

# Datchet Parish Council

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN DATCHET VILLAGE HALL, ALLEN WAY ON MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>.1 APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM

- Present: Cllrs Mrs J. Stickland (Chairman), H. Clasper (Vice-Chairman & Lead Member for Finance), J. Grey (Lead Member for Highways), G. Muir (Lead Member for Grounds),
- In the Public: Cllrs P. Darban, Miss L. Darban, Miss K. Fitzgerald, E. Larcombe, T. O'Flynn, Mrs O'Flynn, A. Clemens (20:25)
- Apologies: Cllrs I. Thompson Mrs P. Barnes-Taylor, Mrs M. Davies

There were 6 members of the public present.

#### **APM/1 NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017**

The notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2017 had been agreed at the Council meeting held on 8.05.17. A copy was available if required.

#### **APM/2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs. Joanne Stickland welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked The Clerk Katy Jones, the Finance Officer Judith Freeland and the Office Assistant Kate Hillis for their hard work over the year. She also thanked the Councillors for all their efforts.

The Chairman had undertaken many tasks at parishioner's requests and walked around the village on a regular basis reporting concerns to the Borough.

Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been very active putting ideas together of what the residents would like to keep or change around the village and are currently doing character assessments within the village.

#### **APM/3 REPORT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

The Lead Member for Finance, Cllr Harry Clasper referred to his report (copy available from the Parish Office) on the Income and Expenditure and the balance sheet.

Brief overview;

- The Precept was again reduced by 5% for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running, working out to be £10,000.
- Explained that the expenditure is split into 'day to day' running's of what is spent to keep the village working, and projects which are specifically budgeted for.
- The surplus on the year was £12,172 (i.e. where income exceed expenditure). The amount of money carried forward is approx. £161,000
- Any projects not completed but which have been budgeted for will be carried forward.
- One outstanding loan for refurbishment of Montague House ends in July 2019.

#### **APM/4 REPORT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

The Lead Member, Cllr J. Grey, referred to his report (a copy available from the Parish Office) which was noted.

Brief overview;

- Almost all street lights have been changed to LED's being more cost effective.
- Rates relief for the Opticians, Pharmacy and Manor Hotel in Datchet, others awaiting confirmation.
- Increase of community wardens by 7.
- Christmas lights were facilitated in the center of the village.

#### **APM/5 REPORT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR GROUNDS**

The Lead Member for Grounds, Cllr Gary Muir, thanked the grounds team and referred to his report (a copy available from the Parish Office) which was noted.

Brief overview;

- CCTV has been installed overlooking The Rec Ground and surrounding areas.
- Hanging Baskets to go up around the Village and on Commercial buildings too by the end of May.
- Riverfront now complete and is an asset to the village.
- New Green Gym installed
- Thanked BBHT for organising and paying for refurbishment of War Memorial.

#### **APM/6 REPORT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR PLANNING**

In the absence of the Lead Member Cllr Mrs. Barnes-Taylor, and as no report given, the Chairman reported that the Parish had a number of planning applications to view last year and look closely at these but can only object on planning law. Applications for trees are left to the Borough experts. DPC have removed a number of trees around the Village for safety reasons which these will be replaced.

#### **APM/7 REPORT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR PROPERTIES**

In the absence of the Lead Member Cllr A. Verma, and no report or update given, the Chairman reported

- The Library boiler had been fixed
- Gates that had been asked to be removed, are now to be put back.
- Parish Yard Application has been approved, and an external power box has been installed.
- The Bridge re-wiring is now complete and planning application has been submitted for the building to be redecorated, internally and externally include a new sash window & damp proof.
- Village Hall – heater has been fixed and quotes received for new units and the lighting.
- Met with 4 Estate Agents at the Cemetery Chapel, view to go to consultation and future use.
- Mortuary Store refurbishment looking to see to convert to a waiting room/washroom facility.

#### **APM/8 REPORT FROM THE SPOKESPERSON FOR FLOODING**

In the absence of the Spokesperson for Flooding, Cllr I. Thompson, The Chairman referred to his report (copy available from the Parish Office) which was noted. All happy to read through at a convenient time individually.

#### **APM/9 REPORT FROM THE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

Borough Cllr Grey referred to his report (copy available from the Parish Office) which was noted. Cllr Grey advised that he had been promoted back on Cabinet for RBWM in Jan 2018 after a 10year break as Lead Member for Environmental Services, Parking and Flooding.

#### **APM/10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public stated more communication and advertising should be done to attract more residents to Annual Parish meetings. Chairman confirmed the meeting is always the same each year. Dates go in The Link and put on the DPC website and Social Media.

Cllr Larcombe:

i) Asked in regards to the RTS – why people are not being told the funding is not available and not likely to go ahead. Cllr Grey replied that lots of people do know this and by September things will be a lot clearer.

ii) Although CCTV has been installed there are still motorbikes on the Rec, Cllr Muir advised they are definitely a deterrent and numbers have dropped.

iii) Asked when did Datchet last win Best Kept Village? Advised by Cllr Muir that will need to talk to local residents and need community engagement from all before entering again..

iv) Asked for the Borough to look at reducing the speed limit on Riding Court Road. Cllr Grey advised that the highways experts have investigated into this and reports said no need to reduce.

vi) Chanel & River Trust to take over navigation won't happen.

vii) Neighbourhood Plan groups weren't to be allowed to speak at meetings, intention to change to constitution. Cllr Grey confirmed the constitution has not been amended yet and will need to be voted on.

viii) PSPO, is this in the pipe line? Chairman confirmed the byelaws cover most of the issues as PSPO's.

ix) Questioned position on ward Boundary Review? Cllr Grey confirmed the final outcome will be in July, commission was pleased with Wraysbury Horton and Datchet being one ward.

Residents are regarding a By-Pass for Datchet parallel to M4 – good opportunity to do this when they replace the Riding Court bridge to widen M4 and put an arch in. Cllr Grey said would be covered in the Borough Local Plan. Residents felt it should be given priority as the 1<sup>st</sup> requirement.

Resident commented that recycling is confusing and would like better information. Cllr Grey said this would be done.

Resident commented very disappointing that there was no overview of the year or a report on planning as it is such an important area.

Resident commented that entrance to Whites Lane is getting worse and enforcement are doing nothing. Chairman replied that the illegal building was removed and they are monitoring the site very closely.

The Meeting Closed at 21:04

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**CHAIRMAN**

KJJ.kh.DPC.APM 23.04.18