

# Datchet Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ALLEN WAY, DATCHET ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 AT 19:30

Present: Cllrs Mrs L. O'Flynn (Chairman) T. O'Flynn, I. Thompson, E. Larcombe, D. Loveridge,  
Mrs M. Davies, I. Bacon, A. Corcoran, D. Buckley, Mrs M. Fitzgerald,  
The Clerk Mrs K. Jones, Miss K. Hillis

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs P. Barnes-Taylor, A. Clemens, P. Hough  
There were 4 members of the public present.

**19.159 ANNOUNCEMENTS** – The Chairman asked everyone to use the microphones for recording purposes.

**19.160 PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – i) Mrs Cryle had a few questions regarding items on the agenda which related to the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Group (DNPG). The Chairman advised these would be answered when reached. Regarding the planting of 125 trees for the Council's anniversary it was suggested that the DNPG, Wildabout Datchet and the Parish Council all work together this project. The DNPG are also carrying out a survey of the significant trees in Datchet which could extend the number of Tree Preservation Orders instead of the Borough acting when these come under threat.

ii) A resident followed up on last months question under 19.151 and raised the question again to find out the role of Cllr Thompson at the Appeal Hearing. Cllr Thompson answered that he had attended the Inquiry as a councillor representing the Parish Council. He had also corrected the Environment Agency in regard to the intention of flooding, in respect of the timescale, which they had accepted. Thirdly he had asked to speak as a resident, which he is entitled to do, and stated that the units were for people who were already part of the Datchet Community. The resident referred back to the Inspectors report which stated that Cllr Thompson had appeared for the appellant. The Clerk stated that she had previously advised the resident that the final sheet of the Inspectors report was incorrect in listing Cllr Thompson as there for the appellant, and she had asked them to correct and re-issue this. She had received an acknowledgement but was still was waiting for a reply. She would chase them up and let all concerned know the outcome.

**19.161 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – NONE

**19.162 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

Pg. 38 19.153 after the word 'resin' add the wording ...'Clerk advised to take the Stonemason advise'. Also change 'All Agreed' to 'Agreed' (with 1 abstention)

Pg. 38 19.154 iii) add after TVP – 'Bridge Café.' and iv) insert 'this year' after £85,000

The minutes were approved, subject the above changes, as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**19.163 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES**

Pg 36 19.143 The Clerk advised that due to the Council's insurance company not agreeing to compensate Mrs Rayner, the Council had offered to pay for her repairs and valeting as a goodwill gesture. Mrs Rayner had accepted.

Pg 36 19.146 Cllr Loveridge had tried to contact the organiser of the Funfair, with no response. The Clerk will chase for dates.

Pg 38 19.153 The Clerk advised she had contacted companies for estimates for the 3 different treatments for the Village Green perimeters but only 1 had replied so far and they still needed to put something in writing. Should have something for the April meeting.

**19.164 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Nothing to report

**19.165 CLERKS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE**

i) The residents from 126 Horton Road have contacted the Council regarding the tree on land at the side of the ditch behind their property, requesting that the Council prune this back. They state the Council did this work in the past after they attended a council meeting to outline the problems.

However the clerk cannot find any record either in the minutes or in work orders/invoices.

After discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge, **SECONDED** by Cllr O'Flynn and **RESOLVED** to say no to the request until they can bring something to the Council to prove the case.

**FOR 9                      AGAINST 0                      ABSTAINING 1**

ii) The clerk informed members of the damage that had occurred to the Corden Painting, which hangs in Datchet Library, and the fact that the Library Service had taken full responsibility for the damage and would cover the cost of the repairs.

After discussions regarding the restoration it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Mrs O’Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr Buckley and **RESOLVED** to accept the offer from the DVS to take the painting and get it assessed along with a quote for the repairs. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

iii) DNPG have requested DPC to assist in obtaining reports on the 3 Datchet Local Wildlife Sites from the Thames Valley Environment Records Centre. The costs vary from £75 to £200, depending on the information required.

After discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bacon, and **SECONDED** by Cllr Corcoran that the Council give the full £200 for the full reports.

It was counter **PROPOSED** by Cllr Buckley and **SECONDED** by Cllr O’Flynn that on the basis that DNPG pay the first £75, the Council will pay a maximum contribute of £125 for a full report.

Voting on the counter proposal took place first, the result being: -

**FOR 6                      AGAINST 2                      ABSTAINING 2** As such the counter proposal is **AGREED**

## **19.166 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Cannon advised members that most of the work being done at present is on the budget. He also advised that the works to the pedestrian crossing in the village centre are now complete.

### **QUESTIONS**

i) Cllr Larcombe questioned the River Thames Scheme being short of partnership funding, even though it was secured in October 2019. RBWM need to find £40 million to contribute otherwise the project will be short. Cllr Cannon replied that since Cllr Lacombe is a RBWM councillor he is able to ask these questions of RBWM himself. £10 million has been committed and is in the budget for initial works. It is minuted that the Borough have undertaken to fund £52 million, based on a flood levy across the Borough.

ii) Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald reported footpaths in need of relaying in Montague Road and Green Lane, pot holes in Horton Road, London Road pavement is not level, and advised of over hanging tree branches impairing sight lines. Cllr Cannon advised that all of these should be reported on the RBWM ‘report it’ site, otherwise the process is delayed. He also advised to report these matters to the ward councillor who is also a parish councillor.

## **19.167 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

THERE WERE NO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED TO BE DISCUSSED

## **19.168 BOROUGH PLANNING DECISIONS**

Members noted the Borough Planning Decisions as on the planning addendum dated 09.03.2020

The Clerk advised members of the Datchet Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document consultation, and the public meetings to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall and 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Library and Bridge Café. Councillors will be asked for a joint response at the next meeting.

## **19.169 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

The Lead Member for Finance presented the income and expenditure sheets for approval.

i) Cllr Corcoran queried invoice number 1952 for £7,440 payable to Keay Roofing questioning if the job is complete. Cllr Davies advised that it will be discussed under her properties report.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr O’Flynn, **SECONDED** by Cllr Loveridge and **RESOLVED** that the income and payment sheets be approved subject to the above query. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

The Clerk read out the report from Cllr Hough.

ii) Cllr Buckley questioned if the budget was actually approved. The Chairman advised that it was, subject to details being sorted out.

iii) Members were asked to consider transferring all account lines related to the cemetery to either finance, grounds or properties. After discussions it was **AGREED** that it was in the best interest of the Council to know exactly what income is coming in from the cemetery and what the cemetery is costing the Council. So present codes to be kept. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

iv) The Clerk advised that when the 2020/21 budget was set, members were not aware that the 5 library heaters needed replacing, costing £5,000. That the Village Hall leaking pipe had been found, repair cost £1,000 and the cost for relocating the Datchet Milestone £4,000 along with the extras for the coping stones Chapel roof had not been added to the budget.

Although Cllr Larcombe had offered to purchase the Red Phone Box there would still be a cost to remove the old one and install this, and if Council agree to go ahead the drinking fountain could cost another £6,500. Cllr Bacon suggested moving £30,000 for the jetties on to a wish list, however he was advised by the clerk that the council had already voted to keep this item in. It was suggested by Cllr O'Flynn to use 106 monies, but the clerk stated that this could not be used for maintenance or repairs.

Following discussions it was **AGREED** that the council would review each one of these items individually when there is more information/quotes.

v) Electricity Contract. Cllr Mrs Davies advised members that have gathered a lot of information regarding this and when Cllr Hough is back a recommendation will be put together for Council to agree on the 6<sup>th</sup> April as to which contractor to go with.

#### **19.170 PROPERTIES**

The Lead Member for Properties had previously circulated her report on the Cemetery Chapel.

After discussions on this matter and specifically in relation to invoice number 1952 for £7,440 payable to Key Roofing it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thompson, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Davies and **RESOLVED** to authorise the payment to Key Roofing. The voting being as follows: -

**FOR 7                      AGAINST 1                      ABSTAINING 2**

#### **19.171 GROUNDS**

The Lead Member for Grounds had circulated his report.

i) **Cemetery fees and charges.** After discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge, **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson and **RESOLVED** to keep the Cemetery fees and charges the same as they are for 2020/21.

The voting being: -

**FOR 10                      AGAINST 0                      ABSTAINING 0**

ii) **Restoration of the Drinking Fountain on South Green** It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald and **RESOLVED** to leave the drinking fountain as it is and just give it a clean. The voting being: -

**FOR 8                      AGAINST 0                      ABSTAINING 2**

iii) **Jubilee Memorial.** After discussions it was **AGREED** to obtain quotes to clean and apply a protective coat to the Jubilee Memorial.

*Clerk to Action*

iv) The clerk advised of an email received from Cllr Larcombe showing photos of the grass verge being damaged by the refuse lorry turning in to the Doctors car park from Green Lane.

After discussions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Loveridge, **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Larcombe take this issue up with the Borough to understand the problem and whether or not it is a driving or access problem.

*ALL IN FAVOUR*

v) The Clerk advised of a planting design from the entrance to the Recreation ground by 118 Horton Road. She is obtaining quotes for the supply of shade tolerant shrubs hopefully to be planted this Spring.

vi) Cllr Buckley raised a resident concern about the amount of litter on the roads and footpaths in the village. The clerk advised that she had responded to his email regarding the role of Dean Smith, and advised that if litter is on the streets then it is the Boroughs responsibility.

vii) The Clerk advised members that letters will be going out this week to all businesses regarding a 50% contribution towards the cost of their hanging baskets.

Cllr Loveridge stated that TDS are happy to pay for 4 to 5 baskets to be supplied for the end of Horton road, past the Turkish restaurant. The clerk ask him to check how many new brackets would be needed.

viii) Cllr Corcoran questioned the recent work on the path at the front of the office as he had only seen two quotes and would have like this item to have come back to council for approval. Cllr Loveridge explained he had circulated the quotes by email and only 2 members were not in favour. As soon a weather permits the edges will be top soiled and grass seeded, along with the edges to the path on the Recreation Ground.

The Chairman explained that work was undertaken for maintenance and a safety issue and was not a project. Cllr Bacon stated he was one of those against and said he thought the concrete for the kerbs was too high for soil/seed.

*At 21:30 it was agreed by all to suspend standing orders to extend the meeting until 21:45*

#### **19.172 HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

The Lead Member for Highways advised that the work had finished on the pedestrian crossing in the village, would like a 'green man' function where buttons have to be pressed and a camera on the roundabout outside

St Mary's Church. The Chairman advise to let the works settle in and review the situation.

**19.173 FLOODING**

The Spokesperson for Flooding had circulated his report to all. He advised that all information on the website will be update and that past councillors can still be marshalls.

**19.174 WORKING GROUPS**

The Chairman advised that the Standing Order Working Group are meeting on a weekly basis working through the whole document page by page and they will bring this to Council for approval at the May Statutory meeting.

Cllr Thompson had circulated his report from the Central Storm Water Working Group, including the Recreation Ground Ditch.

**19.175 EVENTS**

Cllr Corcoran is looking for support with the following events;

- i) The Ellis Journey – The Clerk voiced concerns regarding the number of people predicted to attend this event and advised the organisers contact the Safety Advisory Group at RBWM for advice.
- ii) VE Day Celebrations – due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> May being a Bank Holiday, no plans as of yet but would like a party atmosphere and the use of the Queens 'Beacon'
- iii) 125 years of the Datchet Parish Council – suggested planting 125 trees however this would be a project not an event. To meet with the clerk and Lead/Deputy Lead Member's for Grounds to discuss further.

**19.176 NOTICE OF ANY ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

Cllr Larcombe advised of the bins still outside the Charity Shop, Cllr Thompson stated that a seconded commercial bin has now been put there and has asked the shop why these have not been moved. The Clerk suggested writing a follow up letter.

**19.177 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

- i) Cllr Bacon offered to look at the costings to purchase 4 or 5 more microphones. As these are now obsolete will need to look on eBay or similar sites. It was **AGREED** for him to look into purchasing these up to a maximum bid of £3,000.
- ii) Cllr Loveridge requested a Part II at the next available Council meeting to look at the recent Code of Conduct enquiry where 6 councillors had been reported to the Monitoring Officer.

**19.178 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the public had suggesting contacted Age Concerns head office regarding the problems with the bins.

MEETING CLOSED AT 21:57

**THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

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**CHAIRMAN**