



# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at The Boathouse, Dorney Lake

#### **Present**

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair), Ms Ruth Senior (Parish Clerk), and 38 members of the public (including 5 Councillors and 1 County Councillor)

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr. Robert Stopford, County Cllr. Paul Kelly, County Cllr. Kirsten Ashman, Judith Barnard Dorney School, Corinne Carlisle Studios School and Jill Palmer.

#### **2 Approval of 2022 APM Minutes**

Approved with no changes.

#### **3 Report from Parish Council**

##### **Cllr. Jill Dax - Chairman**

Good evening and thank you for coming along to the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting - good to see so many here.

Thank you to Janet Walker (Bursar of Eton College) and Phillip Highy (Managing Director) Dorney Lake for their kind offer to use this and the refreshments

We decided to try out a less formal structure to the evening. Parish councillors are located around the various tables along with representatives;

- Councillor George Sandy
- PCSO Angela O'Connell
- William Emmett from West town farm
- Dorney Playground Richard Hall
- Dorney Village Hall Ruth Senior
- Dorney History Group and DPN Bill Dax
- Church La Stacey
- Anna and James Palmer of Dorney Court

I'd like to just touch on a few matters which I think are of particular interest and are ongoing matters we are progressing with;

- Much work on development of the neighbourhood plan. Encourage to complete the survey to help progress to next stage. With thanks to William Voaden and Mark Brand for getting it to this stage.
- Orchard Herbs, finally we are hoping that with good legal advice and the interest taken by MP Joy Morrissey we are keeping optimistic that Bucks are finally taking matters in hand to resolve the

illegal businesses on the site and the appeal on the hotel plan - which has been taken up to The Secretary of State.

All updates will be posted on the website and reported at monthly meetings.

- Cattle grid - agreed work to be done in 1st quarter, will keep pushing for confirmed date
- Speed limits - Community Board financed the 2 new MVAS signs. I've received very positive feedback. Another forthcoming plan is to push for 40mph on Common Road which has the support of Eton Wick Town council. I'm advised other open, in fenced grazing areas around the country have recently made a 40mph limit. Lake End Road into the Village and 30mph and 30mph on Marsh Lane and Court Lane. Speeding issues were highlighted as priority in the 2005 Parish Plan.
- Potholes and resurfacing – photographs have been taken and a request for urgent work on our roads throughout the Parish.
- Boveney Court Farm planning – DPC proactive in extensive reasons for limiting this proposed development - initially the plans were changed from providing 13 to 12 dwellings. We have supported the extensive reasons for objections to overdevelopment. No decision has been made to date by Bucks Planning and so far, it is not listed on the upcoming Planning agenda.
- Likewise for Court Farm - no further updates
- Eton College identification of other locations possible for development – Oak Stubbs Lane/Gaskins Meadow - no plans in the pipeline at this stage. Proposed to meet with Eton College for further information of their possible intentions. Objections to planning issues need to raise relevant issues ie green belt, overdevelopment. The excellent work William has done with support from Mark Brand on the Neighbourhood plan. This important process will allow more formal control over planning issues.
- Parking issues causing danger for residents of Ashford Lane – investigating options to prevent parking which obstructs the view when exiting and blocks the pedestrian access
- Trail bikes on the footpaths and Jubilee and Jubilee River - encouraging meeting with Environment agency/Police/slough borough council. Possible plan to limit entry/exit points. EA working on ways to prevent access to Jubilee River paths.

Before taking any questions from the floor I'd like to thank my fellow councillors and Ruth our Clerk for their support and work during the year. We work as a team and endeavour to address the many challenges our small Parish seems to throw our way. Also, Richard Crucifix - been a struggle with such a wet spring but plans to catch up on maintenance. And Maydencroft who were a great support when the tree came down in the Memorial Garden and threatened to take the telegraph wire with it.

One final reminder about the tour of Dorney Lake on Wednesday 7th June. Phillip Highy has kindly organised 2 mini buses for a tour of the Lake, including the far side. Lee Marshallsay will update on their landscaping strategy and execution. Meet 2.15 in the main public car park. Apply via The Clerk for a space as they are limited.

### **Cllr. Euan MacLennan - Finance**

Cllr. MacLennan confirmed that the Parish Precept has remained the same again this year and the finances are in a good position with steady income and expenditure each month.

## 4 Community Updates

### **PCSO Angela O'Connell - Thames Valley Neighbourhood Police's Report**

Crime statistics cover Burnham/Farnham's/Taplow/Dorney and the rolling 12-month figures shows the following;

- **Burglaries** continue to be a major problem and is still the forces no 1 priority. Over the past 12 months there has been a reduction in reported incidents from 26 to 4.

We are continuing to combat this with proactive patrols during peak offending times. This has helped us to detect crime and apprehend cross border offenders who use arterial routes to enter our policing area and to protect residents living within South Bucks.

Please play your part in making this area unappealing for burglars. For an extensive discussion on what measures might best protect your home, you might like to watch the Online Burglary Event which our Neighbourhood Inspector hosted at the end of last year. You could also take a look at Thames Valley Police website for further crime prevention advice.

- **Theft from motor Vehicles**, there's been a large decrease in theft from vehicles from 124 to 3. The NH teams are regularly patrolling our scenic car parks and raising awareness via clear car campaigns.
- **Theft of motor Vehicles**, there's been a further large decrease in reported incidents from 39 to 1.
- **Antisocial Behaviour**, the Neighbourhood Team are working with the Environment Agency, Bucks Community Safety and Bucks and Berks Fire and Rescue to promote awareness around water safety. The Jubilee River has been re-classified as the Jubilee Flood Relief Channel and it is now illegal to swim in. Swimmer Tom Dean who lives locally has helped to make an informational video for school children on the dangers of swimming in the channel.

The teams are also working with the PC and other agencies to help to combat the problem of trial bikes.

- **Unauthorised Encampments**, the Land Watch WhatsApp group is the best communication for local landowners which is being managed by Beaconsfield Council.

### **William Emmett – West Town Farm**

William took on the farm tenancy on the early 90s, the owners of the land are The Merchant Venturers who bought the farm in 2014.

Recently the supply of farm produce has changed from London markets to the needs of major supermarket chains. Crops are mainly now potatoes, broccoli, wheat, herbs and salads. Walkers crisps have recently had planted 100 acres of potatoes to harvest in September.

The farm is lucky to have 11 boar holes on the land meaning a plentiful water supply all year round for crops from underground supplies.

The biggest problem of the year has been the trail bikes which have caused thousands of pounds of damage to crops and land.

## **5 Report from County Council**

### **County Cllr. George Sandy**

Thank you for the opportunity to give a short update on some of the past year's activities and achievements for the Buckinghamshire Council. I just want to highlight some achievements which reflect our four key corporate priorities which are; strengthening our communities, protecting the vulnerable, improving our environment, and our prosperity.

A key achievement last year was the adoption of A Town Parish Charter which was formerly adopted last July. All councils within Buckinghamshire have a common purpose to improve the economic, environmental health & social well-being of Buckinghamshire, it's residents, businesses, and visitors

We understand that as independent democratically elected body your councillors work within your financial constraints and they represent your community at a truly local level. The parish council is a key connection between the unitary council and your community to help us improve services and foster greater community empowerment.

The purpose of the charter is to articulate and demonstrate our commitment to work together with all local councils in Buckinghamshire and have developed an action plan alongside it to help embed the charter across the council.

If you would like to learn more about the charter just Google "Buckinghamshire Town & Parish Charter".

Other key achievements I'd like to share with you are;

The successful establishment of sixteen Community Boards across Buckinghamshire forms an important element of the charter and as you will know Dorney forms part of The Beeches Community Board has three Action Groups.....

The Well-being Group aims to develop intergenerational activities for the older and younger members of society. Funding was recently provided by the Community Board to establish Learning & Sharing Sessions at Lent Rise School where older residents join with the pupils to pass on their knowledge and experience.

A Youth Round-Table event is planned to explore what youngsters feel is missing from their lives and what they need help with. The ultimate aim being to encourage them to engage in friendly social activities.

Funding was also provided towards the foundation of a new mothers group called Sound & Song where expectant & single mothers can enjoy singing together and share their various problems such as post-natal depression, mental health issues and loneliness.

A grant was arranged to provide Christmas parcels to three hundred needy and vulnerable families.

The Environmental Group supports projects such as; planting trees, sowing wild flower seeds, reducing litter, the use of plastics, and encourages recycling.

The Infrastructure & Highways Group deals with road safety and promotes Active Travel by helping to create cycling and walking routes to link with established footpaths. Even obtain funding to drop a kerb to provide crossing points for prams and wheelchairs.

An important link that due to be replaced this Autumn is the Jubilee footbridge in Taplow which will mean a nice loop walk along the Jubilee.

Highways, the pothole invasion has attacked the whole country. They resulted from an extremely wet winter which was accompanied by very cold nights. The combination of water filling cracks in the road surface followed by expansion as it froze was the main cause. So many holes were appearing daily that repair crews could only effect temporary filling until such time the weather improved.

To tackle this problem the Buckinghamshire Council has drawn down £5million from its reserves and Government added £2.5m which makes a total of £27.5m is available for repairs in the current year. An exciting new machine has been purchased in Buckinghamshire. It's a "JCB Pothole Pro" and is currently being tested at various locations. It's an amazing machine, that can repair the average pothole for £30. In a competition with a regular repair crew the JCB renewed a 12m area in 13 minutes 9 seconds. The regular team took one hour 19 minutes and 4 seconds – JCB was 6 times faster with the benefit of no hard physical labour. See the JCB Pothole Pro on YouTube.

**6 Questions from the floor on Parish/County issues**

Question from John Barker as to why the tree at the end of Harcourt/Oak Stubbs too so long to remove when the one at the Memorial Gardens was immediate.

Gate/barrier reinstatement to Dorney Village Hall – this has been referred to Buckinghamshire Council as they installed and own this.

There are reports of old signage and sandbags left around the village, the Clerk requested that these are reported to her to raise with the authorities to remove.

Scaffolding at the M4 Marsh Lane bridge to remove graffiti is still up which has made it easy for the graffiti to return.

Neighbourhood Plan – plea from attendees to be open minded and welcoming of the plan. This was reiterated by other residents so Dorney is not 'swallowed up' by housing estates. Keeping any development in keeping with the area and ensuring it is appropriate for the village. Can other services be provided such as better/new health care.

**7 Any other business**

The Parish Council thanked everyone for their updates and attendance.

**Meeting ended at 8.50pm**

**Chairman ..... Date .....**