

Dorney Parish Council



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Minutes of the Dorney Parish VIRTUAL Meeting of the Council held at the Dorney Village Hall on Tuesday 12th May 2020 at 8 pm

Present:- Councillors K Harris (Chairman), A Purdie, A Foxley, J Dax, R Ormond, P Smith and C Stoughton.

In Attendance:- Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Dev Dhillon, Buckinghamshire Council Cllr D Pepler, Mr Bowman (Dorney Village Pump), John Maynard and Martin Westcott (MoPs) and Sue Moffat (Clerk).

1) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

M4 Smartmotorway:- Martin Westcott raised concern that from previous meetings he understood the entire Village Road was to be resurfaced, so, are the potholes that are being repaired at present just an interim measure? Cllr Dhillon responded that he was disappointed with the repair work and had emailed his concerns to the head of Highways a week ago and was still waiting for a reply.

John Maynard raised concern that Dorney was turning in to a scale electric set with all the orange and yellow plastic cones and barriers popping up which made the Village look unsightly. Cllr Harris responded that there is nothing we can do about this at present as it caused by the Smartmotorway works with Marsh Lane bridge being closed and ensuring there is access to Dorney Reach. Cllr Foxley added that red and yellow bollards at the corner of Village Rd and Court Lane have been discussed several times at Council meetings but, to recap, the road layout is similar to the one used when the 2012 Olympics took place to improve access to Court Lane. Initially it was hoped for a roundabout to be installed at the junction but this could not happen due to safety reasons but still hoping it may be installed in the future.

Cllr Dev Dhillon reported:- (i) He has reported the activity at Orchard Herbs Farm to the senior Principle Enforcement officer and waiting for a response; (ii) Regards the complaints he has received about speeding along Lake End Road, the Local Community Manager will carry out a Public Consultation once normal work resumes after Covid 19; (iii) He has asked Head of Highways that as soon as the Smartmotorway works have finished the road surfaces are then improved along Marsh Lane, Court Lane to Lake End Bridge; (iv) Cllr Foxley raised concern that although 5 recycling centres have re-opened since the beginning of Covid 19, the closest on to Dorney is Beaconsfield. What is the timetable for opening Burnham one as there is a lot of flytipping around Dorney including round the Village Hall area. Cllr Dev Dhillon said he will raise this issue with the Leader of the Council when he meets with him next week. He did not believe that liaising with Berkshire to use their tips would be possible; (v) Cllr Purdie pointed out that when searching maps on the South Bucks Planning portal, the search stops at the M4 and does not include Dorney Reach; (vi) Martin Westcott pointed out that the road surface from the Garden Centre to the Rowing Lake was dangerous to cyclists but did thank South Bucks Council for starting the collection of green bins again.

Cllr Pepler reported:- (i) The problem with opening the Burnham tip was Covid 19 social distancing as the road was very narrow so parked cars using the tip would make it impassable; (ii) The pothole repairs over the Jubilee River section of Lake End Rd were well done so moving in the right direction; (iii) Regards planning applications, he receives the weekly planning list and there have been none recently in Dorney.

The Clerk informed the Council that when she asked the Locality Officers as to which Councillors from the new Buckinghamshire Council were representing Dorney, the response was Cllrs Dhillon and Pepler remained until the elections next May 2021.

- 2) **Apologies**- None.
- 3) **Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda** – Cllr Foxley being a member of Dorney Village Hall Management Committee (DVHMC).
- 4) **Resolved** to receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting Council held on the 16th March 2020.
- 5) **Clerk's Report** – To ratify the updates made on 14th April 2020:-

Under the new legislation of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

- Dorney Parish Council to hold remote meetings until circumstances change or up 7th May 2021 and these include video and telephone conferencing.
 - To postpone the Parish Meeting of Electors until next year.
 - Not to hold the Annual Meeting and the current Chairman can remain in place until, and if, the next Annual Meeting is in May 2021.
 - To agree that ZOOM will be the platform for our Council meetings and DPC to sign up to Zoom Pro.
 - Voting will take place i.e. by show of hands or by speech.
 - The remote platform used must allow members of the public to be present if requested.
 - Notice of the meeting will be advertised on the web site.
- 6) **Chairman's Report** – Cllr Harris presented the draft Parishioners Statement that would have been presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council this year which was cancelled due to Covid 19. This was agreed and is as follows:-

Dear Parishioners of Dorney, Dorney Reach and Boveney,

Thank you for your efforts over the past few weeks to follow the government guidelines on social distancing due to Covid-19. Our local community has pulled together to help our neighbours and those more vulnerable; something we should all be proud of, and another example of why our small parish is unique. The Parish Council would like to recognise the efforts of those individuals who have and are continuing to help. As well as tireless local businesses, such as the local Nisa and The Village Pharmacy in Eton Wick, The Palmer Arms; with their takeaways and introduction of Friday and Saturday night Tuck Trucks, which have all helped many in the Parish. Neighbours and WhatsApp groups have strove to help many in our community by assisting with shopping and collection of prescriptions, plus checking in on their general health and mental wellbeing.

The older and less able have been particularly affected, especially as we do not have a local shop in the Parish. The situation for many in our community has also been made more difficult by the removal of the Marsh lane bridge, the effects of visitors trying to visit Dorney Lake and the Jubilee River, and some have suffered a breakdown in their internet access.

We expect that the recent government announcement will likely create greater traffic to Dorney Lake and Jubilee River, but the Parish will continue to work with the Lake, Eton College, Police, Environment agency and others to try and reduce the effects to Residents. Likewise, our discussions on Smart Motorway Bridges, Roads and planning have all been continuing despite lockdown. I'd like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their vigilance in following up on correspondence in these challenging times, as their roles are voluntary and unpaid.

In the next year, we will also have to contend with the amalgamation of our District and County Councillors, which will undoubtedly throw up a whole new series of challenges to go along with continued Covid-19 difficulties. Let's hope we are through the worst of the storm, and by working together we can have a successful rest of the year.

Cllr Keith Harris, Chairman of Dorney Parish Council

Cllr Harris went on to report:- (i) The Manager of the Rowing Lake has reported that the Lake will be closed due to the threat of a planned Rave taking place; (ii) The Groundsman will return to work once a H&S RA is in place; (iii) There was a car accident last Friday on Boveney Common caused by 2 car racers. No one was hurt; (iii) The agenda for next month should include 'To consider installing double yellow lines along the LHS of Court Lane going toward the Rowing Lake; (iv) To make a decision about installing a roundabout at the junction of Village Rd/Lake End Rd/Court Lane..

- 7) **Updates on the defibrillators** – Cllr Foxley reported the defibrillator is installed and can now be removed from the agenda. The Code to access it has been circulated and online training is available
- 8) **Update on M4Smartmotorway works** – Cllr Purdie reported that Matt Orchard, Balfour Beatty, had organised for the straightening of the post at the entrance to the Village Hall and a padlock has been installed to keep the gate locked during the Covid 19 crisis.

9) **To respond to the Emergency Plan** – Cllr Smith reported that Buckinghamshire Council has now published a new Emergency Plan. Now need to look at a much simpler one for Dorney to cover the practicalities of having a plan in place for the small community of Dorney. He will take the principles of the Bucks Plan and apply them to a Dorney community plan to present to the next meeting

10) Planning

- (a) Planning issues, decisions and appeals recently notified by South Bucks District Council were noted.
- (b) No comments required as no applications received.

11) Finance

- a) **Resolved to authorise payment** of Accounts for May 2020 (as circulated) – Agreed.
- b) **Resolved to receive list of income** for May 2020 (as circulated).
- c) The bank statement for March 2020 - Noted.
- d) Resolved to receive the budget for 2020/21 Noted.
- e) **DVHMC PAYMENTS** - A response has been received from DVHMC that they have taken legal advice regards payment to DPC as recompense for the expense incurred by Dorney ratepayers in taking out the loan for the hall refurbishment and the answer was no. The lawyer considers that DPC obtained the approval of parish residents to the increase in the precept required to fund the loan, and that DVHMC's reserves are correctly intended to avoid the need to ask DPC for financial help in the future. DVHMC have also concluded they should not pay more than £250 for ground maintenance during this current year and will seek quotes for contracting out the grounds maintenance work in the future. Lastly, DVHMC will consider the proposal to waive the room hire fee charged to DPC as part of a wider review at a meeting (date not known).

Dorney Parish Council has never asked DVHMC to do anything illegal or unconstitutional and we are disappointed with this response as it is factually incorrect. The contribution DVHMC made towards the upkeep of the village was not to do with the loan but a contribution towards the Village maintenance work after devolved highways funding was cut. Also, it is disappointing that DVHMC no longer wish to use DPC's Village maintenance staff. It is sad that DVHMC no longer want to collaborate with DPC after the support DPC gave the Village Hall during it's major refurbishment works and there now appears to be a lack of willingness to help the community. This will mean that the precept will need to be increased significantly next year to compensate for this.

DPC will wait for further communication once DVHMC have convened their next meeting.

12) Member's Reports – None.

13) Correspondence – SmartMotorway Updates.

14) Resolve any complaints/comments received from residents – (i) Local resident was unhappy about contacting the Clerk to the Council as a means of contacting councillors. In response, this is the normal point of contact for parish councils and the Clerk then passes on any correspondence accordingly to ensure it is actioned; (ii) Complaint about cyclists not following the rules when it says "No cycling" in various locations around the village and not following the 2 metre rule. Cllr Foxley suggested this may now be the right time to ask the Highways Department at Buckinghamshire Council again for pedestrian barriers outside the Rowing Lake; (iii) Complaint about the use of Trumpers Field. However now the gate is locked to prevent vehicular access this should resolve the situation; (iv) Cllr Purdie has been talking to the Maintenance worker painting the red telephone box in Taplow who said could do the same for the one in Harcourt Rd for £120 which includes rub down and painting. It was agreed that this telephone box needs repainting and will add this item to the next agenda.

15) Grounds maintenance Work will commence again next week.

Meeting ended 9.12pm.

Chairman **Date**

Date of Council the next VIRTUAL ZOOM meeting is at 8pm on 9th June 2020.