

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ON MONDAY 11th JULY 2022 AT 19:00

- Present: Cllr. D. Buckley (Chairman) Cllr. Mrs. L. O’Flynn, Cllr T. O’Flynn, Cllr. I. Bacon, Cllr. Mrs. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. E. Larcombe, Cllr. Loveridge, Cllr. Mrs. M. Davies, Cllr. I. Thompson, Cllr. A. Verma
Clerk Mrs. K. J. Jones
- Apologies: Cllr. A. Clemens, Cllr P. Bicknell
Borough Councillors. D. Cannon & G. Muir
- Public: There were 27 members of the public present and 1 press.

22.031 Announcements – None.

22.032 Public Questions – It was asked if the DNPG could speak on the DNP in agenda item 12. **Agreed.** Residents raised issues with parking in Whites Lane, part of which is an unadopted private road. There are issues with difficulty for pedestrians, pushchair and wheelchair users passing these cars and rubbish is also being dumped in this area. They asked, if the Parish Council could do anything to help. The Chair advised that the Parish Council have limited powers but they can work with the residents to support them with RBWM. All correspondence on these issues is to be sent to Cllr L. O’Flynn, Lead Member for Highways.
Residents advised that a petition has been drafted regarding these issues and the Chair commented that he would be happy to meet with the residents and draft ideas and help.
A resident asked, in relation to work at Poplars, Southlea Road, if there is an update tonight in relation to planning. The Lead Member advised that it was ongoing with RBWM enforcement and the resident has been emailed. It is a medium priority for RBWM Enforcement team.
A resident, from Whites Lane, who walks to the local school with a pushchair along Slough Road, has problems with residents parking their cars on the footpath and the land opposite the houses and this also blocks the vision of the road. They had been informed by the Police that since it is a private road, it is a private matter and to contact RBWM. She would like support from DPC. The Chair advised that all councillors are volunteers and want to work with the residents and would take these issues forward through the Borough Councillors. The Clerk will forward all emails and photos to Cllr. Mrs. L. O’Flynn, Lead Member for Highways.
A long-standing resident of Datchet commented that he is aggrieved that local residents do not show respect to others. DPC is a good forum to start these discussions, residents need to be part of the solution. The Chair suggested, that although it is a private road, the residents form a committee, with Councillors, to resolve these issues and he is sure all three Borough Councillors will support. Cllr. Verma suggested that residents send their email addresses to DPC so they can be copied into correspondence.

22.033 Declaration of Interest – Cllr. Bacon declared an interest in agenda item 12, in that he is the Clerk to the BBHT who own The Royal Stag P.H.

22.034 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 25th April 2022

Were **AGREED** by all as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

22.035 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 13th of June 2022

Page 5 – 22.020 viii) Cllr. Bacon commented that it was the bank reconciliation to be issued not the bank statements, and budget against expenditure sheets to be issued. Clerk to check standing orders and these to be issued quarterly.

The minutes were **AGREED** by all as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

22.036 Notes of the Part two Meeting held on the 11th of April 2022

Cllr. Mrs. L. O’Flynn advised members that she had not been available to do these and would do these for the next meeting.

22.037 Matters arising from the above meetings – None

22.038 General

- i. **Chairmans Report** - It is his aim to interact with the public and residents in a much bigger way over the next 12 months and also give them a better understanding of what the Council does.
- ii. **Clerks Report including correspondence** No correspondence, but will give a report under ‘Grounds’.

22.039 Finance and Administration

The Lead Member advised that there was a need for a working group to be set up, for the rest of this Council term, to deal with Policies, to help with decision making. The Council will be feeling the pressure of inflation and need to ensure that balances are under control.

She also advised that she was working, as a priority, on the staffing issues.

- i. Members noted the income and expenditure sheets. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Davies and **SECONDED** by Cllr T. O’Flynn that the payments be approved and the income noted. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**
- ii. **To receive a recommendation from the Staffing and Recruitment Working Group** – Members had received a copy of the proposed job description and advert for a new Clerk and RFO. Cllr. Bacon asked how long the process would take and what the Council would do in the meantime. The Chair advised that the current Clerk was prepared to help out during the transition. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Davies, **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Buckley that the draft job description and job advert be accepted and be advertised. **ALL IN FAVOUR.** It was also noted that the working group would get together to work on the Admin Assistant role, to support the Clerk and the Clerks ‘gap’ role.

22.040 Planning

The Lead Member for Planning asked for any comments on his report and recommendations which had been circulated. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. D. Buckley and **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Loveridge that the recommendations made be approved, **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

The Chair opened the floor up to the public for comments.

Resident – Asked what is the Council recommending for Rear of 27-29 Slough Road. Advised Objection on 10 points. Borough Cllr. Muir has called this application in.

Resident – Confirmed flooding in this area in 2014, and that a large number of the trees (40) in this property had been felled before the application was submitted. He had sent images of these to RBWM over the course of the last 2 years and made an official enforcement complaint. They commented on an error in the application in that it says a block of 6, but then a block of 8.

Resident – commented on the flooding in 2014 in this area and that homes were flooding due to back yard development, he hoped the Parish Council would object. Chair advised they would, and if RBWM object, the applicant is likely to appeal.

Cllr. Thompson referred to his flooding report and notes on this application, which referred to refusal of other applications on flooding considerations in Flood Zone 3, the impact of the removal of the 40 trees and the impact on foul water/sewage drainage and the fact that no Flood Risk Assessment had been completed.

Resident – Commented on the owner and the removal of the trees, and the fact that these would have been sucking up flood water. in terms of bio-diversity everything removed from the site should be replaced and Regal Homes should be held accountable.

The Chair advised that he had reviewed all the documents on the planning portal website and would add all the residents comments made tonight, along with Cllr. Thompson’s comments on flooding, to the Councils response to the application.

22/01158 – 42 Linchfield Road, Datchet – Single storey front extension.

Parish Council Recommendation: Objection – This application at the front of the property is not in keeping with the street scene and will make a “NEW” precedent for the street and will totally change the living environment within the street scene. We feel a compromise would be to extend the rear of the property and not the front in this manner and size as a real alternative and to achieve the owner’s usage needs. Additionally, this existing application would affect the historic daylight entering and benefiting adjacent properties and, in our view, should be refused and the applicant look at options that would be within the existing street scene and allowing historic daylight to continue into neighbouring properties. Reference could be made to the adopted Datchet Design Guide and the pending Datchet Neighbourhood Plan for guidance.

22/01548 – 113 Montagu Road, Datchet – Single storey side/rear extension with roof terrace and balustrade, first floor side extension and alterations to fenestration. **Parish Council**

Recommendation: Objection – The application includes a roof terrace along the extended part of the property which would create a total loss of privacy for adjacent properties. Additionally, the change in the front appearance of the property would totally change the street scene of this part of the area. All the properties are historically uniform in appearance, and this would stand out as an odd addition and completely change the street scene.

We would recommend an application reducing the roof terrace area by a minimum of 50% away from adjoining properties and the maintaining of the eave heights from the front of the property in line with the current street scene as a compromise and suggestion.

22/01591 – Verge at Junction of Link Road and Horton Road, Datchet – Application to determine as to whether prior approval is required for a proposed 5G telecoms installation. H3G street pole and additional equipment cabinets. **Parish Council Recommendation: Objection** - The Parish Council are deeply concerned and request that this application be passed into planning including the Conservation officers input and to gain full local input and suggestions. In particular we feel the location is wrong and should be placed across the street away from the residential area on the opposite side of Horton Road not on the residential side where the affect to the street scene will be minimized and be a compromise to residents concerns on the technology, style, design and size. This will sit better in the street scene as you enter the Historic Conservation area of Datchet. Additionally, this has been a historic public point for views across the landscape by the seating bench that has been used and in place for some time, we would wish to avoid any change in the use or ability to use in comfort this public asset that is important to the community.

22/01636 – 43 Horton Road, Datchet – First Floor side/rear extension. **Parish Council Recommendation: No Objection**

22/01649 – 51 Horton Road, Datchet – Single storey rear extension, detached summer house and alterations to fenestration. **Parish Council Recommendation: Objection** - The loss of historic natural daylight to the adjacent neighbouring property is concerning as the additional height of the new wall plus the eave height of the proposed extension up to 3.5m (the plans show 2.5m but in fact the eave height with a tiled roof area is 3.5m which will reduce natural daylight) reduces the daylight that the neighbouring property has always benefited from. This property has benefited from natural daylight since circa 1850's when these old historic farm cottages were built. There is no need to have such a high eave height so we would welcome the officers' suggestion to reduce the eave height to a flat roof proportion of 2.5m with rooflights to bring natural daylight into the extension for the applicant. Another suggestion as a compromise would again be to move the extension away from the adjoining wall by 2.5m, maintain the pitched roof but thus stopping the loss of natural daylight at the end of each day to the neighbouring property.

22/01681 – 3 Horton Road, Datchet – Works to trees in Conservation Area – T1 Norway Maple-Crown reduction by 2m back to previous growth points. **Parish Council Recommendation: No Objection.**

22/01697 – 31 Montrose Avenue, Datchet – Single storey front extension, relocation of the front entrance door, part single part two storey side/rear extension and x1 rear dormer, following demolition of the existing outbuilding. **Parish Council Recommendation: No Objection** but we would raise the officers' attention to the fact that the plans attached to the Flood Risk Assessment document are from the first application 22/00391/FULL and not this current application.

22/01758 – Iona, 39 High Street, Datchet – Works to Trees in Conservation Area - T1 - Prunus - Crown reduction by 3-4m to leave a final height of 7m and spread of 4.5m, Crown thinning by 20%. **Parish Council Recommendation: No Objection.**

22/01737 – Land to the Rear of 27-29 Slough Road & 29 Slough Road, Datchet - Part demolition of existing dwelling, new building accommodating x6 flats, bin and cycle storage, new access route, car parking, landscaping and boundary treatment. **Parish Council Recommendation: Objection** We have received multiple residents' objections (some are noted on the RBWM portal) and as many concerns over this development. Additionally, a Borough Councillor (Cllr Gary Muir) has called this application in to the planning panel as it is such an important issue to the Parish. The Parish objections are 1. That this development site was flooded in the 2014 floods (image attached for your reference) 2. The site would be overdevelopment in flood zone 3 without the historic proof of flooding on the land, which places this development at a very high risk of flooding. 3. The Design and access Statement states this property has never flooded, which is incorrect as flood map shows from Parish physical flood records from 2014. 4. The design is not in keeping with the adopted Datchet Design Guide or the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan, which is at Reg 16 stage. 5. The character of the development is not in keeping with Datchet developments in anyway shape or form and would totally change the design of the landscape of Datchet.

6. All previous applications for flat developments in this location of Slough Road (Off Priory Way) and at Sopwith Court along from this development (within 150m or less) have been refused previously by RBWM and if this were permitted it would be part of a larger scale development position for the village and push all services including flooding to further risk. 7. We feel that highways need to be involved in this application as to the effects of access opposite a busy junction and school access for safety and congestion reviews. 8. In the design and access statement in section 2 “The site and its context” the applicants refer to “no significant tress on the site” This is in fact correct but this is because the applicant removed over 50 significant trees before submitting the application (see their own Design and Access Statement Page 9 that shows the position of the trees before removal). The historic evidence of this destruction is recorded from residents’ records, Borough Council enforcement records and Parish Council records dating back to 2021 when the developer destroyed the established trees on this site. This statement again is untrue in its context. The fact the applicant destroyed the trees, the listed wildlife (including endangered Bats) that lived in those trees is evidence that again the Design and Access statement is false and cannot be relied upon as part of the application. In this respect we feel the Design and Access Statement is unreliable and misleading to officers and Inspectors and should be resubmitted by the applicant or ignored within this application. 8. The Design and Access Statement refers to the RBWM shortfall in housing allocation. It refers to RBWM missing previous housing targets’, but it does not take into account that RBWM have already submitted applications and development plots to overachieve their annual housing targets and therefore again we find the Design and Access Statement unreliable and should be ignored in total for this application. 9. We see on the property history on this application that all the recent history of enforcement has not been noted. Again, we feel this application is not complete and showing the full details to which, this application is made for Parish, Council or Public comment so we feel this application should be refused until the full evidence is added into the application and an updated Design and Access Statement that is true, weighted can be submitted and relied upon. 10. The development sits at the entrance of the historic Conservation area of Datchet and consideration should be referred to the Conservation officer for input that is missing from this application. Documents and Cllr Thompson’s report to be sent to RBWM.

22/01777 – 42 Eton Road, Datchet – Single storey side/rear extension. Parish Council Recommendation: No Objection.

22/01799 – 26 Ruscombe Gardens, Datchet – First floor side extension. Parish Council Recommendation: Objection The Parish has been consistent with its recommendation to refuse on the basis of overdevelopment, and this further extends these worries and on top of this we agree with the officers recommendation to refuse for the concerns of a Terracing effect to the street scene. A compromise was found and application 21/02954/FULL was permitted but this amended extension causes more local concerns to the effect on the street scene should the neighbouring property wish to extend further in the future. The previous permitted application was a compromise to the new application and we cannot see any weighted argument to extend this further.

22/01478 – 57 Lawn Close, Datchet – Single storey rear extension no greater than 6.00m in depth, 3.10m high with eaves height of 3.00m. Parish Council Recommendation: Noted.

22/01599 – 3 Horton Road, Datchet – T1 Maple Tree, reduce back to existing cuts with a reduction of 35%. Parish Council Recommendation: No Objection subject to all work being under the control of a Borough Council Arboricultural Officer.

22.041 Borough Councillors Reports (Cllr. Larcombe)

Advised the next full RBWM meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and has some interesting motions. He advised that he was due to attend and Code of Conduct hearing regarding “trespassing” to look at a blocked water course.

22.042 Motions received for the Meeting

- i. Following the Regulation 14 Public Consultation of the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan (DNP), Datchet Parish Council has reviewed the subsequent revisions to the Plan and the supporting Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement, and agrees that the draft of the DNP and supporting paperwork should be submitted to RBWM for Regulation 16 by the DNP Steering Group. The Chair commented that members of the steering group had worked very hard to get the document to this stage and asked for questions and for them to speak.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Larcombe, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Buckley that the Parish Council **AGREE** that the draft of the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan and supporting paperwork be submitted to RBWM. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

The Clerk to confirm, by email, to the DNPSG to proceed.

- ii. This Council proposes that contact be made with the Police and RBWM at the appropriate level with regard to public safety in Datchet. Reason – the increase in crime, disturbance and intimidation to members of the public, visitors and shops and businesses.

Cllr. Thompson commented that this should be brought to the attention of Cllr. Cannon as he is the RBWM member for anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Public Protection. Details of the crimes can be found on the RBWM web page which is sent weekly. Public to be asked to send information to Cllr. Cannon.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mrs. M. Davies to contact the Police and RBWM in this regard. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

- iii. This Council requests that the Clerk writes to the local surgery for an explanation as to why appointments are apparently so difficult to obtain and what action is being taken to improve the situation.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Larcombe, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Loveridge, that this letter be sent. **AGREED** The voting being: - 8 For 0 Against 2 Abstaining

22.043 Properties

The Lead Member commented on the following:

- i. Library Roof – He does not feel that a new roof is required, so will get a quote for the repair of the existing roof, estimated to be under £10,000
- ii. Library Gate & Porch – repairs being carried out.
- iii. 38 Ditton Road, Windows - To be carried out by previous contractor.
- iv. Village Hall – The wooden window frames are starting to rot. He will obtain a quote for these works.
- v. Office Fire Door & Hand Rails – This door is rotten, quote requested. Hand Rails - Require painting, will get a quote for these.

Cllr Verma advised that the library rear door is rotten.

The Clerk advised that the budgets will need to be looked at and monies vired to cover those works that had no budget code. Note all materials, fuel and labour prices have increased.

- vi. **Councillors Questions on Properties** – Cllr. Bacon commented on the estimate of the cost of the library roof and asked if there was a report. Cllr. Loveridge replied that he had asked for a full survey and report, and that as it is not the Parish's building it needs to be kept in a good state of repair.

Cllr. Mrs. Davies asked if Cllr. Loveridge could get the Velux windows in the office looked at.

Cllr. Verma advised that a window in the changing rooms need replacing. Cllr. Davies had agreed to replace 1 unit in the Football Club House. Cllr. Verma to take this up with Cllr. Loveridge.

22.044 Grounds

- i. The Lead Member had circulated his report and members had no questions.
- ii. Survey Inspection of Council Owned Trees – He gave an update on the recent tree surveys, advised that part of the works would be looked after by an arboriculture specialist and the smaller works will be carried out by the Councils grounds contractor. There are also further inspections to be carried out on 7 trees within the village.

The Clerk also gave an update on works to be carried out by a specialist tree firm and commented that R. Watts and Sons are the Council current Term Contractor for tree works, and their contract should have been renewed last year, but due to Covid this did not happen. She asked would the Council like to continue with this contractor for this year, or go out for quotes for the tree work?

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mrs. Davies that the Council continue with the current term contractor, R. Watts and Sons, for a further year. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

- iii. Repairs to rubber surfacing – The Clerk advised members of the breakup of surface under the Green Gym and the Carousel Unit. A quote has been received and she is also obtaining a further 2 quotes. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Mrs. Davies, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Verma that the Clerk and Cllr. Thompson have delegated powers to consider the quotes and place an order for these works. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

22.045 Highways

The Lead Member will meet with the Deputy Lead Member to consider where they start. The Chair commented on the issues that had arisen with Whites Lane in relation to cars parked on the pavements and that this should be included.

- i. **Councillor Questions** - Cllr Larcombe advised that he had written o RBWM regarding Riding Court Road which is exceedingly dangerous and has suggested installation of yellow 'stripes' to indicate the need to slow down, Cllr. Mrs. O'Flynn and Cllr. Mrs. Fitzgerald to take this on.

22.046 Flooding & Drainage

The Lead Councillors report had been circulated, which relates to the Borough Flood Group meeting and the intention of EA to come up with flood management plan, which had been extremely slow. An alternative to the RTS, intended to protect Datchet, had not been completely considered. Datchet was working in conjunction with Horton, Wraysbury & Old Windsor on this. He raised his concerns regarding the consideration of dredging.

*The Chair asked members if they were in agreement to extend the meeting for a further 20 minutes. **AGREED***

- i. **Councillors Questions** – Cllr. Mrs. Davies asked what happens when the river silts up, Cllr. Larcombe explained, the river does not look after itself. The Chair stated that flooding issues are very important and would like to find a long term solution and suggests that residents read up on the 'Flood RE'.

22.047 Events

In his absence the Lead Member will issue a report at the next meeting.

- i. **Ellis Journey.** Cllr. Muir had emailed and thanked the Parish Council for putting on the event, it was highly appreciated. Copy to be sent to all Cllrs.
- ii. **Councillors Questions** – Cllr. Larcombe suggested that the Ellis Journey be in the Village Centre next year and Cllr. Verma urged all Councillors to attend these great events.

22.048 Reports from Working Groups – None.

The Chair and Clerk are trying to get working groups functioning again, budgets and expenditure is critical.

22.049 Items Required for Next Meeting – None.

22.050 Councillors Questions

Cllr. I. Bacon had checked the S.O. and stated that a budget report should be issued to members in June, Sept, Dec and March. Clerk to send out current one following this meeting to get back on track. He also read out an extract from an email sent by a DPC councillor in reference to the law-and-order motion which had been on tonight's agenda. He felt that the wording used was inappropriate and asked what action the Chair was going to take, and if he would report this to the Monitoring Officer? The Chair replied that he had taken this in the light of a jovial comment and if Cllr. Bacon thought otherwise he could report it himself. Cllr. Verma echoed Cllr. Bacons comments and stated that if this mentality exists how can the public trust us.

22.051 Public questions

- i. Resident - Would like to see the email referred to earlier as now in public domain, the Clerk will take advice on this and come back in due course.
- ii. Resident - River Development, the Thames is not in any danger of silting up.
- iii. Resident – Commented that Cllrs Thompson and Larcombe have done a lot of work studying flooding and have great respect for their knowledge, but the EA also have experts, but these have a different view. She asked when Councillors are talking could they advise that 'this is their view'. The Chair referred to a voted document, accepted by experts across the County, that recommend that the only real flood defence was the RTS Channel 1. Cllr Thompson commented that the EA appointed Cllrs Larcombe and himself to work on the design of Channel 1 with their consultants, which was support by this Council and RBWM. All paperwork is in the office. Cllr Verma asked if Cllrs Larcombe and Thompson were the Parish Council appointed representatives and was advised Yes. He requested a report but was advised many reports have been issued over the past.
- iv. Resident – When RTS was scrapped there was to be £10million available to Datchet and Wraysbury to put in flood defence, where has the £10million been spent? The Chair commented they did not have the answer and that is a question for a Borough Councillor.

The meeting closed at 21:32

THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 8TH AUGUST 2022

_____ **CHAIRMAN**

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