

Datchet Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE DATCHET VILLAGE HALL, ALLEN WAY,
ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2009 AT 8.00P.M

Present: Cllrs D. Cannon (Chairman), Mrs M. Fitzgerald, E. Larcombe, D. Lyons-Davis,
Mrs L. O'Flynn, P. Simmons, Ms H. Taylor
Mr G. J. Leaver – Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs H. Clasper, P. Dickson, Mrs S. Drummond, A. J. Needham, T.A.J. O'Flynn,
R. Stewart, Mrs E. F. Wren

09.042 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH JUNE 2009

The minutes were approved, subject to the following amendment, as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

09.035

In the first line remove the words 'recreation ground' and replace with the word 'Willowfields' and in the second line remove the word 'Willowfields' and replace with the words 'land at Mill Place'.

09.040

In the first line delete the words 'dog waste' and replace by the words 'bird droppings'.

09.043 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

09.035

The Lead Member indicated that he had as yet to receive the notes for the meeting referred to as also quotations for the necessary fencing.

09.037

The Lead Member for Properties advised that he anticipated that the new tenancy would commence on or about the 27th August 2009.

09.044 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr P. Simmons, in his role as Lead Member for Properties, had attended a meeting at 24 The Green with representatives of the Parochial Church Council and other interested parties concerning proposals which had come to the attention of the Parish Council relating to internal alterations to the ground floor of the building, which were intended to increase the space available for The Bridge tea room and alter the layout for the facility known as the One Stop Shop under the control of the Borough Council.

He indicated that he had a few reservations at this time pending receipt of formal proposals which at the meeting he had advised all those present that as the Parish Council were the landlords of the property any agreed scheme would need to be submitted to, and approved, by the Council.

In light of his comments it was noted that it was probable that any costs involved would be funded by a local benefactor.

09.045 PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING DECISIONS

In presenting the planning applications for consideration at this meeting, the Lead Member reminded the Council of the previous agreement (PC06.282 05.03.07) that all applications in Datchet should be qualified by a reference to Flood Plain implications.

Parish/Ward: Datchet Parish
Appn. Date: 19th June 2009 **Appn No.:** 09/01243
Type: Full
Proposal: Single storey side extension
Location: **204 Horton Road Datchet Slough SL3 9HL**
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Van Elkan **c/o Agent:** G E Pottle & Co Suite B 128 Manor Way Ruislip Middlesex HA4 8HR
Determination Date: 14 August 2009
ASL

No Objection.

Parish/Ward: Datchet Parish
Appn. Date: 22nd June 2009 **Appn No.:** 09/01245
Type: Full
Proposal: New single storey front porch
Location: **248 Horton Road Datchet Slough SL3 9HN**
Applicant: Mr And Mrs M Fletcher **c/o Agent:** Mr K Smith - Willoughby Fletcher And Associates 24 Victoria Road Eton Wick Windsor Berkshire SL4 6LY
Determination Date: 17 August 2009
BB

No Objection.

Parish/Ward: Datchet Parish
Appn. Date: 23rd June 2009 **Appn No.:** 09/01248
Type: Full
Proposal: Erection of a single storey outbuilding
Location: **18 Fairfield Avenue Datchet Slough SL3 9NQ**
Applicant: Surinder Kakaria **c/o Agent:** Mr Martin Pugsley MP Building Plans Ltd 1 Testwood Road Windsor Berkshire SL4 5RL
Determination Date: 18 August 2009
BB

Members had objections to this application in that it was considered to be an Overdevelopment and contrary to flood plain requirements.

09.046 PLANNING DECISIONS

NOTICE OF PERMISSION

09/00084 Appn. Date: 16th January 2009
Sunnymead Lake Erection of five pylons to form a cable water skiing system
Horton Road **Date: 16th June 2009**

09/00783 Appn. Date: 21st April 2009
Churchfield House Two storey side extension to form a residential annex
1 London Road **Date: 16th June 2009**

09/00851 Appn. Date: 1st May 2009
93 Horton Road Extension of existing dropped kerb
Date: 23rd June 2009

NOTICE OF REFUSAL

09/00748 Appn. Date: 17th April 2009
Kings Villa House Change of Use of existing residential annexe to letting flat 91
Slough Road (retrospective)
Date: 12th June 2009

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

09/00766 Appn. Date: 20th April 2009
10 London Road Outline application for the construction of 3 x 3 bed dwellings and garages.
Date: 10th June 2009

09/00809
2 Connection House

Appn. Date: 24th April 2009
Change of use from A2 office to A5 hot food delivery only Slough
Road and associated flue pipe
Date: 12th June 2009

09/00892
125 Slough Road

Appn. Date: 7th May 2009
Two storey rear extension plus loft conversion with side
dormer windows and rear Juliette balcony including raising
the height of the existing roof.
Date: 23rd June 2009

APPEAL
08/02442

18 London Road, Datchet. Vehicle access crossover.
APPEAL DISMISSED.

09.047 PLANNING

It was noted that the Parish Council had yet to receive a response from Borough Officers concerning the recent installation of velux roof lights in the properties known as 4/4A Horton Road. This matter would be pursued and a report provided in due course.

09.048 FINANCE

Accounts for Payments

Following consideration by members and answers provided as necessary, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the lists of payments now presented, in respect of the financial year 2009/2010 be approved.

09.049 GROUNDS

The Lead Member reported that;

- a) Consequent upon the pruning works which had been carried out on the boundary of the Recreation Ground adjacent to Green Lane, whilst he had received a complaint from a member as to the manner in which the work had been carried out, he had also received a letter of thanks signed by a number of residents of Green Lane who appreciated the changes which had taken place.
- b) The Clerk confirmed that the memorandum from a Borough Officer concerning Planning Section 106 Funds had been circulated to all members.
- c) The Clerk indicated that a local resident had offered to undertake with a group of other parishioners litter picking of the greens in the near future. Members noted this offer with appreciation.

09.050 HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSES

The Lead Member informed members that she had had constructive discussions with Borough Council Officers regarding the ongoing concerns related to traffic management and speed in Eton Road, particularly in the area either side of Castle Avenue and through to the junction with Slough Road.

It was probable that a speed indicator device (SIDs) would be installed and that action had, and would, continue to be taken by Eton End School, who had carried out surveys of parents in relation to their parking habits when visiting the school. In addition photographic evidence of inconsiderate parking was being collected.

Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald referred also to a Heatherwood and Wexham Park NHS Foundation Trust report entitled 'Saving More Lives, Improving services for emergency medical patients', which she had reviewed and it was noted that in particular Wexham Park Hospital was now a centre of excellence for heart treatment.

09.051 FLOODING

Cllr E. Larcombe, in referring to the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill published by the Government expressed his continuing concerns as to the approach taken by the Borough Council in this regard and the fact that the deadline for responses to the consultation relating to this Bill were urgently needed.

In noting the unavoidable absence of the spokesperson for Flooding, Cllr H. Clasper, he was advised that he should liaise with Cllr Clasper in order that a draft Parish Council could be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council scheduled for 20th July 2009.

It was noted that Cllr Larcombe's view was that the Borough Council were not taking a significantly serious approach to this matter.

09.052 FINAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDITOR IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009

The Clerk referred to the Internal Audit Report 2008/2009 (Final) prepared by the Independent Internal Auditor, a copy of which had been provided for each member.

In noting the various comments, it seemed to the Clerk that it was reasonable to suggest that there were four sections about which the Auditor was entirely satisfied, five, most of which had been referred to previously which needed action about which there was possibly no disagreement and two items which would be subject of a further report in detail to a future meeting of the Council (a-Budgetary Control and Reserves, b-Asset Registers).

In conclusion members noted in the auditors comments his overall conclusions were that he was pleased to conclude that the financial control system now in place at the Council are operating effectively with no major areas of concern identified at either the interim of this final visit. On the basis of the work undertaken at the time of our two visits to the Council for 2008-2009, we have signed off the Internal Audit Certificate at Section 4 of the Annual Return assigning positive assurances in each relevant area.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the Clerk be authorised to take any necessary action in this regard and report back to the Council in due course.

09.053 PROPOSED ELECTRICAL WORKS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Lyons-Davis, in his capacity as Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, updated members as to the current position regarding proposals for the rewiring of the Village Hall, for which the Council had approved expenditure to be charged against that item in the budget relating to grants to the Village Hall for the necessary professional preparatory work including the receipt of sealed tenders for the agreed work.

It was clear that the probable expenditure could not be funded by the Hall Management Committee although efforts were being made to obtain grants and other funding on the basis that it was planned that the work be carried out during October 2009.

He anticipated that an application would be made to the Parish Council for significant financial support and suggested that it might be necessary, should the Council agree, for a borrowing application to be made in this regard.

Members, in noting these comments and relating them to the current financial position agreed that further investigation was needed concerning the relationship of the Council to the Hall Management Committee and the relevant responsibilities in this regard.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved (1 abstention) that;

- a) The Clerk be authorised to make arrangements for formal specialist local Government legal advice in respect of the various responsibilities of the two organisations and the related implications of any links with the Datchet Hall Endowment Fund.
- b) Consequent upon receipt of this advice a joint private meeting of members of the Council and the Management Committee be arranged to further discuss this matter.

09.054 ACTION LIST

In noting the details contained in the list, it was agreed that items 8) and 10) be merged and that in relation to the Land at Mill Place it had been noted that there had been few, if any, complaints about horses on the Recreation Ground in recent weeks, although it was understood that the animals had been moved from Mill Place to another site.

The Chairman suggested that contact should be made with Borough Councillor G. Muir who was taking a more hands on approach to village matters since Cllr J. Grey was appointed Mayor of the Royal Borough. Cllr Muir was aware of the circumstances relating to this land.

It was the intention that the list be updated and dealt with in particular detail at the next meeting of the Council.

09.055 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk advised members:

a) He had received and filed a signed copy of the Datchet Recreational Centre Charitable Trust unaudited Accounts as at 31st March 2009 (2008/2009 Financial Year) and explained that due to the fact that the trusts income was below £500,000 during the year that as such only and independent accounts report, not a full audit, was required.

b) A letter had been received from the secretary of the Datchet Horticultural Show that indicated that due, not only to a lack of committee members, but also a decline in support from the Village in general either as participants or visitors in recent years the committee had reluctantly decided not to hold an annual show.

Consequent upon this decision the committee requested that the Parish Council assume responsibility for the storage of prize cups, plates etc until such time as any alternative decision is made as to their use or the annual show resurrected.

It was agreed that appropriate arrangements be made and the necessary insurance cover provided.

09.056 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Cllr E. Larcombe

In commenting in relation to the recent good weather and noting that the hanging baskets and other floral arrangements were watered on a regular basis, asked that similar action be taken in respect of the Village Greens.

In noting that this was based on cosmetic implications it was agreed that no action be taken in this regard as it was usual grassed areas recovered following periods of drought.

He further commented regarding the work carried out to the shrubs in Green Lane, confirmed his opinion that sections had not been dealt with appropriately, was advised that appreciation for the work had been received from residents of Green Lane. Cllr Lyons-Davis in response commented that had the original specification for the works been followed it would not have been necessary to deal with the area at this time in the way it had been pruned, but it was the case that severe pruning had been necessary on a one off basis this season.

In conclusion, Cllr Larcombe indicated his view that in so far as flooding matters were concerned he had no confidence in the way in which the flooding spokesperson was dealing with these issues. He further stated that in general terms he did not consider that the Chairman of the Council was being at all helpful.

Cllr D. Cannon

In referring to the list of accounts for payments presented to this meeting and the comments of the Independent Internal Auditor, took the opportunity to remind Lead Members that every effort should be made to comply with current Parish Council Financial Regulations in so far as items of expenditure were concerned, although he noted that proposals would be forthcoming for the updating of the regulations.

Cllr P. Simmons advised that he had already provided to the Lead Member for Finance and the Clerk written proposals in this connection.

09.057 NEXT MEETING

The Next Meeting will be held on 20th July 2009 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.48P.M.

CHAIRMAN

Distribution:

All Councillors
Datchet Website
The Library & The Help Point

For Information:

Cllr Jessie Grey
Cllr Gary Muir