

# Datchet Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ALLEN WAY, DATCHET ON MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 AT 19:30

Present: Cllrs Mrs L. O'Flynn (Chairman) I. Thompson, E. Larcombe, D. Loveridge, Mrs M. Davies, Mrs P. Barnes-Taylor, I. Bacon, A. Corcoran, P. Bicknell, P. Hough, D. Buckley, Mrs M. Fitzgerald,  
The Clerk Mrs K. Jones, Miss K. Hillis

Apologies: Cllrs I. Thompson, T. O'Flynn, I. Ghattaura

There were 5 members of the public present.

### **19.142 ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE**

**19.143 PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – A resident informed members of the current ongoing insurance claim with regards to incident with the strimmer which had caused her car window to be broken and that the Council's insurance company were not going to reimburse her for damage and for the valeting of her vehicle. The Clerk advised the resident to arrange a time to come into the parish office to discuss the matter further.

**19.144 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr P. Bicknell declared interest in planning application 20/00185 and will leave the room during discussions.

### **19.145 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

Pg. 36 19.140 Cllr Hough advised his comment should state 'bring back to council for further discussion' The minutes were approved, subject the above change, as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **19.146 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES**

Pg. 34 19.133 Cllr Corcoran questioned if the Red Heritage phone box had been ordered yet. The Clerk explained the adoption agreement had been completed and are waiting for the removal of the telephone equipment. Once this has been done arrangements can be made for the installation of the new box.

Pg. 34 19.133 Cllr Hough asked if the trailer had been inspected and if the payment was authorised. Cllr Loveridge advised the repair shop had done more work than originally stated and the invoice reflected this.

Pg. 35 19.134 Cllr Corcoran asked if a meeting had been arranged to discuss the 20mph road limit. He was advised to contact Cllr Thompson.

Pg. 35 19.137 Cllr Loveridge advised that he had spoken with the organiser of the funfair and was looking at dates in August/September. He thought it could tie in with another village event and will let Cllr Corcoran know. Will come back to council for approval.

### **19.147 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman advised that DPC traditionally take the middle page spread of 'The Link' magazine to inform residents of Council matters. The cost is £300 per quarter. It is circulated to the whole village. She asked councillors if they would like to submit anything for the next issue, the deadline being 14<sup>th</sup> February. After discussions on the merits of this it was **AGREED** to carry on as at present. Cllr. Hough said he was happy to help write the articles.

### **19.148 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Larcombe gave apologies for Cllr Cannon and reported on the RBWM budget.

There are several meetings per week taking place talking about transparency and openness.

He referred to the £52.66 million for the River Thames Scheme and an article written by a Borough spokesperson to raise another precept, separate to council tax, for £10 million over 4 years to raise the additional funds needed Cllr Larcombe advised he has submitted a request to the next Borough meeting to see the report.

He reported that he could not get hold of 'Flood Re' insurance system which is meant to cover non-insured properties. He was going to the National Audit office to inquire.

Regarding Permitted Development, the 30m<sup>2</sup> allowance has totally overwhelmed the system so much so that Borough Councillors do not get to see everything and rely on written reports.

## **QUESTIONS**

Cllr Bicknell referred to the River Thames Scheme, £250million in total and RBWM committed the extra £52 million and are trying to raise this by tax, but it will take forever as it is not for Central Government to sort out. Cllr Larcombe replied that Jubilee River was paid for by Central Government but now its 50% ‘Partnership Funding’ from local councils and Thames Water and the cost is continuously rising.

Cllr Buckley asked if the £10 million that was committed by RBWM was in the budget to which Cllr Larcombe replied it was approved but he cannot see it now. Cllr. Larcombe replied in principal that Surrey County Council agreed to put £270million into the scheme but RBWM will need to find £54million.

Cllr Buckley also asked if it is correct there’s a £22million shortfall at the Borough that needs to be found by 2025 which may mean cuts to residents and services affecting all.

### **19.149 CLERKS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised of the DNPG report that had been circulated to all.

Cllr. Hough asked what the planned end date was for the Neighbourhood Plan as it will have been started 4 years ago in September 2020. It was explained that a lot of work had taken place and the group had recently been working on the Datchet Design Guide which had taken a lot of time. They advised members of the drop-in session taking place in the Village Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> March for the consultation on this.

### **19.150 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Lead Member for Planning presented the following planning applications:

**20/00104 – 16 Montagu Road, Datchet** – Members had **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application.

**20/00185 – Spices Silver Cottage and to the rear of Hardware House The Green, Datchet** – Members had **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application however, they felt that the plans were inaccurate with no dimensions or proper boundaries and the application form has not been correctly filled in. They have requested that our Ward Councillor E. Larcombe call the application into the Borough and request a site visit because there are health and safety issues and it appears the Fire Escape door can only open on to the railway line

**20/00182 – 67 Montagu Road, Datchet** – Members had **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application.

**20/00199 – 8 Link Road, Datchet** – Members had **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application.

**19/03598 – Ditton Park Riding Court Road, Datchet** – Members had **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application.

**19/03599 – 65 Beaulieu Close, Datchet** – Members had **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application.

### **19.151 BOROUGH PLANNING DECISIONS**

Members noted the Borough Planning Decisions as on the planning addendum dated 10.02.2020

The Chairman allowed a resident to raise a question regarding planning appeal 17/0404.

“The inspector’s decision notice states that Cllr Thompson appeared for The Appellant” He asked for clarity as to who Cllr Thompson was representing at the hearing whether it was the Council or the Appellant?

After discussions it was **AGREED** to defer this question until Cllr Thompson was back to allow him to answer for himself. The resident was advised that councillors can attend hearings wearing many hats.

The resident also asked if council had been made aware that the cars were back in reference to application number 19/0155 and asked if enforcement had been informed. The resident was told by the Chairman and Clerk they had not been approached regarding this and that he can report any issues to enforcement himself.

### **19.152 PROPERTIES**

The Lead Member for Properties advised members that the windows in the Bridge Café, that had the glass nearly falling out, had been repaired and the frames were are now ready for painting.

She advised that the guttering on both the Bridge Café and Library are clogged up with leaves and although there are no funds left in the general maintenance pot, the rent has been paid and DPC have a legal duty to get this done. Also, at the side of the Bridge Café there is a broken window around the air vent and the door frame needs restoration.

Cllr. Bicknell stated there should be money in the budget for emergencies and asked what the procedure is to get access to this is? Cllr Hough advised that an extra £600 to clear the gutters would not be a problem.

## 19.153 GROUNDS

The Lead Member for Grounds advised of the dangerous tree in the cemetery that had been affected by the strong winds. Felling had been arranged earlier today.

**He reported that the path outside the Parish Office/ Village Hall** needed repairing as it has been lifted by tree roots and is a potential trip hazard. There is money in other Grounds headings which can be used and he has had a couple of quotes in for the work.

**The condition survey on the Village Greens** had been circulated to all members and after discussions it was agreed to get estimates for 3 options i) Resin Bond Gravel, ii) Loose Gravel, iii) Cobbles.

Cllr. Bicknell raised the condition of the Jubilee Memorial and the drinking fountain and the circular bench on South Green. The Clerk explained there had been a quote to reconnect the water fountain which she would find and circulate. She would also find the details on the last time the Jubilee Memorial had been cleaned. With the circular bench this could be cleaned in situ.

**The relocation/restoration of the Datchet Milestone.** The Clerk appraised members regarding this and following discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge and **SECONDED** by Cllr Corcoran to accept the quote from Architectural Heritage Conservation in the sum of £4040. Cllr. Larcombe said to state that the new tail is to be attached with stainless steel rods and resin. **ALL AGREED**

**Hanging Baskets for Summer 2020.** The Clerk appraised members regarding this and following discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bicknell for businesses to pay half the cost towards the hanging baskets this Summer. **ALL AGREED**

Cllr Loveridge will see if there are brackets up at the other end of the Village to have baskets down there too.

## 19.154 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

i) In the absence of the Lead Member, the Deputy Lead Member for Finance presented the income and expenditure sheets for approval. He advised all of the extra £6,000 from the sale of plots at the cemetery. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge **SECONDED** by Cllr Hough and **RESOLVED** that the income and payment sheets be approved. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

ii) Following discussions on the jetties, in the new budget for 2020/21, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Barnes-Taylor to keep the £30,000 in the budget for new jetties. The voting being: IN FAVOUR: 8 AGAINST: 3

iii) Regarding the proposed 2.5% increase in the rental for properties, the Clerk advised it would be best to arrange meetings to discuss these as rent reviews are overdue and need to look at negotiating with the Library/RBWM/TVP. Cllr Bicknell stated their leases should give a fix rental increase so no negotiation is needed.

iv) Following discussions on the present budget for 2019/20 for Properties it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Davies and **SECONDED** by Cllr Loveridge for £5,000 to be moved from Legal Fees to cover the cost for work due at the Bridge and the Library. **ALL AGREED**

v) Following discussions on the present budget for 2019/20 for Grounds it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge and **SECONDED** by Cllr Hough for £5,000 to be moved from Land at Mill Place to cover the cost of the path repairs outside the Parish Office/Village Hall **ALL AGREED**

Cllr Loveridge will forward the quotes to all councillors for comments.

vi) Regarding the new 2020/21 budget Cllr Bacon stated that the projects total was £85,000 and was increasing to £237,000 and felt that the council was never going to spend this, so items should not be in the budget but instead in a 'Wish list'

*It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to finish the meeting at 22:15 to agree on the budget.*

Cllr Hough suggested to remove items such the £7,500 for Land at Mill Place and £12,000 for the Mortuary Store refurbishment, Cllr Bacon suggested these be moved to the 'wish list'.

After discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bicknell and **SECONDED** by Cllr Loveridge to keep the numbers in the budget as they stand and move on. The voting being: -

IN FAVOUR: 8                      AGAINST: 2                      ABSTAINING: 1

**19.155 HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

The Lead Member for Highways advised that she had, had a meeting with Cllr Cannon and was due to have another one.

**19.156 FLOODING**

The Spokesperson for flooding was absent from the meeting however reports had previously been sent out to all.

**19.157 WORKING GROUPS**

The Chairman advised that the working group on Standing Orders has started.

Cllr Corcoran asked for approval of the Environmental Awareness Working Group aims. **AGREED**

He also requested to attend the Climate Resilience stakeholder workshop being run by RBWM as the Councils representative. **ALL AGREED**

**19.158 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

i) Cllr Hough asked for all reports from Lead Members to be received in advance.

ii) Cllr Corcoran asked for road closure for the Ellis Journey event, advised by the Clerk that this request needs to be put to the Borough.

iii) Cllr Buckley asked for reports to be typed up and not hand written when circulated.

MEETING CLOSED AT 22:10

**THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

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**CHAIRMAN**