

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th May 2018 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Chris Hill presided; also present were 14 residents, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, Rob Marsh from PAGE (Parishes Against Gravel Extraction) and Michael Tyce representing the Oxford/Cambridge Expressway Group, with G Russell in attendance.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rob Ballantyne and District Cllr John Cotton.

2 Minutes of the Meeting dated 31st May 2017

It was agreed that these Minutes, having been distributed at the meeting and posted on the Village website, should be taken as read and they were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Chris Hill, read out his report which was later reprinted in Dorchester News and published on the Village website.

4 Draft Accounts for year ended 31st March 2018

Geoff Russell, Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer, presented the Council's draft Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 31st March 2018. Copies were distributed to the meeting and later published on the Village website. The figures would be subject to audit on 27th June, after which the Council's accounting records will be available for inspection by any resident. The Council had decided to maintain its Precept for 2018/19 unchanged at £42,280.

5. Presentations:

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale had submitted a written report for the year to April 2018 and this had been published in Dorchester News. She said that the County Council's finances are 'in a resilient condition'. Cllr Lindsay Gale has a budget from which she is able to be grants towards local projects. A formal application must be completed before these funds can be released.

Becky Waller reported upon the recent activities of **FODLWOS (Friends of Dorchester and Long Wittenham Open Spaces)** and described the Group's on-going communication with Mr Reid. The Friends continue to campaign for confirmation of public access to the Dyke (or 'Dike') Hills. Becky said that it appears that Historic England is interested in allowing the fencing of the Ancient Monument to be a test case. The 'Village Green' applications are with the County Council but progress is slow.

Michael Tyce reported on the activities of the **Oxford/Cambridge Expressway Action Group**. The Parish Council has two representatives on the Group and reports of its meetings will be sent regularly to Dorchester News.

Reporting on the activities of **PAGE**, **Rob Marsh** said that the process of the County Council selecting new sites for sand & gravel extraction is expected to continue for at least another two/three years. These sites are more likely to be in the south of the County than in the west and so the area covered by the eight parishes who are members of PAGE is still at risk. He said that professional advice is still required, which needs funding, and new volunteers to join the campaigning group would be most welcome.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.14 p.m.