



Datchet Parish Council

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Minutes of a MEETING of DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL held in the VILLAGE HALL, DATCHET on MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2023, at 7.05pm

Present: Cllr. D. Buckley (Chairman), Cllr. E. Larcombe Cllr. Mrs M. Davies, Cllr S. Young, Cllr I. Thompson, Cllr A. Clemens

In attendance: Borough Cllr. J. Grove, Mrs S. Masikito

Public: There were 5 members of the public present

23/81 APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L. O'Flynn, T. O'Flynn, I. Bacon, D. Loveridge.
Absent without apologies: Cllr P. Bicknell

23/82 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Resident 1 – Commented on the co-option meeting in July and has looked to see if the revised procedure is good and fair to candidates, and asked i) why is it proposing to taking the discussion to part 2, how will the public know if issues beyond the suitability of candidates were raised by councillors in a Part II meeting, what happens to accountability and transparency? The Chair advised that this will be discussed later during the meeting under Item 23/88d.
- Resident 2 – Regarding an enforcement order served on commercial area behind Horton Road, he asked i) why did Cllr I Thompson became involved and ii) what was he trying to do. The Chair did not believe that it was an enforcement order at the moment, but it was noted that it was pending consultation. He commented that it has now moved on and is with the Enforcement Officers. He suggested the resident write to the office with his questions.
- Resident 3 –Informed members that Wild About Datchet are holding an environment event on 19/10/23, 6pm-9pm and would like to extend an invitation to a member of the DPC to speak at the event about Council aspirations towards the environment. Who would like to represent DPC at this event?
Cllr Susan Young will be happy attend depending on availability. Susan to liaise with the Clerk.
Cllr Thompson commented that he had not seen anything in writing about their aims and objectives and would need more information.
- Resident 4 – There are 2 houses carrying out building works without planning permission and feels that the Council has not helped in this matter, they are in a conservation area, and residents are doing work without permission.

The Chair advised that enforcement is a big issue and advised them to write into the Parish Council and RBWM with the properties they are referring to, the resident advised she has already done so, the Chair to follow up.

23/83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/84 MINUTES

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

23/85 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Page 1 – 23/65 - Cllr I. Thompson referred to the phone box and advised that there had been problems with a large stainless steel cage in the ground, this has now been cleared and will be concreted over and the phone box will be installed on this.

23/86 GENERAL

- a. Chairmans Report – Advised that he presented a document, on behalf of the Parish Council, at the planning panel for AL39, he was unable to present the whole document as officers felt the documents were received too late on the day, although he is aware of another document being presented on the day and accepted. This was being looked into. He was able to put the 6 queries to the panel, a copy of the full report was passed to all Councillors.
- b. Clerks report – this had been circulated and there were no questions.

23/87 PLANNING

- a. New applications for consideration

Appn No: 23/01885

Type: Full

Location: 1 Beaulieu Close, Datchet, SL3 9DD

Proposal: Two storey side extension with front canopy following demolition of existing element.

Recommendation: **No Objection.**

Appn No: 23/01894

Type: Full

Location: 63 Montagu Road, Datchet, SL3 9DR

Proposal: New front porch, part two storey side extension, garage conversion with single storey front extension, raising of the ridge & replacement roof with 2 no. front dormers and 2no. rear dormers, new dropped kerb, replacement entrance gates & alterations to fenestration.

Recommendation: **No Objection but with Conditions** that the applicant refers and follows Datchet Neighbourhood Plan and Datchet Design Guide for materials, design and street scene.

Appn No: 23/018973

Type: Full

Location: 2 Holmlea Road, Datchet, SL3 9HQ

Proposal: Change of use from dwelling house to children's home with a garage conversion, first floor side extension & alterations to fenestration.

Recommendation: **Objection**, this property is potentially causing huge parking and congestion in and around the main junction and requires much more off street parking and report from highways to review the Councils concerns.

Appn No: 23/02069

Type: Full

Location: 51 Beaulieu Close, Datchet, SL3 9DD

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory & construction of box bay window & open, covered porch to front elevation, fenestration changes to front & rear elevations.

Recommendation: **No Objection.**

Appn No: 23/02077 **Type:** Full

Location: 81 Ditton Road, Datchet, SL3 9LU

Proposal: First floor side extension and loft conversion with 3 no. front rooflights and 3 no. rear rooflights

Recommendation: **No Objection.**

Appn No: 23/02113 **Type:** Advertisement

Location: Hardware House, The Green, Datchet, SL3 9BJ

Proposal: Consent to retain 2no. externally illuminated fascia signs.

Recommendation: **Objection.** This property sits in the middle of the historic conservation area and these signs do not meet the adopted Datchet Design Guide or the adopted Datchet Neighbourhood Plan. The application should consult with the conservation team at RBWM to find a suitable design and style to sit with the center of the conservation area.

Members noted the Borough Council decisions.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. I. Thompson that the recommendations made be approved. **AGREED**

b. Other planning matters, including any new 106 Allocations and Enforcement Matters:

The Lead Member commented:

106 Allocations – There maybe CIL money from the AL39 application.

Enforcement – He has a definitive list of enforcement matters, meetings at RBWM will be taking place and hopes to attend a meeting to discuss these. There is a lack of officers and there is a process of recruiting more officers.

c. Councillor's Questions

Cllr E. Larcombe – AL39 – 3 minute speaking time at a panel meeting for this size development is appalling. The Chair advised that this was already being looked at. He has looked at the report, which refers to the word flood 80 times, the word insurance is not in there and he feels that, with FloodRe running out in the future, these houses may not be able to get insurance. Cllr S. Young advised that it will run out in 2039 but houses built after 2009 do not qualify, so there will be problems.

Cllr I. Thompson commented on 21 Eton Close in that he has received more resident complaints and as no action has been taken more work is being carried out at that property.

Cllr M. Davies asked if it is the case that they cannot get officers or there is no money in the budget. The Chair advised that there has not been investment in the UK but partly the budget restrictions but mainly due to lack of investment in the skill in planning officers.

23/88 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Expenditure approved under delegated authority was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr D. Buckley, seconded by Cllr S. Young and agreed that expenditure approved under delegated authority, as circulated, be approved. **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.**

b. To approve Income and Expenditure

It was proposed by Cllr D. Buckley, seconded by Cllr E. Larcombe and agreed that income and expenditure, as circulated, be approved. **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.**

c. To agree to create a Finance Committee and appoint Members

The Chair commented that this a need to set up a finance committee in relation to the budgetary process and to support the office, a full document had been issued.

It was proposed by Cllr D. Buckley, seconded by Cllr A. Clemens and agreed to create a finance committee and appoint members, be approved. **UNANIMOULSY AGREED.**

The Chair asked for nominations for Committee Members – Cllr D. Buckley, Cllr S. Young, Cllr A. Clemens, these were **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

d. **To approve a revised Co-Option Policy**

Document issued to all Cllrs.

Cllr E. Larcombe commented that there was no reference to the agreeing to sign the declaration of interest and code of conduct in the document, and felt these should be added to the list of questions.

The Chair asked for comments regarding the residents question in public question time.

Cllr S. Young asked if the document would be retrospective, and was advised no, that it was for future co-options, and if approved, he would pass it by the RBWM officers for their comments.

Cllr I. Thompson – Transparency is improved.

Cllr M. Davies – Revised as recommended by Elections Officer.

Cllr A. Clemens – Possibility of an outside person attending the Part II.

It was proposed by Cllr D. Buckley, seconded by Cllr I. Thompson to approve the revised co-option policy, with the additional question regarding the signing of the Declaration of Office and Code of Conduct. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

e. **To agree to recruit an Admin Assistant and approve publication of an advertisement**

It was proposed by Cllr D. Buckley, seconded by Cllr E. Larcombe and agreed to recruit an admin assistant and approve publication of an advertisement. **UNANIMOULSY AGREED**

f. **To agree to the setting up of a staffing committee, to consider and interview candidates for the vacancy, to give the panel delegated powers to agree terms of employment, contract and to make the appointment and to elect members to the committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr D. Buckley, seconded by Cllr A. Clemens and agreed to approve the committee members consisting of Cllrs I. Thompson, D. Buckley, Cllr M. Davies **UNANIMOULSY AGREED**

Bring back to the next meeting to appointment an additional member of the committee.

g. **To give permission for The Link to install a banner on The Green (probably Springtime)**

Email request circulated to all Cllrs.

It was proposed by Cllr D. Buckley, seconded by Cllr M. Davies and agreed to give permission for The Link to install a banner on The Green. **UNANIMOULSY AGREED**

h. **To note DRCCT Accounts will be circulated by Cllr E. Larcombe**

Cllr E. Larcombe advised that the DRCCT accounts have been prepared and will be circulated to all members before the next council meeting.

i. **Councillor's questions – None**

23/89 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Borough Cllr. J. Groves reported on the following:

- Borough Councillors had a productive meeting with TVP regarding issues across the wards and to look at how to work better with the police and to make sure that the issues are highlighted and better reported. Will be working on communications to go out to residents and advised that there is lots happening in the background.
- Planning issues are being looked at by RBWM.
- Had a meeting with Abri Housing, raised resident queries, changes happening and positive progress.

- Wild About Datchet Event – encourage people to come and listen and learn how to be more eco friendly and green.

Borough Cllr. E. Larcombe reported on the following:

- AL39 – Vote by Councillors was unanimous.
- 5G Mast – is appalling and wrong to put so close to the house.

23/90 GROUND:

a. The Lead Councilors report

Circulated, no questions.

b. To approve the addition of 2 double sided graffiti boards on the Recreation Ground

Report circulated. Cllr I. Thompson commented on the problems with graffiti, the time spent removing graffiti and feels that if a graffiti board is available this can be used and cleaned regularly.

It was proposed by Cllr S. Young, seconded by Cllr M. Davies and agreed to approve the 2 sided graffiti boards on the Recreation Ground. **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

c. To agree members for Ditch Culvert Working Group

Cllr Thompson recommended that the members of the group be the Parish Council Lead Member plus one other Councillor and a representative from Maydencroft, RBWM, EA, the public and the Clerk.

It was proposed by Cllr I. Thompson, seconded by Cllr S. Young and agreed to approve the above members for the Culvert Working Group. **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

d. To appoint a Lead and Deputy Member for the Ditch Culvert Working Group

It was proposed by Cllr I. Thompson, seconded by Cllr S. Young and agreed to appoint Cllr E. Larcombe as the Deputy Lead Member of the Ditch Culvert Working Group, with Cllr I. Thompson being the Lead Member. **AGREED**

e. Land at Mill Place, Quotations have been received and a report circulated. To agree a way forward

Report circulated.

Cllr Thompson, commented on the considerable costs and asked if the Council have the funds and advised that the land is owned by the Borough and that they should be asked if they should install the fence. The fence has been recommended by the Police, RBWM should be written to noting their responsibilities and advising them of the recommendation of the Police.

Cllr M. Davies asked if there is anything in the agreement. Can the lease be looked at?

Cllr E. Larcombe commented that the proposed fence line, image shown, and commented that it can be done in phases.

The Chair suggested that further investigation is required and deferred to the next meeting.

f. To receive an update on the Recreation Ground Pathways Tender, as per the update agree to get a quote to review construction of pathways

Cllr I. Thompson gave an update on the tenders, costs and current condition of the recently renovated pathway, which has now cracked and split and is unhappy about proceeding with the other pathways and would like to speak with a civil engineer in relation to what is required. He recommended that the tender be put on hold.

It was proposed by Cllr I. Thompson, seconded by Cllr A. Clemens and agreed to obtain a quote to review construction of the pathways be approved. **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

g. Councillor's questions

Cllr E. Larcombe – Seats on patio at rear of village hall need removing. The watering of trees has not gone too well.

Cllr M. Davies asked how the watering of trees happens, Cllr I. Thompson commented on the lack of manpower, happy to consider volunteers. The Chair asked if the volunteers could be contacted.

Cllr I. Thompson commented on complaints regarding boats on the riverfront for some period of time, EA have now cleared these. The Chair asked if an invoice has been raised for one of the boats, he was advised not as yet.

23/91 PROPERTIES:

- a. **The Lead Councillor Report** – No report issued.

23/92 HIGHWAYS

Councillor's Questions. Cllr I. Thompson commented on the information received from RBWM regarding road closures, which does not provide enough information.

Cllr A. Clemens commented on the number of large vehicles using Queens Road when they should not be and he and Cllr D. Buckley would be taking this forward.

Cllr D. Buckley commented on the corner of Mays Crossing, where there was a planter, which has now been fenced by the railway company. He asked if anyone was aware of who owned that part of the land. The Clerk to check with RBWM.

23/93 FLOODING

- a. **The Lead Councillors report had been circulated and noted.**

Cllr I. Thompson advised that there has been no progress with the Barrel Arch, no contact from RBWM.

- b. **Operational reforms to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) consenting process. To agree for Cllr I Thompson to respond to this consultation before the 19.09.23**

Cllr E. Larcombe referred to this consultation, that they were not aware of, and informed members of the contents of the consultation and proposed that he respond to this consultation.

It was proposed by Cllr I. Thompson, seconded by Cllr A. Clemens and agreed for Cllr E. Larcombe to respond to this consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED

- c. **Councillor's Questions**

Cllr S. Young attended the recent RBWM/EA event and felt that the Council are on their own with flooding at the moment and asked if it may be worth reconvening the flood group meetings so the Council can be as prepared as they can be. The Chair recommended that this be on the next meeting of the Council.

Cllr M. Davies commented thought the Council were applying for some flood equipment.

Cllr I. Thompson replied that he was extremely concerned that he has asked for certain areas of flood protection within Datchet and the RBWM have constantly said they had £10m in which to put flood defenses in, but during the previous RBWM Council there has been no more protection added to Datchet than there was during the floods in 2014.

Cllr E. Larcombe advised he will be raising a petition on RBWM regarding flooding and their commitment to planning, maintenance, construction etc on existing and proposed land drainage infrastructure.

He also commented on a report on the EA spending on the River Thames Scheme.

He advised that he has now been appointed to the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, he will provide an update at the next meeting.

Cllr D. Buckley commented that the £10m does not exist, but there is a commitment to do £2.5m in the 24/25 budget, however there will be financial reviews.

Cllr M. Davies asked how well equipped is the Parish ready for a flood, the Chair commented that there are sandbags but will follow this up after the next meeting.

23/94 EVENTS

- a. **The Lead Members Report** – No report had been circulated.
Cllr A. Clemens gave a verbal report at the meeting.
- b. **To note that Christmas On The Green will be taking place on Saturday 2nd December in conjunction with the Christmas tree lights on and Santa Sleigh Ride will be on 22nd December**
It was noted that the following dates have been confirmed.
02.12.23 – Christmas on the Green, Father Christmas will attend and the Mayor will switch the tree lights on, there will be live music and a banner installed.
22.12.23 – Santa sleigh ride
- c. **Councillors Questions** - None

23/95 WORKING GROUPS

- a. **Reports from working groups** - No reports
- b. **Councillor's Questions** – None

23/96 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Cllr E. Larcombe – The Myrke-only the first 8 houses are in Datchet, the rest are in Slough. RBWM & SBC need to talk to each other in relation to the other houses being transferred to RBWM. A letter to be drafted, motion on next meeting agenda.

Unhappy about the voting on AL39 and consider raising a motion of no confidence.

Cllr M. Davies commented on AL39 and that planning permission has been given and can assume is going to happen, she commented on higher risk of flooding in the London Road area and asked how this was allowed to happen. The Chair commented that it was in the Borough Local Plan. She asked what the Council can do to get this stopped.

Cllr E. Larcombe commented that he could ask for a letter before action regarding a judicial review and believes the process was appalling. The Chair advised that he could bring this as a motion on next meeting.

Cllr Larcombe advised that waiting is not an option, it needs to be carried out promptly once a decision has been made.

The Chair commented that he would need to take guidance on this and it was suggested that an extra-ordinary meeting been held, date to be advised. **AGREED**

Cllr S. Young asked about the Councillor training and the Clerk advised that this was on hold until after co-options.

23/97 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Resident 1 – Regarding the graffiti boards, asked if this had been discussed with the police as it may mean people walking around with graffiti cans. The Chair commented that there would be no problem with speaking to the Police about this.

Resident 2 – Offered her services to water the trees. She asked if the trucks on the side of the motorway have permission to be there, the Chair was following this up.

Resident 3 – Asked i) how many people will be in the office when an admin assistant is employed, the Clerk advised 3. ii) In relation to the Culvert Working Group, he would like to put himself forward as the member of the public on the group.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

THE NEXT MEETING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2023

X

Signature