



## **Datchet Parish Council Newsletter Summer 2010**

### **Changes in the Parish Council**

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May this year the Annual Parish Meeting of Datchet Parish Council was held. This is the occasion when Parish Councillors give an account of what they have done on the Council in the previous municipal year, and includes a report from each of the Lead Members for activities under their control and an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about any matters relating to the Parish Council and its activities.

The first announcement made at the meeting was from our Chairman, Cllr. David Cannon who announced that he was standing down both as Chairman and as a member of the council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David for all the hard work he has put in over the past few years in the chair. He has been a very effective Chairman and has been instrumental in bringing about a period of stability and consolidation of the new structure that was introduced about six years ago. So now with the support of our Clerk Graham Leaver, the Council is able to function in a more professional and effective manner.

The following week was the date of the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council, and at this meeting Cllr. Paul Dickson our Vice Chairman and Lead Member of Finance announced that he was also standing down from the Council as he was planning to move out of the village.

After this, there were obviously more changes to be made within the Council. And so some new Lead and Deputy Lead Members were elected at this meeting. Their names are listed below, and the names and up to date contact details of these and all councillors are available on the Parish Council notice board, along with dates of Parish Council meetings and any other Parish Council business.

### **Finance**

In common with the rest of this country and indeed the world, financial management has been challenging to say the least. So we were pleased to be able to keep the precept of the Parish Council at the same level as the previous two years. This information and a brief report of Parish Council activities will have been included to all

households with the bill for Council Tax from the Borough. It is the intention of the Parish Council to send a copy of this report to all businesses in the village who may not necessarily receive this if they are not resident.

### **Properties**

The council has responsibility for maintaining property that we own, some of which bring in income. These include the Village Hall and Bungalow, Parish Office, Montagu House (The Library), The Bridge and Cemetery Lodge. The largest project for the coming year is to upgrade the Parish Yard where equipment for maintaining the grounds is kept so that it is more secure and protected from the elements. This is a major project and will improve working conditions for those working on the grounds as well as protecting our equipment.

### **Grounds**

As ever at this time of year the activities within Grounds gets very busy. There has been an increased number of football teams playing on the Recreation Ground this season and with the approach of Summer, the hanging baskets and other planting will soon be appearing in the village. We had visits from the Fun Fair this year which is proving to be popular with many people, and they have expressed an interest to return again.

### **Highways and General Purposes**

Although this may sound like a low profile aspect of the Parish Council, activities under Highways can become very contentious. Parking as always will be a problem in our village as it was never built with the motor car in mind. Linked with this is the high level

of traffic passing through Datchet, so both of these issues keep our Lead Member for Highways busy.

### **Planning**

There are on-going changes in the planning laws currently being handed down from central government, mainly to reduce the time needed to process planning applications through the system. On the Parish Council we are watching these developments and making our views felt where we can.

### **In conclusion**

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the support they have shown in electing me as their Chairman and hope that I can fulfil their confidence in me. Your new Lead and Deputy Lead Councillors are listed below.

**Chairman**                      **Linda O’Flynn**  
**Vice-Chair**                    **Sheila Drummond**

	<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
Planning	Tim O’Flynn	Ewan Larcombe
Finance	Roger Stewart	Ewan Larcombe
Properties	Patrick Simmons	Denny Loveridge
Grounds	Don Lyons-Davies	Sheila Drummond
Highways & GP	Mary Fitzgerald	To be confirmed

**Linda O’Flynn**  
 Chairman  
 Datchet Parish Council