessment.

Councillor’s questions - Cllr Larcombe reported a new rear access from 66A London Road onto Fairfield Avenue. Also, he was not happy that RBWM are rubber stamping applications that the parish have been opposed to. 138 Horton Road has been empty since 2010 and it is in a disgraceful state. The Boat Yard application in Wraysbury, on a brown field site, has been refused by the Borough as in the flood plain. There is no consistency in the interpretation of policy and he questioned if they are even listening to the parishes.

21.155 GENERAL

The Chairman advised the council is two members down and no one has applied for the position of Councillor. The council needs to think of the timespan and how to publicise the vacancies. She asked all members to think about this with a view to actioning this in March, at the earliest. People need to think and see what is involved in becoming a councillor and she asked everyone to think of ways to do this. The Clerk recommended having a working group to look into this and float ideas around. Cllr. Buckley said it was about communication and helping residents understand what it is the Council do and to win peoples confidence. Cllr. Verma asked about previous interest in the vacancies and the Clerk confirm that there had been 3 people, 2 of which were from Windsor. When asked to re-confirm their interest there were no responses. Following further discussion, it was felt that the vacancies should be promoted more in the village and that a working group consisting of Cllr’s Buckley, Loveridge, Verma and the Clerk should be set up to look into this along with general communication matters. **AGREED**

21.156 WARD COUNCILLORS

Report by Cllr Larcombe, he suggested beware of what you wish for and remind the council of the last two elections. The 2015 election, there were 23 nominees for 15 vacancies in which DPC lost 6 very good Parish Councillors. In 2019 there were only 8 nominees for 15 vacancies. It’s not just DPC it’s a problem with all Parish Councils as councillors don’t get enough acknowledgement and support from the Borough. He had only one thing to report for The Borough Council, which had hope to hold two extra ordinary meetings to rubber stamp the Local Borough Plan, but these were cancelled by the inspector. The next meeting is on the 25th of January and he was not sure if the Boroughs Local Plan is on the agenda or not. Cllr T’ O Flynn asked what was the reason the Windsor Town Council Scheme didn’t go ahead? Cllr Larcombe replied the last thing Maidenhead Councillors want is any power taken away from them. They are depending on the income from Tourism and car parking.

21.157 PROPERTIES

The Lead Member for Properties, Cllr. Mrs. M. Davies, advised she has to inspect the library, when its next open, to see how much damage the water leak in the road outside, from Thames Water, has done to the downstairs area including the library toilet. The boiler has been repaired and is working well. Following discussions, it was agreed the Clerk would look into an insurance claim for this but she would require quotes for the work involved to be able to make a claim.

The Lead Member advised she would be arranging for another meeting to look at the tenders for the library roof so a decision could be made at the next meeting. Cllr. Bacon asked if the roof was being removed would the scaffolding cover over everything? Cllr Mrs Davies

confirmed yes. Cllr. Bacon offered to help look at the tender evaluation as he has experience in this field.

21.158 GROUNDS

The Lead Member for grounds was absent however his report had been circulated. Any questions were asked to be sent to either him or the office.

21.159 HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES

The Lead Member for Highways was absent and there was no report. Cllr E. Larcombe mentioned about an incident in the village when he was checking the Christmas lights. A white Van came down Horton Road on the wrong side of the road. He stepped onto the crossing and could see the van approaching on the wrong side of the road. It drove into him but Cllr Larcombe didn't fall or get hurt. He has reported this to the Police.

21.160 FLOOD AND DRAINAGE

Cllr Larcombe advised a response to the E. A. Flood Risk Measures Consultation is required by the 22nd of January. He had amended the draft response, and the Clerk advised if anyone else has any comments to make, please do it now so we meet the deadline. Cllr Larcombe presented the Environment Protection ACT Presentation. Copies available in the office.

21.161 EVENTS

The Chair asked for nominations for the position of Lead Member for Events
Cllr M. Davies nominated Cllr A. Clemens, who accepted, and Cllr D. Loveridge seconded
The voting being: - **For 8 Against 1 Abstaining 0** So the Proposal is **AGREED**
Cllr Larcombe asked how much money is left in the events budget, The Clerk advised £9,600.
Cllr Clemens advised we will be holding an event on the 2nd of June which will be the lighting of the Beacon. A Tea Party and events on the Riverside will be held on the 4th of June.
Further updates will be available after the next meeting.
Cllr Clemens thanked Mr Allen Corcoran for organising the Christmas events and in particular the Santa's Sleigh Ride which was fantastic.

21.162 To receive report from the Working Group – A report from the Queens Platinum Jubilee W. G. was covered in Events.

21.163 Notice of any items required for the next meeting

- Details of the Budget for final approval.
- Any proposed purchases for the Platinum Jubilee, mugs/bunting etc. for approval
- ASB in Ditton Road. Group of children using catapults and breaking car windows in Tesco car park.
- Speeding traffic on Ditton Road and section to Lawn Close – to consider a 20mph limit
- Nitrous Oxide gas cylinders.

21.164 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Cllr's Loveridge and Bacon advised of issues with their council email address The Clerk advised she will send them the contact details for Vision ICT.
Cllr. Mrs. M. Davies asked if anyone did a report on solar energy, and Cllr Bacon advised he had. He found out that the way this would work is by using batteries in the building and because most of the electricity is used at night rather than the morning any savings made would be lost. Therefore, there was no justification for doing this so he had not taken it any further.

21.165 PUBLIC QUESTION

None

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.59PM

THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 14TH FEBRUARY 2022

CHAIRMAN

Distribution: All Councillors, Datchet Parish Council Website KJ.JHJ.DPC.10.01.22