

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ON MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 19:10 (REV 2 14-03-22)

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

There were 4 members of the public present.

21.166 ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced The Clerk will not be able to make it to the meeting as she is unwell.

21.167 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – The Chair of the DNPSG asked if there was an answer to their letter regarding the design guide which went out on the 24th of January. They asked if the Council could help them promote the Datchet Design Guide to the local businesses via the Councils mailing list. The Vice Chairman advised the mailing list is not up to date and The Clerk will advise them how to go forward. She also asked if she could speak about the position of the Oak Tree on the green, when this was to be discussed. The Chairman advised yes when we get there.

21.168 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – None

21.169 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2021
The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. **ALL AGREED**

21.170 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES - None

21.171 GENERAL

The Vice Chairman advised he attended the meeting with RBWM regarding the peer group and the report is online with all the information.

The Chairman read out a letter from a local resident whose old small dog was attacked on the Rec Ground, by a brown terrier. The owners were two young teenagers and they had a Greyhound, a small puppy and a Terrier type of dog which attacked their dog. It is sad that the two teenagers did not apologise or even help the old resident who was trying to save his little dog from their terrier. The elderly resident has reported this matter to the Police, however the Police advised as the attacking dog and the dog attacked were not on lead it's a Civil matter.

The Chair advised she has spoken to the local PSCO and asked him to look further into this matter. If anyone has seen this incident, please do inform the Police and also be careful in future.

21.172 FINANCE

The Lead Member for Finance, advised that they had a meeting in the office regarding the budget. He said we reviewed the budget and made a decision on the precept. We made certain alterations after reviewing and The Clerk issued a draft budget for 2022- 2023 which was circulated last week for everyone's approval. We can now take a vote of the draft budget for approval.

The Chairman asked if anyone had question regarding the draft budget. Cllr P. Bicknell asked if the precept was increased and the Chair advised it has not been increased.

After discussions, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr T. O'Flynn and **SECONDED** by Cllr D. Buckley to agree the draft budget. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

To approve the Income and Expenditure sheets (Pink and Green sheet) It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Tim O' Flynn and **SECONDED** by Cllr P. Bicknell. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

To consider the quotes received for the valuation of the Council owned buildings, required for insurance purposes. The report was circulated and after discussions, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Tim O' Flynn and **SECONDED** by Cllr D. Buckley to go with Berry's Chartered Surveyors for the valuation. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

21.173 PLANNING

Lead member Cllr D. Buckley advised his wife had COVID which is why the planning came out late.

He also **PROPOSED** if his recommendations are acceptable by the Council **SECONDED** by Cllr Tim O' Flynn **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Appn. no 22/00009 58 Ruscombe Garden Datchet SL3 9BQ

Datchet Parish Council has **No Objection** to this application,

Appn. no 21/03759 6 The Avenue Datchet SL3 9DH

Datchet Parish Council has **No Objection** to this application, but we would like to refer to the RBWM tree officer for input and guidance.

Appn. no 22/00128 Riverbank Lodge 7 Southlea Road SL3 9BY

Datchet Parish Council has **No Objection** to this application, but we would like to refer this to RBWM tree officer for input and guidance.

Appn. no 22/00084 8 Leigh Park Datchet SL3 9JP

Datchet Parish Council has **No Objection** to this application.

Appn. no 22/00125 Danum house 18 Eton Road SL3 9AY

Datchet Parish Council has **No Objection** to this application.

Appn. no 22/00136 14 Agar Place Datchet SL3 9AH

Datchet Parish Council an **Objection** to this application. This would be an unprecedented over development of the property against adjoining properties, within a flood zone and would create a completely different street view and roof height against the ratified Datchet Design Guide.

Appn. no 21/03250 56 Penn Road Datchet SL3 9HT

Datchet Parish Council has **No Objection** to this application.

Appn. no 22/00194 72 Ditton Road Datchet SL3 9LT

Datchet Parish Council has **No Objection** to this application.

21.174 WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Larcombe spoke and advised with reference to the RBWM Borough Local Plan, the RBWM budget and flooding.

He said he was concerned that construction of the proposed developments identified in the RBWM Borough Local Plan will exacerbate flooding. The BLP specifies three sites within the D,H&W Ward totally over 200 new properties as follows:

AL 39 (Page 111/142)(London Road, Datchet) 80

AL 40 (Page 114/142)(Horton Road, Horton) 100

AL 40A(Page 117/142)(Coppermill Road, Horton) 24

An RBWM extraordinary council meeting to approve the BLP was scheduled and postponed twice previously and finally held on 8-02-2022.

The agenda motion was simply to adopt borough Local plan. He voted against adoption of BLP and this is why in writing and prior to the RBWM meeting he submitted a proposed amendment to the motion as follows:

To add the words - Accompanied by a declaration that the proposed developments (Individually or collectively) will not exacerbate flooding.

He suggested very simply all he wanted was confirmation that the BLP proposals would not be detrimental to his ward- my people- in terms of flooding.

In fact, policy NR1 of the RBWM BLP (page 120 of 122) actually states

5. In all cases development SHOULD not itself or cumulatively with other development materially:

a. impedes the flow of flood water

b. reduces the capacity of the flood plain to store water

c. increases the number of people, property or infrastructure at risk of flooding

d. cause new or exacerbate existing flooding problems, either on the proposal site or elsewhere

e. reduces the waterways viability as an ecological network or habitat for notable species of flora or fauna.

He advised his problem is with the word 'should' which is being used to indicate a future degree of probability as being desirable – but not mandatory. In the contrast of the word 'must' always suggests an absolute and definitive obligation. The monitoring officer and the chair refused to even consider his amendment to the motion.

Consequently, for this – and other flooding related reasons detailed below-

He voted against adoption of BLP and will also be voting against the proposed budget.

The various forms of flooding are sporadic. By sporadic he means unpredictable, occasional and dispersed in both geographical and chronological forms.

The FWMA 2010 clarified the authority responsible for flooding. In this borough RBWM is responsible for surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. The environment agency is responsible for main rivers and reservoirs. Thames's water is responsible for water supply and wastewater issues.

While RBWM has both permissive and enforcement powers available – the use of these powers is optional rather than mandatory. Today RBWM has no duty to monitor condition of an ordinary watercourses in terms of discharge (conveyance capacity) or water level. Furthermore, RBWM has no duty to ensure that riparian owners fulfil their ordinary watercourse obligations.

These shortcomings have resulted in the Wraysbury drain being unfit for purpose for many years.

Likewise, the environment agency has no duty to ensure that designated main rivers are maintained in good working order. I believe the lower Thames has not been dredged since the mid-1990s.

In contrast the environment agency is happy to develop new flood alleviation schemes –subject of course to the availability of partnership funding. Partnership funding is a relatively new concept, dating from around 2011. While Surrey CC has contributed to partnership funding RBWM has decreed partnership funding unaffordable without informing those affected for at least three years between June 2017 and July 2020. Extract from redacted sponsoring group minutes dated 22/6/2017 'Particularly as RBWM had already indicated they would be unable to commit a contribution at this stage'.

The MWEFAS and Jubilee River

The £100m MWEFAS project was conceived in the 1980s and inaugurated in 2002.

The jubilee river channel is the main element of the flood alleviation scheme that improves M, W and E flood protection.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the opening and many people have forgotten facts follows:

- **Planning Inquiry 1992**
- **Project Approval 1995**
- **Opened 2002**
- **First use 2002/3 – M, W and E defended – many homes downstream flooded**
- **Significant damage to many channel structures at only 2/3rds capacity**
- **Repairs including rebuilding Myrke embankment (£1.3m)**
- **£2.75m out-of-court settlement for sub-standard design/construction**
- **January 2014- M, W and E defended- many homes downstream flooded**
- **February 2014- M, W and E defended- many homes downstream flooded again**
- **2021- Repairs to Black Potts viaduct and Manor Farm Weir- £7.5m**
- **The Jubilee River is still unable to carry its design capacity.**

This project was simply a segment of flood alleviation that was justified and affordable at the time. In practice the new jubilee river merely by passed the existing attenuating features and diverted flood water onto the undefended villages downstream. The floodwater arrived downstream, earlier and rose more quickly to a higher level.

The River Thames Scheme

This project has been in the pipeline and steadily developed since the 2003 flood event. The project consisted of three new channels, one widened channel and three weirs improvements. Total cost estimate was about £650m. Surrey CC has agreed a £230m contribution to partnership funding but RBWM has decreed partnership funding unaffordable.

Consequently, Channel One of the River Thames Scheme was removed from the project.

In my opinion the existing land drainage infrastructure in this area is being allowed to steadily degrade overtime. Furthermore RBWM – having received the benefits of a new flood alleviation scheme since 2002 and at no cost to themselves- renege on them repeated promises to support the RTS project- without even informing those at risk of flooding.

To consider a 20mph limit on Ditton Road and section to Lawn Close.

After discussions between the Councillors, it was decided to write to the Boroughs Highway to limit the road traffic to 20mph on Ditton Road.

Cllr Thompson advised Nitrous Oxide gas cylinder are found around the village and we recently found about 800 cylinders on the pathway next to the doctor's surgery. This is quite a serious thing happening around the village and it is very costly to clear up as well. He said we have informed the police about this.

21.175 PROPERTIES

The lead member for Properties Cllr Mrs M. Davies advised we have the tenders back for the library roof. We will have to decide who the council chooses. She advised below the quotes received.

Company A: £50,136.00

Company B: £51,800.00

Company C: £26,852.00

Cllr Mrs Davies suggested the roof is in a very bad state and need assistance as soon as possible.

After discussions it was decided to revisit the quotes and ask other Councillors to assist in this matter as there is a lot of public money involved in fixing the roof. This matter will be discussed again on the March meeting.

21.176 GROUND

The Lead Member for grounds, Cllr. I. Thompson, advised he sent his report on the second of February, he is making some proposals in regards to changing the equipment which we have at the moment to buy a RTV unit. His proposal is to proceed with the offer by George Brown Limited and we look at selling the existing grounds equipment for £20,000. The RTV vehicle will cost us £16,500.

In the event of long delivery of the RTV vehicle he advised we are looking at the possibility of agreeing to hire one as we need one for the present moment.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thompson and **SECONDED** by Cllr Loveridge for the Council to sell the equipment for £20,000 and buy a RTV vehicle for £16,500. **ALL AGREED**

This was to consider the perimeters on the edges of the village. There were three proposals which came in together however the Clerk was not present to discuss it further. Cllr Thompson advised the contractors have suggested to do the work with cobbles and we need about 20 tons of cobbles for this job.

Jubilee Oak Tree

Expected life of existing central tree is 50 years, existing tree has a fungal growth. Crown thinning, root growth, restriction of Barrel Arch. (Assessed healthy to date) Sited directly above the Barrel Arch, root intervention, small intrusion into the Barrel Arch are to be removed with the sealing of the Barrel Arch structure RBWM structural condition of the Barrel Arch is to be considered with the weight of the tree above. RBWM engineers need to consider and advise.

If the tree was removed the ground cannot be used for planting because of the existing fungal spore contamination. Notification of intent to plant a replacement central oak on the memorial green was given in October 2021.

DPC agreed to a survey of the area to check possible location regarding services existing underground. The works were completed and the location is recorded in the Parish Office of the new tree.

DPC agreed for Cllr Thompson denote location for the tree dependent on professional survey. Best location for root spread and canopy not above and below the memorial. The cost of the survey and professional planting was £1000 approx.

Datchet logo is an Oak Tree we need to continue this into the future in the central area.

There has been an objection from DVS, relating to one view in approx. 150 years' time.

They are advised that views of central Datchet from London Road, Horton Road and Slough Road will continue to be unaffected for 150 years plus. However, no suggestion of another location from DVS was given and the replacement will also cost another £1000 plus.

21.177 EVENTS

The Lead Member for events was absent however Cllr Mrs M. Davies advised everyone we are having events for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The first event will be on the 2nd of June which will consist of lighting of the beacon followed by other entertainment, 4th June is the main party celebration on the recreational ground and a BBQ will be held on the Sunday 5th June by the British Legion.

The sample of the mugs was presented to the Councillors and the members of public which will be given for the Queens Platinum Jubilee to the children of the village between the ages of 5 -11.

Everyone was in agreement of the mugs to be ordered.

The Chairman extended the time of the meeting to 9:30pm.

21.178 HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES

There was no report.

21.179 FLOODING AND DRAINAGE

Cllr Thompson said I circulated my report last week if anyone has any questions.

Cllr Larcombe informed everyone it is the 20th anniversary of the Jubilee River opening, it is interesting to know since then we have been flooded three times and they are still trying to repair it. It was never ever supposed to carry what it is carrying at the moment at £100 million pounds. Cllr Loveridge asked about Datchet Common Brook if we have heard anything about Thames Water ever clearing it, its 50 times worst than it was in the past. Cllr Thompson advised we have done a complete survey of that section he walked with Thames Water and the Borough they have agreed to come up with the idea of how to fit the valve. Its in the pipeline and he is waiting for an answer.

21.180 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM WORKING GROUPS – A report from the Queens Platinum Jubilee W. G. was covered in Events.

21.181 NOTICE OF ANY ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Tenders for the library roof to be revisited
- To consider three options for the improvement of the Village Green Perimeter Edges

21.182 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

No questions

21.183 PUBLIC QUESTION

The Chair of the DNPSG thanked the Council for planting the trees in the village, however they were not happy with the location of the Oak tree on the green and advised it goes against the direction of the Conservation Area Statement.

Cllr Thompson was responding to the question asked and got interrupted by another member of the public consequently the Chairman closed the meeting due to public disruption.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.28PM BECAUSE OF PUBLIC DISRUPTION

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

_____ **CHAIRMAN**

