

Dorney Parish News

July 2021



(With thanks to Derek Fraser for the use of this excellent photograph)

22nd July 2021: St Mary Magdalene's Patronal Day
Patronal Festival Service - 1600hrs on Thursday, 22nd July 2021
At the Church



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EDITORIAL

People around Dorney tell me that there is a lot to read in this, their parish magazine. I think this is usually intended as a compliment. Others have not been so complimentary, criticising us for putting forward contentious views about issues like the Roundabout and the approach of the former Parish Council. Some readers, understandably, look back to a former Dorney before strife and bickering replaced friendship and fellowship, and might even be a little tired of all the 'politics'.

We're proud of this issue. There is content which gives hope for the future and reminds us of our past. Dorney Parish News did unashamedly believe that the governance of our parish had to change, and this was primarily a matter of communication. So, I recommend to you the update from Dorney Parish Council, an item this magazine has long wanted to publish. There is news of the imminent launch of the new Parish Council website, www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk, which can only provide a great leap forward for our community. The new Parish Council is intent on finding out what all residents think about the roundabout plans and a consultation which every Dorney voter can take part in is planned for July. The latest correspondence between our Council and the Beeches Community Board is in this issue as well as an assessment of the roundabout issue by Dorney Traffic Working Group.

Minutes of the Council are a key part of this magazine, and we take the opportunity to thank the former Clerk to the Council, Sue Moffat, for all her past documentation and to warmly welcome Dorney's new Locum Clerk, Hilda Holder.

This issue does look back as well as facing the future. Maureen Cox and Jill Palmer have had wonderful stories to tell about Dorney Cricket Club. Virginia Silvester's painstaking research makes us question what we might have assumed about Victorian morality, illustrated by the personal stories of those living in these parts a century and a half ago.

Those who care for our young people can inspire us and we are proud to carry the latest updates from our friends at Thames Valley Adventure Playground and Dorney School. Dorney Parish News is happy to congratulate Mrs Lee on her permanent appointment as Headteacher at Dorney School!

Our regular columnists are on top form. Kristina Perkins has news of an exciting dramatic event right here in Dorney and Mike Quincey provides a chuckle or two with a local theme plus the excuse to publish a picture of a film star in a Dorney publication who isn't David Niven.

There might even be enough content to keep you reading for a couple of months. Following long-standing tradition, Dorney Parish News takes August off. We'll be back with the September issue. Thanks to all our readers, distributors, and advertisers. We wish all of you a happy, and, of course, healthy and safe, summer.

We've called several times this year for more participation by subscribers in this magazine. We'd like some new authors to write articles on Dorney past or present. We'd like to hear more views, best of all as 'letters to the editor'. There is a short break in publication now so here are some issues you might like to ponder over the summer. An alternative to this magazine as a platform could be having a say on the Dorney Community Nextdoor group.

Are you missing access to **Dorney Lake**? This issue contains barely a mention of this problem. At the height of last summer, we thought of little else. Have you found alternative venues for walking and other exercise? I suspect that we regretfully blame 'outsiders' for bringing about the closure, but what about the Lake authorities, the Police, the various local councils?

What's happened to **Nextdoor**? The platform's critics said it would break under its own nastiness, but rather it seems to be suffocating under its own boredom. Can somebody explain if it's changed the Terms and Conditions or the algorithms? Why do I get constant messages like 'Hi, I'm Maisy from Dedworth' (no offense intended to anyone called Maisy or the good people of Dedworth)? Why has Dorney apparently given up debating or complaining? Is the idea of social media a busted flush or have we moved on to WhatsApp and TicTok?

Dorney has faced so many threats to our beautiful environment, but could the worst be to come...**litter**. Is the problem worse than it's ever been? Is it getting worse by the day? What has brought this about? Visitors? Drivers? The young? What is the answer? More bins? More refuse collection? More volunteers? Litter vigilantes?

In this issue, the **Village Hall** announces that, subject to government regulations in place, children's parties can be booked from July 19th. Also this month, the Horticultural Society, perhaps Dorney's most established social organisation, says it hopes to stage meetings before the end of 2021. Are you ready for a return to full on socialising? Have you lost the habit, or maybe, the reverse? What of those organisations which have returned to the Hall – badminton and the like? Has the pandemic break led to greater enthusiasm for exercise or following pass times?

What would you like to read in **Dorney Parish News** that is not there now? Competitions/puzzles? Restaurant/pub reviews? More public/emergency information? Profiles of individual residents? Births/marriages/deaths? Which content appearing now would you prefer to see less of? That information may best be conveyed by private messages!

We've said it before, but we'll say it again...have a great summer.

See you in September.



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Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. John the Evangelist, Eton

**Vicar: Revd. La Stacey, The Vicarage,
69a Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, Windsor,
SL4 6NE**

Tel: 01753 852268 email: revlastacey@gmail.com

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site:

www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk

Methodist Church, Eton Wick Alma Road, Eton Wick, SL4 6JZ

Minister: Rev Margaret Dudley, 01753 867117

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

Parish Priest: Fr. Joseph Udoh, M.S.P. 01628 605764

Revd La Stacey writes - We have become part of a film set again. The East end of the church has been used as part of the backdrop for a street scene in a production. The street looked very picturesque, and romantic dressed in its medieval paraphernalia. When I see a scene like that though, I always wonder what the smell was like? Sorry – that's me! I find myself wondering what the reality was. A few of us are meeting over an evening coffee (or camomile tea!) at the moment exploring Jesus' wisdom. We're discovering some of the ancient influences on which he drew, particularly with regard to the Beatitudes. They're the ones, if you remember, that go 'Blessed are the smelly ones, for theirs are the Oscars'. 'Blessed are the sat upon, spat upon, ratted on' as Simon and Garfunkel put it. Maybe Jesus was trying to get us to understand that the deepest experience of God comes when our projections fall away, and often it is only those who find themselves at rock bottom who know that. When things are horrid, we get to know that the carefully constructed film-set we have created for ourselves isn't real. And if we have the courage to let go of that and acknowledge the stink, we find a much more solid, freeing, un-grasped but unifying and compassionate reality there. Thank you to all of you who have written to Bucks Council to try to keep our village, not as a film set, but as a gentle community to live in, without parking restrictions preventing folks from going about their normal business. Can I put out a plea that as you park to visit the church or the graveyard, you leave the pavement clear. Our church services are back to normal now, and the church will be open to visit during the summer months in sync with Dorney Court. You are very welcome to come and sit and find peace for a moment in this pretty place. And drop me a line if you are interested in Jesus' practice of wisdom. Have a blessed summer.

Church Services in July and August 2021

Sunday 4th July

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 7th July

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 11th July

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 18th July

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 21st July

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Thursday 22nd July

4.00pm Patronal Festival Service

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

Sunday 25th July

9.30am Morning Worship

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 1st August

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 4th August

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 8th August

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 15th August

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 18th August

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 22nd August

9.30am Morning Worship

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 29th August

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



We are very pleased to be able to announce the launch, on 1st July, of the new Dorney Parish Council website, together with a new logo, shown above, and a new website address:

www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Details of the new website are shown after the Minutes towards the end of this edition of Dorney Parish News. Please take a look at the new website. We would welcome any comments via the Contact Us page.

The Parish Clerk has a new email address – Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk – but all emails sent to the old email address will be redirected to the new email address.

The team at www.parishcouncilwebsites.org.uk, who provided the template for the new website, felt that the old logo might benefit from updating and provided this suggestion, at no cost, which we adopted at our June meeting.

Proposed Mini-Roundabout Consultation

Further to an exchange of letters with the Beeches Community Board (all now posted on the new website) regarding the proposed mini-roundabout at the junction of Court Lane and the B3026, which resulted in the final decision being placed in our hands, we determined to ask residents for their opinions on this matter.

We will be delivering a leaflet to all houses in the Parish during the first few days of July. This will provide a variety of ways for residents to advise the Parish Clerk whether they either want a new mini-roundabout or to reinstate the previous T junction and remove the current temporary arrangement.

We do hope a large number of residents will respond. Our Privacy Policy applies to all responses and this can be viewed on the new website.

Next Dorney Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 20th July 2021 at Dorney School. The public are invited to attend in person, social distancing will be in force as required. The Meeting will be streamed via Zoom, but public participation in the Meeting will only be possible for attendees – not via Zoom. This will allow those unable to attend in person to follow the meeting and permit a more effective management of the process.

Thanks to Bucks Council

It was most encouraging to see a road gutter sweeper along Village Road, Lake End Road and Court Lane (and possibly Dorney Reach?) on Friday 25th June. And here it is:



It is believed that the arrival of this leviathan may have been the result of a report by a resident on the Bucks Council FixMyStreet website a week previously on Friday, 18th June. It was advised on 21st June that the problem had been passed to Bucks Council – and the sweeper arrived four days later! Our Vice Chair, Martyn Westcott-Wreford, also had some success using FixMyStreet when he reported the noise of the cattle grid near Southfield Close. That also appears to have been initially addressed within a reasonable time.

We will be including all of the problems that can be reported on FixMyStreet on the new Parish Council website and we do urge residents to use it. If things do get stuck in the bureaucratic mud, then please let us know via the website or an email to the Clerk and we will attempt to unstick them.

The very welcome arrival of this sweeper does raise the not unreasonable question as to the schedule that these machines have for all thirteen roads in Dorney Parish.

We have requested both the gutter and gulley cleaning schedule for Dorney's roads from Bucks Council and, when we have it, we will put the result up on the website.

Dorney Parish Council

DELTA WAVES ON DORNEY COMMON

Now that the Delta (Indian variant) is well and truly established, the little protein spikes take a strong grip, as this Covid war waves for the third time. Across the country, Vax centre's brace and prepare for mini and mass surges, as crowds filter through a flurry of needles on a production line to pierce the heart of the virus.

Working now a full week and feeling a bit weak at the knees, the cohorts plummet through the ages to the 20's, with peachy deltoids replacing wrinkles. Processes now slick, the fast pace is stunning, well-tuned and foot perfect, with a top speed of 20 jabs per hour per hub. However, it is evident that our seniors, having seen a bit of life and more acceptant, take a jab without much concern, whilst as we drop down to youth there is an obvious rise of fainting incidents. Recognised inhouse as a 'dropper', our crash mats are now readily laid out to give quick revival treatment.

Good news for all those that would like a vaccine passport, the NHS App (not the Track and Trace) now has a new section showing vaccine history, enabling this potentially to be part of our travel documents. Showing all the details of both doses, and provision for future boosters, this information will be logged via the NHS Pinnacle software at the point of delivery. The little blue card now merely becomes part of history, no doubt to be looked at with interest by future generations in some museum.

Once again, the deluge of rain washes down, and beyond the cottage water puddles and pools on the saturated Common, which can no longer cope. In our garden the delphinium spires slump over defeated, the roses drop their petals, but the greenery is profuse. It seems it is a good year for all palm like plants, as most have flourished and flowered, with exotic plumage emerging from within, for bees to congregate to gather this prize nectar.

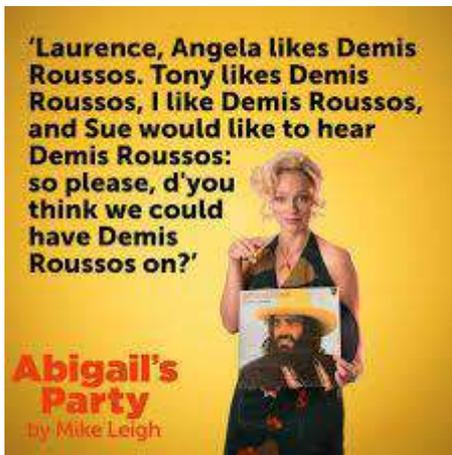
In our paddock the grasses have finally grown to a good height, waving their spikey inflorescence like unruly strands of blonde hair. Competing native wildflowers now creating a beautiful Monet watercolour sight without my intrusion as I failed to plant out my cowslips at the correct moment.



My husband Dave has mown a series of winding paths with little bench stops along the way, so that we pause to enjoy the scene and contemplate the meaning of life, as our little brown cat skips and runs along these walkways to enjoy the blousy journey and floral perfumes. At the very top sits a square grassy terrace and a fire brazier to burn the waste logs on chilly evenings over a glass of something intoxicating.

Maidenhead Drama Guild continue their fight to survive, as two festival plays go into rehearsal, one is a murder twist 'Blood on the Canvas' directed by our Chair, and

the other has a title that is not suitable for this page so let's call it 'Faking Feminists' directed by our Artistic Director. This last little two-hander is without doubt only for restricted audience, being rather avant-garde in its language content. Interestingly, accepted by the Festival Committee as an entry, it will be even more interesting to see the judges' remarks.



This summer, at the tail end of July, my good friend Julia and I co-direct Abigail's Party as a Re-Act, and this will be set here in our paddock at Dells Cottage, as a charity day for the Guild. With the theme, of course, since Mike Leigh wrote this in the 70's, this event will be fancy dress (partial or full) for that decade, a touch of flares and a flourish of flowers, and also a tea shop with cakes from that era. Entry is free, but a small donation welcome if the time passed is enjoyed. We have an open invitation to all villagers, just bring a flower in your hair and a picnic to enjoy. Gates open at 1pm on

Sunday 25th July, with our Re-Act performance at 3pm and sounds of the 70's throughout until closure at 6pm.

So, as the unpredictable weather continues, cool and damp back to humid and hot, an oscillating forecast, one considers the impact that, after Delta, the possibility of Echo, Foxtrot and Golf exists on the horizon, right down to Zulu. This provokes thought that there is no correct answer to this pandemic, as the world fumbles to net this problem. When somebody gives a different answer to one that we are expecting, it is not necessarily wrong, it is just a view from a different window, as each solution migrates to another.

A Math's teacher to a class of 6-year-olds asked one of his pupils 'If I give you an apple, and one more apple and then one more apple, how many apples would you have?'. The little boy answered within seconds and confidently 'Four Sir'.

Dismayed, the teacher thought perhaps the little boy hadn't quite heard, so again he asked, 'If I gave you one apple, then another apple and finally another apple, how many would you have?'. This time, to be sure, the little boy used his fingers to count and replied, 'Four Sir'.

The teacher remembered that the little boy loved strawberries, so asked, 'If I gave you a strawberry, then gave you one more strawberry, and finally one more strawberry, how many strawberries would you have?'. The little boy quickly replied, 'Three Sir'. The teacher smiled and was happy that finally the little boy had answered the question correctly, so to make sure he repeated the question but changing back to apples. 'Four Sir' came back the reply instantly.

Concerned the teacher asked a simple 'Why?' to which the little boy replied, 'Because I already have an apple in my lunch bag'.

Kristina Perkins, Dells Cottage

DORNEY SCHOOL



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW

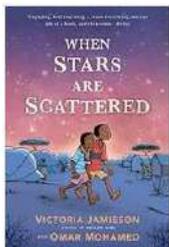
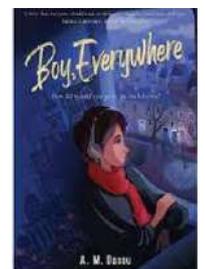
News from Dorney School

When this publication reaches distribution, Dorney School would have closed its doors for the summer holidays. Never has a longer break been welcomed by staff and pupils at all schools as it has been a year like no other. As I write this, I reflect on how we managed constant hurdles and end up winning every race, not because we are serial winners, but due to the resilience, perseverance, care, compassion, collaboration and understanding of each other. We win this year because we have worked together to enable life at school to carry on. We win because we help raise awareness not only of our personal trials but how we can help human tragedy. We win because, especially this year, our children have been served by a curriculum and provision that truly reflects who they are and expands their young minds to diverse perspectives. We cannot live with a 'small island' mentality as media and technology ensure that we are always connected globally.

As you can see from the images I chose, I love football (most children know that and, they also know which football team I support). Football is not the only sport I enjoy watching and I am passionate about more women participating and being represented in sport too. I feel sad when I hear booing as players take the knee and the reasons why some fans think it is appropriate to 'boo'. We have come a long way in being a more equal society but there is a way to go. I do not see taking the knee by some sportsmen and women as being political, I see it as standing (well kneeling together), in unity against racism and discrimination. We must not blind ourselves that this has been eradicated or no longer exists – all we need to do is look at social media posts to gape in horror at what some people still think about people who look different. This is the reason for the work we do in school. To educate our pupils that we must stand up strong against such language and actions. We must empathise and show compassion for others who are less privileged and less protected than we are. We must work together to readdress a balance. I know you share our vision of a world where our children, and all children can stand together as equals. For those football fans out there, enjoy the Euros and maybe, just maybe, Football has come Home?!



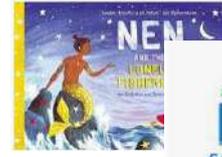
On the day I write this edition, it is Father's Day, nearly the longest day in the British calendar year and the UN refugees Day. It is testimony to our school, and to all schools, that manage to include these celebration and awareness days in their curriculum. Our wonderful **PTA** (Parent Teacher Association) worked hard to provide every child with a sweet cone for their fathers or significant person in their lives. The summer solstice is always celebrated at school with a drive to ensure we use every available time to enjoy as much as possible the great outdoors and, the whole school will be increasing their knowledge on the plight of refugees and migrants. I was privileged to meet and discuss the harrowing stories of Syrian refugees with a phenomenally successful children's author, A.M. Dassu. The heart-breaking and beautifully told, 'Boy Everywhere', should be on everyone's reading list as this is a story for all humankind.



Ms Dassu uses storytelling to highlight lives very much like ours left behind suddenly due to war and oppression. It is a story that contrasts with our privilege of living in a sphere of relative safety; a story that not only helps us think, but hopefully helps us engage and become more active in helping families facing tragedies. We will be reading this story and 'When Stars are Scattered' by Victoria Jamieson to ensure we remember these stories and we act in this memory.



June is also PRIDE month and GRT (Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month) and our school ensures we celebrate both, not just in the month, but every day, as our culture is one of inclusion and understanding. Again, I am grateful to have met two other children's authors and leaders who



belong to both communities respectively, and work in schools all over England. Their stories challenge stereotypes and build bridges that help us engage and work alongside marginalised communities. Both authors are now good friends of our school and have agreed to visit and work with us. Ian Eagleton's story of love and compassion no matter who you identify yourself as and Richard O'Neill's gentle picture books explore the history, culture, and storytelling of the ancient traveller community. These authors' work has been resoundingly welcomed by pupils and staff.

It is with great pleasure that I announce Dorney School has received the Silver Eco School award. This prestigious award recognises the school's continued commitment to raise awareness and work towards a sustainable future. This work complements our commitment to the Woodland Trust and will help us gain accreditation for the Green Tree award.

On top of extensively planting our own fruit and vegetables, we have planted countless trees around school, and are also keeping chickens and, we are so proud of our well-developed nature area with a pond that is currently full of newts. Just imagine the pond dipping that goes on within the school site! Our school is always looking for ways to work with, and alongside, the local community. We encourage ideas and suggestions from anyone with an interest in preserving our common local area of outstanding beauty. Do let us know how our pupils and staff could help by contacting office@dorneyschool.co.uk

The pandemic may have stopped us from opening our doors to visitors and families. It may have stopped us from inviting you to join us for our end of year celebrations and summer events, but our school is open in other ways. Reach out if you would like to help at our school or are curious about the work we do. Look at our fresh new website that will give you an idea of the joys of attending Dorney School. We are amid updating the information on this portal too. <https://www.dorneyschool.co.uk/>

I end this summer edition with some photos that highlight some of the wonderful things the children get up to. I wish each family a warm, joyous summer and we will 'meet' again in the Autumn. Stay safe and keep well.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Sharifah Lee
Headteacher



Our pupils enjoying the school outdoor areas.

Our pet chickens!

Year 6 end of year Staycation



DORNEY SCHOOL



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*"The little village school with a 'Big Heart'
and a warm welcome"*

**46% success
in 11+ exams
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nurturing
community that
places the child
first.**

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for Foundation Sept 2022 now!**

**Wednesday 29th September 2021/Thursday 14th October 2021/Tuesday 16th November 2021 and
Wednesday 12th January 2022**

 **01628620871**

office@dorneyschool.co.uk



Hello everyone, a little update on all that's going on at TVAP



Well, it's continued to be different! We have been lucky to be able to be open Fridays and Saturdays in line with government guidelines regarding outdoor playgrounds meaning that everything inside was closed off. Despite this, and the biting cold of the past few months, we have been full every Saturday and our families are so very grateful to have had somewhere

safe and accessible to go.

We are booking for three sessions of two hours a day rather than for the whole day so we can meet demand to come but still restrict numbers. Due to the restrictions, Schools are only with us on Thursdays now - for a couple who can venture out to underpin their curriculum with us – all other regulars, and a few new schools, have asked us to pencil them in for weekly visits from September. With this in mind we think we will be able to be open full time again in July in time for the holidays and hope not to close any days again for the next 39 years!

The team have finished the refurbishment of the soft play area, which is utterly brilliant! We were able to open the inside spaces fully at the start of June and so the soft play has had its first happy players and boy, has it gone down a storm! Come and have a play soon – we are open to everyone on Saturdays (no age limit!!!) but you need to book in advance.

Respite breaks have resumed for the most part and we are looking to recruit more respite staff soon. The smiles and look of rejuvenation on the faces of the parents and carers, and the fun and wonderful moments had by the loved ones, make it a very rewarding role.

We are thrilled, as the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Girls Policy Forum's charity partner, in their venture with the virtual fundraising event Parallel Virtual Windsor 2021, which will be on Sunday the 27th of June this year. www.parallellifestyle.com/parallel-windsor-virtual

Here is the Girls Policy Forum video, which will tell you what you need to know about their and our involvement. What lovely girls and such a worthwhile initiative. www.youtube.com/watch?v=MC5ktz1Rvk0

We are also really happy to be partnering with Nicholson's Walk Centre and Great Ormond Street Hospital as part of the One Great Day event on September the 11th, which is also the day of the Town Show.

DATE FOR THE DIARY! On Saturday October 2nd we are holding a Family Fun Event at Dorney Lake, which will be fun activities for families and a sponsored walk to raise funds. Mainly we want to bring everyone together again to have some fun and to feel part of our community again. And some awareness raising around the event will be very welcome too!

Best wishes from all the team, we hope to see you all as soon as possible - you know where we are!

Reama Shearman, Thames Valley Adventure Playground

Letter to the Editor.

Dear Sir,

Having read with interest the article 'Checks and Balances – Swings and Roundabouts' by Ex-DPC Councillor Andrew Purdie (in the June issue of the DPN) I feel that it is possible that I am one of the 'few individuals with an agenda' to whom he refers.

I am a great believer in not bothering to give anyone the satisfaction of answering their unfounded accusations. However, some of Andrew Purdie's points in his article are correct in that I "had never previously even attended an AGM" and had "contributed little to the community over the years." But that was all before March 23rd 2020.

Looking back on the last 15 months and my interactions with DPC, I have absolutely no regrets and don't feel anything that was said, either by myself or many of the other residents, was in anyway 'toxic' or 'an agenda driven debate'. Surely, listening to the opinions and answering the questions of the people of the parish is what a Parish Councillor 'volunteers' for – that is why they bother. In fact, others have pointed out that "they can't just refer to a wide body of perfectly decent and constructive people - as 'toxic'." Many of those people, it should be noted, who were silenced at the PC Zoom meeting on 9th March this year. It wasn't just me, and one other, it was a lot of people.

In March 2020 I found myself in a completely new situation. My husband was instructed to shield and so I needed to find an alternative method of obtaining both shopping and some other items particularly medicines, so I looked for help. I expected that, as I had heard other councils were doing, something would drop through my door or appear on the Parish website or perhaps from a councillor on Nextdoor. When I looked for help on the Parish website all that I could find were links to other websites, a couple of contacts for shops in Eton Wick and the e-mail and phone number of the parish clerk – who it was obvious, wasn't living in the Parish. It was then that I turned to social media – Nextdoor and was able to find a kind neighbour who, with others, volunteered his time to help, and collected the medicines I needed.

In my frustration I eventually wrote to the PC (via the clerk) and then when this didn't seem to produce any real response, I wrote an open letter to the council which was published in DPN. Once I had begun my involvement in local issues, I witnessed the obvious usefulness of using Nextdoor and was unable to understand the PC's attitude to this method of communication to help those within the Parish.

During the summer I became involved with a variety of local issues; namely the M4 widening and the resulting noise, dust etc; the visit from the travellers to Trumper's Field; the antisocial behaviour and parking around the corner and near the Rowing Lake (and subsequent closing of the lake resulting in the need to divert Route 4 cyclists). I also volunteered to help with the Emergency plan for Dorney (though my help was obviously not in line with the decisions taken by the council, way back in 2019) and then last, but by no means least, the Roundabout.

My interest and involvement in this final item resulted in a phone call from a Parish Councillor who was both abusive and patronising. This was the final straw, from a

council that appeared to be doing absolutely nothing in the way of consulting those that they had 'volunteered' to represent. The efforts of other people were also treated with contempt both personally and as a group our efforts to contact important decision takers like the Beeches Community Board and County Councillors were disparaged.

Any criticism of the council either via social media, e-mail or any other means was entirely earned by their refusal to engage with the obviously burning questions and requests of the people of the parish. Mr Purdie's article is a case in point – now he tells us that the petition 'required a minimum of 100 signatures from Bucks residents to support the roundabout' – so why were we constantly told that there were over 500 people who supported it? Surely some clarity at any stage would have been a better idea. As another Parish member says, "In all honesty I think if DPC had entered a debate with local residents and put a case forward explaining the 'benefits' and what the roundabout would actually be like, then we would have a roundabout by now. They scored an own goal with their attitude."

Finally, I can only apologise to those members of the council (and there were some) who were caught up in any of this and felt that my criticisms were unjustified. However, some of the comments must have hit home - after all, 'if the cap fits, wear it!'

Thea Pine

The Dorney Reach defibrillator – don't forget the keycode!



The Community Access Defibrillator is installed on the side of the Village Hall near the Playground Tuck Shop.

Should you need to use it, the defibrillator will lead you through the necessary steps.

The defibrillator case is locked. The keycode is **C123X**.

The information has been added to the Local Issues page on the Parish Council website so that it is always available.

Dorney Parish News will continue to provide Keycode details.

The Defibrillator in the old phone box on Village Road does not require a Keycode.



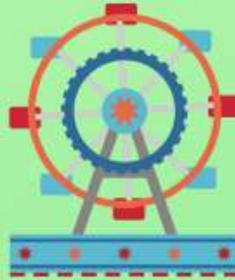
Burnham Says Thank You to key workers,
volunteers and local businesses for their support
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Dorney and District Horticultural Society

Dear members and friends of Dorney Horticultural Society,

A brief update just to remind everyone that we are still here, if somewhat depleted on our committee.

We have been looking at our options for the rest this year and naturally our primary concern is the safety of our members and committee. Around this time last year, we had grounds for optimism, however events conspired against us.

At the time of writing, we are in the middle of a 3rd wave, thankfully mitigated by our wonderful vaccination programme, however some parts of the world are experiencing a 5th wave so who knows what the future holds.

We have decided it is too soon to hold an indoor event, so sadly we have decided it is not viable at this stage to put on our Annual Show.

We are continually monitoring events and hope to be able to hold a group event before the end of the year, when we feel it is safe to do so. If anyone wishes to contact the society, please address it to Peter Bowman at ddhs@btinternet.com. Our Facebook page is at 'Dorney & District Horticultural Society'

We look forward to seeing you all very soon. In the meantime, enjoy your gardens and take care.

Regards to all

Ron Alsworth, DDHS Chair

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Cricket on the Common by Peter Bowman



Dorney had a flourishing cricket club from the mid-1950s through to the 1980s. Maureen Cox and Jill Palmer have been sharing some memories with 'DPN'.

Andy Wynn, who used to live in Boveney, but now lives in Portugal, started this quest when he contacted the Dorney History Group to recall that his Dad, Bill, played for the club in the 1960s. He wondered if others had similar memories. So many seemed to have been involved that we will almost certainly return for more on this in future issues.

A search of newspaper archives indicates that a Dorney CC must have existed in 1857 as the Windsor Express reported on a second anniversary match in 1859 between 11 married men of the parish and 11 single men. In 1865, an XI of the club played the 'Gentlemen of Dorney Vicarage'.

But Maureen recalls that the modern club got under way around 1953. A number of 'local boys' started out without any facilities, but with the help of the landlord of The Pineapple, and Dorney Court, who allowed a pitch to be created on Dorney Common, they were up and running. Apologies to any player missed off this list, but early stars were Dave Rennie (the landlord's son), Bob Blackford, Jim Bartlett (who maintained the pitch), Ken Cox, John Finch, Maurice Wooler, John Williams (a wicket keeper) and Derek Breslin.

Cattle could cause havoc to players and spectators and the pitch was normally protected by an electric fence. The old Village Hall was originally used as a changing room and for teas. Jill Palmer recalled a 'green caravan brought on to the Common' as the location for 'excellent teas'. Maureen confirmed this and recalls money being collected on match days from players and, indeed, an old caravan was purchased and eventually an old car. After each match, the car towed the caravan back to its storage on Sir Richard Haddon's farm in Boveney. Teas are a vital part of village cricket, and it seems the ladies of Dorney (including Maureen, who also acted as Treasurer) built up a splendid reputation for the quality of our club's refreshments.

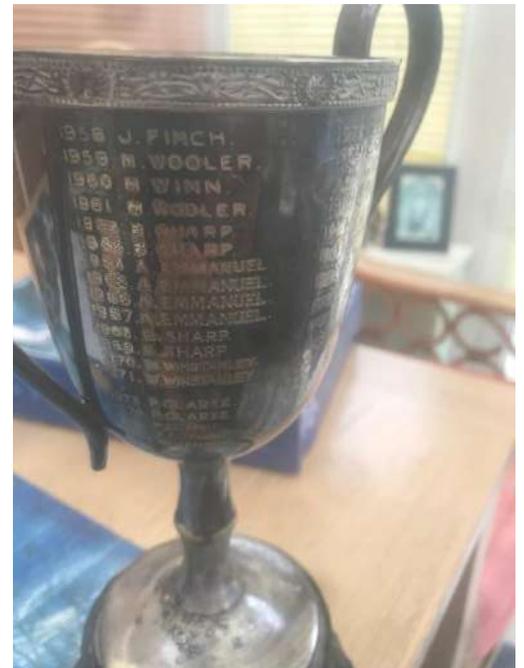
I'm told that club cricket is now intensely competitive with clubs fielding teams that compete for points in a multitude of leagues. It seems extraordinary that Dorney CC for about three decades played every summer weekend, and often twice, home and away, but always in friendlies. They played for the love of the game and the fellowship, which was enjoyed after home games, in The Pineapple.

Jill told us that a Peregrine Palmer XI played the club team on an annual basis, just as his father's team had before him. Maureen confirmed that this was a high point of

the club's season, with a party at Dorney Court to follow the match. Some visiting players became a little nervous because Jill says 'the Village seemed to import some very fast bowlers from I am not sure where'. This indeed did happen – Maureen tells how several Jamaican and Antiguan players then living in Slough, hearing of the friendly atmosphere around the Dorney club, asked to join.

This makes a great story as it seems that long standing friendships were formed between Dorney cricketers and the West Indian community and names like Alfie Emmanuel, who won the cup for Dorney player of the year several times in the 1960s and Charlie Stevens, a very fast bowler, were recalled.

By the late 1980s, it became harder to recruit players as the founder members hung up their boots, and it became clear that a professionally maintained wicket was needed just as willing helpers became scarce. A lovely period in Dorney's sporting and social history drew to a close.



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church is open daily.

**St Mary Magdalene Patronal Festival Service:
1600hrs on Thursday, 22nd July 2021**

www.st-mary-magdalene-boveney.org.uk



ST JOHN'S
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Summer Activity Camps on your Doorstep

The expansive grounds and facilities of local St John's Beaumont School, Priest Hill, Old Windsor, play host to a multitude of Summer activities for children.

Tucked away, in the leafy green hills on the edge of Windsor Great Park, you will find a hidden gem of a school that is nearing its 135th anniversary. St John's Beaumont School is a catholic school for boys aged 3 to 13 with an outstanding academic and fierce sporting reputation. Boys from this school move on to Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Wellington and the likes, often with impressive scholarships to their names. The School is proud of its diverse community, providing a high-quality education to local families of all backgrounds. The school's Jesuit ethos is very inclusive and based on traditional values that everyone would wish their child to grow up with.

This Summer, the school is opening its doors and facilities for parents who are looking for supervised day-time activities for their children, girls included. There is a multitude of camps available that make full use of the 70-acre estate with playing fields and woodlands.

From 12th to 16th July, there will be a **Football day camp**, open to all from the age of 4 to 16, run by external provider **Focus Football**. The football training during this camp will be provided by coaches and scouts from leading Premier League and Championship clubs who will be keeping an eye out for the next Marcus Rashford. To register for the camp, go to www.focusfootball.co.uk.

The **Camp Beaumont multi-activity** day camp is running from 19th July until 13th of August for boys and girls from the age of 3 to 16. The namesake camp is facilitated by external provider Camp Beaumont who hosted their first-ever multi-activity camp at St John's Beaumont School 40 years ago. This year, they return to this location to utilise the stunning grounds and facilities for heaps of outdoor activities, swimming, climbing, craft, wellbeing and much more. To book visit www.campbeaumont.co.uk/our-camps/st-johns-beaumont-school.

The school's modern 25m pool is the perfect place to improve your child's swimming skills. There are swimming lessons, all throughout the Summer, run by the SwimEngland accredited **Swim School HydroKidz**, including a Summer Crash Course. Go online to www.hydrokidz.com to find out more.

The School will also be open all Summer for prospective families to visit. Be it for a Nursery or Reception place, or even a Year 7 entry, the school welcomes boys of all backgrounds whose parents recognise in the Jesuit values and approach to education something they wish to nurture in their own children and family. Visit www.SJBWindsor.uk for more information.

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There was I enjoying browsing the shops in Windsor in happier times, hand in hand with my lovely partner, sporting a hat that made me look like Harrison Ford (or so I thought) when I happened to glance in Daniel's window and saw reflected a little fat bloke wearing an identical hat and amazingly, also holding the hand of a pretty lady too!

I glanced around to admire the hat, only to find nothing, and the little fat bloke turning back to the window. Repetition was tried and failed.

You're ahead of me already.

It became an obsession. Frequent glances at reflections didn't improve the outcome, and belatedly, I dusted off old weighing scales that I knew lied the instant I climbed onto them in a state of.... well, further detail may put you off your lunch.

A somewhat younger colleague asked, "You OK? You seem a little distant."

I confessed that the Harrison Ford look I thought I had sought to acquire was in fact a dismal failure.

"Come jogging with me," she smiled an enticing smile that would make jogging in the rain in November memorable. "Maybe your lovely partner could come too!"

My partner is a trifle younger than me and has honed her loveliness Zumba dancing for years while I prefer to watch such energetic activity on the television, where even the sight of it makes me breathless, but I thought she would at least keep me company; we could chat as I glided around Dorney, Burnham and Burnham Beeches.

In time, we both met my colleague at the appointed time in the grounds of a golf club, and as I drove down the drive, on either side were fit young and not so young athletes stretching various limbs and apparently trying to push large trees over.

We left the car, and I felt foolish in my ill-fitting shorts and a long-abandoned sports top and padded my way to the entrance where various formalities were completed. I was alarmed to note the complete absence of a defibrillator, and after a short briefing, I was placed in the beginners' group; refreshing being a beginner in one's seventies.

My colleague and partner were posted to a more senior group and upon instruction we all wandered down the long aforementioned drive.

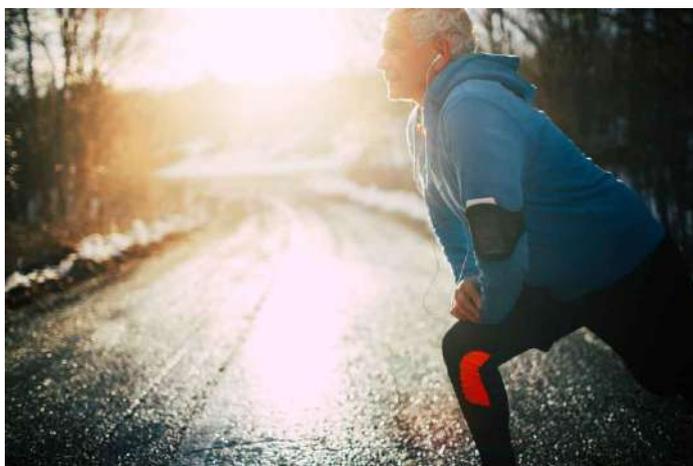
It wasn't as bad as I had expected! I arrived a little short of breath in what amounted to an energetic walk, but I was OK! I wondered if we were now going to be offered tea when quite suddenly everyone started stretching limbs, running on the spot, waving arms painfully about and clutching each other as we pulled ankles up to buttocks repeatedly. The novelty was wearing a little thin when a remarkably thin lady shouted,

"Mike, you're with me!"

"I'll come with you Honey," soothed my partner while she explained to her new friend, my colleague, that she would run with me.

"There's more?" I gasped

"That was the warmup," stated my group leader viciously, and off we all jogged away from the clubhouse and the hoped-for tea.



Actually, this wasn't so bad either. The pace was gentle, the company fine and the conversation intelligent, for the first hundred yards or so. Conversation was the first thing to go, followed by a desire to slow down followed by an overwhelming desire to stop and call a cab back to the clubhouse.

I stopped, hands on knees, face the colour of beetroot, dribble heading for the ground, all vestiges of dignity long abandoned in the intense effort to breathe.

After a gruelling three K's of running and walking, where even my ever patient partner tired of my snail like pace and left me to it, I fell into the Dagenham Dustbin (a Ford Mondeo Ghia to you – so named by an envious friend with his inferior BMW), then a shower followed by a sleep of the dead.

The next day I was at King Edward the Seventh hospital in my smart green suit clutching the driver's door of the ambulance to relieve the considerable discomfort in my abused legs.

"You alright Mate?" asked a concerned passer-by. "Shouldn't you be in the back?"

Groaning painfully as I assisted really ill people earned me admiring alarmed glances from my patients; I reassured with the occasional explanation by me that I had just started running.

Ripostes ranged from “Well done you. Bravo!” to “Idiot!”

I hate giving up, and I struggled over weeks. Times for three K’s reduce from days to hours, and finally to quite a lot of minutes, and so we progressed to our goal, to jog five K’s.

By now I had been issued with a Joggers Top, extra-large of course in a garish high viz yellow and we gathered on the Jubilee River in Dorney for this marathon, nervously wondering if we beginners would be celebrating later sipping something suitable or go home in the slough of despair, to drown our sorrows in a cup of tea with no sugar and rationed skimmed milk.

For this trial of stamina, the good Lord provided almost perfect conditions in that we were rainless and dull, without wind, and I set off at a pace slow enough to cover the distance without having to hang on a fence halfway round, and very soon, I was alone; colleague, partner and all my new friends whizzing away to get their best time, whilst my ambition was merely to finish and spend the night in my own bed at the end of it.

I ground on wearily, halfway was Dorney Church, and I nodded a thank you to the Boss as I jogged past, aware that the marshals were packing up in my wake; and finally, the finish line was in sight, with a couple of other stragglers some way between it and me.



As I came to the finish, all my friends got to their exhausted feet and clapped heartily as I staggered the final yards, glancing through sweat soaked eyes at my watch which placed me firmly at the bottom.

So, if you were enjoying a quiet stroll along the Jubilee River and were passed by yellow clad runners followed by a gasping wheezing wreck; well, that was me.

Days later, a proper runner at work advised that such an activity for an old fellah would amount to a short cut to a walking frame, and that, if I really wanted to fight nature, a bicycle was kinder to the knees.

He was right.

Oh! The belly?

Yes, it still arrives anywhere before I do, but perhaps a little less so, and I still have the hat.

Look out Harrison!

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

Pushing the Boundaries in Beaconsfield

A couple of weeks ago, our MP, Joy Morrissey, was quoted in the *Maidenhead Advertiser*. 'I was genuinely shocked. I was thinking of many different scenarios, but I didn't think they would remove the one place that my constituency is named after.'

Dorney is in the Beaconsfield constituency. The Boundary Commission for England has proposed that Beaconsfield Town be moved from Beaconsfield into the Chesham and Amersham constituency. Since this proposal was made public, the latter has witnessed a spectacular by-election upset. Dorney would be in a new constituency, Marlow and South Buckinghamshire.

We might share Ms Morrissey's dismay. How can a constituency long associated with one of the greatest of prime ministers, Benjamin Disraeli, simply disappear? In reality, 'Beaconsfield' was only created in that most momentous of years for boundary changes, 1974. Dorney has itself crossed a number of parliamentary boundaries over the years, having been part of Wycombe constituency (1918-45), Eton and Slough (1945-50) and South Buckinghamshire until 1974. Disraeli himself represented 'Buckinghamshire' when he was ennobled by Queen Victoria as 'Earl of Beaconsfield' in 1876.

Assuming the new proposals made public on June 8th are not the random whims of a few civil servants, what is going on? What has led the BBC to conclude that when the Boundary Commission finally reports only one in ten English constituencies will remain unchanged? The BCE has been charged with completing what is known as the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies. Key to this is ensuring that the number of electors in all constituencies is more equal. After 2023 it is intended that every constituency should contain between 69,724 and 77,062 voters. The number of English constituencies will rise from 533 to 543, the number in the South East from 84 to 91 and in Bucks an eighth will be added to the existing seven.

We are all advised to visit www.bcereviews.org.uk to view the maps showing the new boundaries. Marlow and South Bucks does seem to follow the same boundaries as at present, but, as our MP pointed out the town of Beaconsfield would be removed. If you dislike the boundaries or the name or feel that this proposal falls short of the BCE's objective of respecting 'local ties, geographic factors, local government boundaries and existing constituencies' plus 'minimising disruption' then make your views known before August 2nd.

There will be two further rounds of consultation in 2022. The BCE is required to make a formal, final report to the speaker of the House of Commons before July 1st 2023, 'recommending any changes that it believes are appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies in England'.

After Lake End planning applications and Bucks County inspired parking schemes, the concerned resident may feel that with parliamentary boundaries, responding online is becoming an onerous and persistent task.

Peter Bowman

Dorney Village Hall

www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk



Coronavirus – COVID19

**We are open for family/children's parties from 19th July 2021,
subject to government advice.**

Dorney Village Hall has a large main area with stage, a smaller annexed room, and kitchen.

It is served by a large private car park and adjacent there is a tennis court, a multi activity games area (MUGA), playground and a playing field.

It is used by residents for a multitude of activities such as dancing classes, keep fit, yoga, badminton, horticultural and hired out for parties, dances and weddings.

The management committee welcomes non-residents, organisations, clubs, businesses, and societies to hire the halls.

Main hall: 15 x 7.4m, ceiling height 7m

Fixed stage with curtains: 4.5 x 6m

Annexe: 9.8 x 3.5m, ceiling height 2m

Licensed to seat 100 people

Children's tables and chairs available

Beechwood suspended dance floor

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From £13 per hour (minimum of 3 hours) for Dorney Parish Residents

Email: enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com

Online on www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk

A view from the Dorney Traffic Working Group (DTWG) on the Proposed mini-roundabout consultation.

Following the decision by Dorney Parish Council to seek the views of residents as to whether the proposed mini-roundabout should go ahead or whether the junction should be reinstated to the original T junction, we felt that it might be helpful to assess some of the advantages and disadvantages of both options.

The possibility of a mini-roundabout at this junction was included as one of the possible options to assist traffic calming along Village Road and Lake End Road in the DTWG paper relating to the petition to Bucks Council in 2017. We weren't recommending any of the possible solutions – simply asking for professional advice.

	Mini-Roundabout	Original T junction
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possibly reduces traffic speed. ▪ Highways England providing “free” labour and materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No recent safety issues. ▪ Low cost. ▪ No change to lighting. ▪ No removal of trees.
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Road Safety Audit raises safety issues – no safer than T junction. ▪ Final cost estimates unclear, but likely to be in excess of £40,000. ▪ Requires (apparently) nine new, taller lamp posts to replace current three lamp posts. ▪ “Armchair” design – no site visits. ▪ Removal of one or two trees? ▪ Suitable for rural position? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traffic speeds likely to return to previous levels, unless further mitigation. ▪ In mitigation, DTWG would recommend that the existing MVA Sign outside the Eton Dorney School remains there and is not moved beyond The Pineapple – which would require an additional unit.

It has to be recognised that £18,600 has already been committed on the proposed mini-roundabout to pay for the Design and Road Safety Audits, including the £5,000 from Dorney Parish Council, alas now lost.

We welcome the decision by Dorney Parish Council to seek the opinions of residents on this issue.

This does raise the whole question of the apparent lack of process relating to such decisions. What documentary evidence should a Parish Council provide in order to initiate such a project? Clearly, a few minuted chats around the Meeting table are not sufficient. The documentary evidence provided by the Beeches Community Board in their report of 18th November 2021 which justified the roundabout on safety improvements was then denied in their letter of 1st June 2021. Where does a petition fit in? Clive Randle pointed out that he could find no public record within Bucks Council (whose asset it is) of any decision whatsoever being taken about it.

Surely it would be sensible for a process to be put in place which explains the rules and regulations that apply to such projects – and for the process to be completely transparent? It would be worthwhile seeking the views of our County Councillors on this.

Please let Dorney Parish Council know which option you believe to be the correct one in the Consultation.

Bill Dax
Dorney Traffic Working Group

WORKHOUSE: Part 2 by Virginia Silvester

In the first part of this examination of Dorney people in the workhouse in 1881, we saw how poverty drove two elderly farm workers, one widowed and one single, to end their lives as inmates. This second part looks at a rather different situation which exposes some surprising goings-on in our quiet village!

Ann Holman was a married woman said to be aged 85 when the census recorded her in Eton Union Workhouse in 1881. She was born Ann Middleton about 1800 and she married John Holman in Dorney in 1819. The following year she gave birth to a daughter, but the baby lived only 2 days. There were no more children.

On the face of it, John Holman was a respectable local man. He worked as a shoemaker and for many years he was the parish clerk at Dorney church. Reportedly he owned cottages in Burnham and Cippenham. In 1841 and 1851 John and Ann were living in Lake End, where John also kept a beerhouse, called The Cricketers. At the 1851 census they had 4 guests staying, straw drawers who had come from villages further north where straw plaiting to make hats was an important cottage industry.

The story of what happened next was exposed in newspaper reports of a court case in September 1860. Witness accounts vary, but things started to go wrong when Ann Holman visited Burnham Fair in 1855. On the way home she went to a beerhouse in Wooburn, kept at the time by George Waldron. George was married to her niece, and he was also a shoemaker living in Lake End. There was dancing that night at the beerhouse which finished late, 11pm or 2am. Ann stayed there overnight, and according to George she shared a bed with James Wells. Ann denied this, saying that she did not go to bed at all, and both she and George refuted any suggestion of impropriety. It was pointed out that James was aged about 30 at the time, while Ann was in her mid-fifties.

John Holman saw things differently. From that date he had refused to cohabit with his wife and was highly suspicious of Ann. James Wells rented a room from John for a time, and John accused James of making himself at home in the beerhouse and his living quarters, and of being received by Ann when John was not at home. In turn, Ann had discovered letters from another woman to John which she believed showed he was having an affair. Their marriage had broken down.

In February 1860, financial difficulties led John to give up the beerhouse in Lake End. When asked what home he was going to provide for Ann when they left the beerhouse, he said he did not care and she must "shift for herself". John was out when the brewer came to take possession and Ann was ill in bed – she suffered from a diseased leg. Mr Palmer, who owned the building, prevailed on the brewer to allow Ann a few days' grace but then, on 14 February, she was turned out.

Homeless and with her husband absent, Ann was taken in by a neighbour, Elizabeth Wise. Elizabeth was living in Lake End with her elderly father and her four children, and William Wells, James' brother. William was variously described as a lodger or as the householder with Elizabeth his housekeeper. In reality he was Elizabeth's common law husband. Her actual husband had deserted her ten years earlier, and William Wells was the father of her three younger children. William worked as a thatcher, earning on average 4s a day, and indicated that he supported the

household financially. The newspaper reported that he “excited considerable merriment by his drollery” when he gave evidence to the court. Meanwhile, Elizabeth admitted to the court that she had previously been in trouble with the law and spent six months in prison.

Elizabeth explained that she was providing Ann with three meals a day plus beer, port, brandy and as much gin as she could get, as recommended by the doctor. William Wells was seeking over £15 from John to cover the costs of supplying this food and drink to Ann. It was admitted that James Wells was also living in the same house. John was so suspicious about this that he climbed a ladder to look through the window and see if he could find James and his wife together. Elizabeth was however adamant that she slept with Ann and James slept with his brother William.

The judge was unimpressed by John as a witness and ruled that he should pay the amount claimed to William Wells. Ann continued living with Elizabeth Wise for a time, but later Elizabeth and William moved to Clewer where they lived as man and wife with their children. They had perhaps tired of supporting Ann before then, because in the summer of 1861 John Holman was charged with deserting his wife who had then become chargeable to Eton Union. He was ordered to pay 4s a week for her upkeep. In 1871 Ann was living alone in a cottage in Dorney village, still describing herself as a wife. By 1881, as we have seen, she was in the workhouse, and she died there in 1883 and was buried in Dorney.

Despite being parish clerk in Dorney, John Holman had other unpleasant characteristics. In February 1863 he was sentenced to six months hard labour in prison for the indecent assault of two young girls, aged 8 and 11, in Windsor. Sadly, this was not his first offence of this nature; he had committed similar crimes in Eton Wick and elsewhere in Bucks.

Ann’s suspicions about her husband’s other woman seem to have been well founded. By 1861 John was living with Eliza Greenwood, a widow who kept a grocer’s shop in Cippenham. Sometimes he was called her lodger; sometimes she was said to be his servant. John remained there until he died in 1890 and was buried in Burnham. Initially he described himself as married but later as single, which effectively he was. Newspaper reports indicate that Eliza was a feisty character. She owned property in Cippenham, and reports of court cases twice describe her as a voluble old lady. On one occasion the defendant accused her of lying about her surname, saying that it was not Greenwood. Maybe this was an allusion to her relationship with John, but there is uncertainty also about her former husband(s) – she was apparently born Eliza Haines and married a builder called Burton – and the father of her daughter Georgiana born in 1850.

This case shows how ordinary people coped with the breakdown of marriage in the years before divorce became readily available. Some, like John and Elizabeth, were able to find new partners and move forward with their lives. Others like Ann found themselves destitute. Elderly and in poor health, she was unable to support herself and eventually entering the workhouse became the only option.



Directorate for Deputy Chief Executive Localities and Strategic Partnerships

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01296 123456
www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

1 June 2021

Sue Moffat
Dorney Parish Council

Dear Sue,

Court Lane, Dorney: Mini Roundabout

Thank you for your email and correspondence dated 18th May 2021 regarding the proposed mini roundabout at the junction of Court Lane and Lake End Road, Dorney.

I note from your letter that Dorney Parish Council have resolved to recommend that the Council stops any construction work on the mini roundabout until the safety issues that Dorney Traffic Working Group (DTWG) have identified are resolved to the Parish Council's satisfaction.

I have approached the Head of Highways, Dave Roberts, and the Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) Design Manager, Simon Catton, for their comments and responses to the issues raised in DTWG's report. Responses to each of the problems raised are listed below:

Problem 1:

- *Given the possible seriousness of collisions is the proposed mitigation ("some deflection with imprint surfacing and/or lining") sufficient?*
- *Is the proposed mini-roundabout more safe or less safe than the original T junction with regards to this matter? It appears to be less safe, as the original junction allowed the B3026 traffic to proceed without any hindrance which might cause a collision. (relates RSA 3.1)*

Response:

- CD116 states (the design standard for mini roundabouts) - deflection or other means of slowing vehicles on approach to the give way stop line shall be provided on a mini roundabout. Other means include additional signage or narrowing of approach. Therefore, the provision of nearside hatching for southbound traffic is a perfectly acceptable and sufficient method of achieving deflection in the standards we work to.
- Whether the proposed mini roundabout can be assessed as being more safe is hard to say. The junction has only 1 reportable accident in the last 5 years so the change in junction control from a T junction to a mini roundabout is not being undertaken on safety grounds. The improved safety performance of a new mini roundabout junction is dependent on the improvements to the general road environment, such as the renewal of lines and signs, a new surface or improved lighting, and we are improving all of these facets through the proposed design.
- For the reader's information, The Road Safety Audit is the formal process for checking the road safety implications of highway improvements and new road schemes. The process is systematic following GG119 and aims to minimise future road accidents and their severity once the scheme has been built. It is followed up on completion of the works on site and

again 12 months later to ensure a safe design has been achieved, this process is managed through the TfB Network Safety team.

- I would also like to point out optioneering for this site was excluded from the process due to strong local support for mini roundabout, and mini roundabouts should only be used in 30mph zones or less as we are here – I note these were comments made in the independent report.

Problem 2:

- *Is it really the professional judgement of John Pateman (Transport for Bucks) and Dave Roberts (Buckinghamshire Council) that “coloured surfacing under the central cross hatching” is adequate mitigation to prevent HGV drivers and Boat Trailer drivers having “head on collisions with those approaching the roundabout as the right turning vehicle exits”?*
- *Is the proposed mini-roundabout more safe or less safe than the original T junction with regards to this matter? It appears from the reports that the roundabout may increase the risk of “head on collisions” compared with the original T junction. (RSA 3.4)*

Response:

- TfB have undertaken the design and subsequent Road Safety Audit in line with the applicable design standards. The design has been through vigorous approvals and has had some 8 professional, competent, qualified senior staff at TfB review the design, a process Mr Roberts is not part of. Mr Pateman’s professionalism is not in question.
- The safety of approach is not determined by coloured surfacing under the hatching. It is determined by the speed limit, deflection, visibility, signs, lines and skid resistance of the road surface, all of which have been adequately assessed and designed.

Further to the above comments from TfB’s Design Manager, it is the view of Buckinghamshire Council’s Highways Team that the design for the proposed mini roundabout is safe. If Dorney Parish Council, as the applicants behind this scheme, remain unsatisfied and do not wish to proceed with the current design then the project will be halted and Highways England will be asked not to commence construction. We will not implement a design which does not have the support of the Parish Council.

If the Parish Council wishes for this project to be taken forward with a different design or solution, alternative sources of funding will need to be found to cover the cost of any new designs and associated road safety audits. Funding will also need to be found to cover construction costs if Highways England are unable to deliver an alternative scheme at no cost.

As you will be aware, the Beeches Community Board has already allocated £13,600 towards the design work and safety audits which have been carried out by TfB. The £5,000 match funding that Dorney Parish Council agreed to provide was also due to cover the cost of this work, which has amounted to £18,600.

I note from your letter that the Parish Council has resolved to withhold the £5,000 match funding for the project pending a satisfactory resolution to the safety issues. As stated above, this match funding was a contribution to the costs of the design work and the road safety audits and was a condition of the funding allocation from the Community Board. This work has now been carried out and TfB will be invoicing the Community Board for the full amount of £18,600. The Community Board will therefore be invoicing the Parish Council for the £5,000 as agreed in your acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of Community Board Funding.

If the Parish Council wishes to apply to the Community Board for further funding to produce a new design or an alternative solution at the junction, it would be welcome to do so. However, it should be noted that the deadline for applications for any new transport or highways projects to

be funded through the Community Boards in 2021/22 was December 2020. Any new applications will be considered for funding from the 2022/23 budget in Spring 2022. All funding applications will need to be agreed by members of the Community Board before any funds can be released.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Pearce

Beeches Community Board Coordinator

Reply from: Dorney Parish Council

Jack.Pearce@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Dear Jack,

10th June 2021

Court Lane Dorney: Mini Roundabout

Thank you for your letter of 1st June 2021. We note the following points made in your letter: *"Whether the proposed mini roundabout can be assessed as being more safe [than the original T junction] is hard to say.....so the change in junction control from a T junction to a mini roundabout is not being undertaken on safety grounds."*

We were somewhat surprised at these comments, given the following statements in the Beeches Funding Report of 18th November 2020 regarding the purpose of the new roundabout: *"To improve road safety at the junction of Lake End Road, Village Road and Court Lane in Dorney, by replacing the staggered junction with a roundabout."*

"This project would improve road safety in this location, which would align with the Community Board's priority for Infrastructure & Highways."

"This project would make the junction safer for all road users."

"This project represents an excellent opportunity to secure a significant road safety improvement at a relatively low cost to the Community Board."

However, we do appreciate your statement: *"If Dorney Parish Council, as the applicants behind this scheme, remain unsatisfied and do not wish to proceed with the current design then the project will be halted, and Highways England will be asked not to commence construction. We will not implement a design which does not have the support of the Parish Council."*

As the Parish Council represents the residents, we do feel that, given the intense interest in this project, we need to determine whether residents would prefer either a new mini roundabout or to reinstate the original T junction. To this end we are planning, during the first week of July, to conduct a survey of all residents asking that very question – which do they prefer? The Parish Council will be guided by their response.

We hope to be able to get back to you by the middle of July with a definitive answer to this question. Should the majority request be to reinstate the original T-junction we would require confirmation from Bucks that this will be done as soon as possible as the current arrangement is unsatisfactory and was originally only installed whilst works to the Marsh Lane and Lake End Bridges were under construction.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. K.H.Holder

Locum Clerk to the Council

Cc'd:- Parish Councillors, County Councillors George Sandy

George.Sandy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Paul Kelly - Paul.Kelly@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Kirsten Ashman - Kirsten.Ashman@buckinghamshire.gov.uk, David Anthony – Chairman,

Beeches Community Board - David.Anthony@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Simon Garwood - simon.garwood@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Two interesting views of St Mary Magdalene, Boveney around a hundred years ago, with thanks to the Dorney History Group and Jean Tyler's collection of Dorney area postcards.



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15th JUNE 2021 AT 8 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL.

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Steven Baker
Cllr. Euan MacLennan Cllr. Anna Palmer
Cllr. Robert Stopford Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Mrs. Holder (the Locum Clerk) and 16 members of the public (13 of which were via zoom).

Open Forum

Sgt. Rachel Dale and PCSO Angela O'Connell introduced themselves and confirmed that their contact details could be placed on the Council's website but should not be used for reporting crimes.

Alice Foxley asked for sight of the expert witness's advice on the website and queried why she had not been approached to help upload documents which she could have easily done. The Chair responded that there had been some difficulty getting onto the existing website but they had now managed it and noted the breakdown in communication. The Chair added that the report would be put up on the new website which should become active shortly, hopefully by the end of the week. Alice added that she was keen to brief the Council about the debifrillators and Cllr. Baker agreed to liaise after the meeting on this.

PC/01/21 Apologies for absence.

County Councillor Paul Kelly.

PC/02/21 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2021

These were **approved** with no amendments required and signed by the Chairman.
There were no matters arising.

PC/03/21 Co-option of councillor

No candidates had come forward. The Locum Clerk confirmed that no co-option notices needed to be put up following vacancies after elections.

PC/04/21 Items of business carried forward

4.1 Dents Corner Roundabout – Update/decisions

- 4.1.1 The Chair confirmed a letter had been sent to the Community Board and a response received which would be put up on the new website. They appear to have taken the Council's concerns on board regarding the types of vehicles that would need to use the proposed roundabout and said the final decision on what happens at that site depended on the Parish Council. As the issue had proved controversial, she proposed a consultation survey take place to all the Dorney electorate asking simply if they want a roundabout or the return to the T junction. This would be hand delivered on an A5 sheet showing the design of the roundabout and conducted through survey monkey with a closing date in July.
- 4.1.2 Following debate it was noted that Bucks Council had not confirmed that they would restore the T junction. Concerns were raised that if Bucks Council pursued the cheapest option the road layout could be left as it was. It was noted that Eton College had not been consulted. It was also noted that lamppost LP04 seemed to be growing out of the roots of an old tree and would need dealing with. The Chair commented that the proposal had been an 'arm-chair' exercise by Bucks Council and many issues with the proposed lighting would need resolving. **It was agreed** to proceed with the consultation noting that A4 size paper would make it easier to view the plans.
- 4.1.3 Alice Foxley asked if Bucks Council agreed the design was unsafe. The Chair confirmed the question had been asked but the response had been that the implementation of the roundabout was not about safety and they hadn't commented.

Their response would be placed on the website shortly. James Palmer noted that if the T junction were reinstated then Balfour Beatties' expression of interest to offer to help fund the roundabout would need revisiting to see if they would help fund another project. Cllr. MacLennan also queried what would happen to Eton College's £5,000 funding. The Chair believed that Eton College's funding had already been committed and used in the design and audit process with a view to going towards the heritage lighting which was unfortunate.

4.2 Dorney Area Parking Review – Update/decisions

The Chair reported that Bucks Council had been written to asking that all Dorney roads be removed from the scheme as there would be catastrophic consequences for the community. They had responded that they were still waiting to collate the response from residents to the recent public consultation. County Cllr. George Sandy noted that Burnham/ Lent Rise residents had shown a great willingness to create residents' parking but urged everyone to be guarded about any steps that could lead to the urbanisation of the area. Cllr. Westcott-Wreford asked what other avenues existed to give feedback and Cllr. Sandy said there would be opportunity when any proposals were drawn up.

4.3 Roundmoor Ditch/treated and untreated sewage outfall from Slough

Cllr. Stopford reported that he had met with Thames Water on site who had agreed to escalate the issue of clearing out their section of the ditch but he wasn't overly optimistic anything would happen. He also noted that the Slough Waste and Water Treatment Plant were encountering problems with complying with government regulations concerning ammonia levels and the releasing of water. They would be putting forward three options for consultation in the Autumn – that water (95% of which is treated discharge from the sewage works; however if there is too much rain the discharge would be untreated) be discharged into either the Jubilee River, the Thames or the ditch at Eton. Problems would only get worse with the increasing catchment population. He further noted that the groundwater collecting on the Common had arisen from an incorrect level of added gravel and a Hydrology Survey was being undertaken.

4.4 Consultation Policy and Procedures

The Chair asked for feedback on the draft policy document she had circulated. Cllr. Baker expressed concern that Points 1 -4 did not seem to make it clear that members of the public could raise issues. Cllr. Westcott- Wreford confirmed that his reading of it was that they could but the Council must have the final discretion. He proposed acceptance of the Policy and this was seconded by Cllr. Stopford. **This was agreed** by a majority vote.

4.5 Orchard Herbs Site (liaison with Burnham PC)

Cllr. Stopford reported three issues. The Certificate of Lawfulness, the planning permission for a hotel and park and the enforcement issue. On enforcement he noted that Bucks Council were half-way through an effort to clear vehicles from the site. What was unclear was whether the site would be returned to its former state. County Cllr. Sandy noted that a complicating factor might be if Bucks Council's Strategic Sites Committee took an interest in the site.

4.6 Update on M4 Smart motorway

No response had been received to the invitation to attend this meeting. It was noted that a resident had raised concerns about the vulnerability of the Trumpers Field Site to unwanted incursions as the gate had been removed and the ditch flattened. The Locum Clerk was asked to write requesting that security for the field be reinstated. In response to a query from Andrew Purdie for an update on the issue of sound barriers, it was noted that work on the retaining wall had been delayed for a month.

4.7 To approve Dorney Parish Council new website, logo and typeface

Cllr. Wescott-Wreford had circulated a link to the draft new website which Councillors felt was excellent and Bill Dax was thanked for his hard work. It was noted that the main administrator would be the Clerk but Cllr. Wescott-Wreford would also post on the website. The new website **was approved**. The Chair thanked Cllr. Wescott-Wreford for his work on the website.

PC/05/21 Emergency Plan

5.1 Community volunteers

The Chair noted that two residents had come forward to volunteer to put together a report on this. This was **agreed**.

5.2 Procedure for traveller incursions

The Chair noted the procedure depended on whether the land was public or private but what was important was good communications. PCSO O'Connell would circulate her contact details and there existed a 'what's app' group which the Council would find out more about.

DPC/06/21 Planning

The Chair noted that the Locum Clerk had circulated a list of current planning applications and recent decisions. She asked whether any Councillor would be willing to take on responsibility for advising on planning. Cllr. Stopford volunteered for this but wished to have more training. It was noted that a training course was upcoming via BALC and Cllrs. Stopford and Baker **were authorised** to attend at the discounted members rate. The Locum Clerk to book. Planning information should also go up on the website. **It was agreed** that there would be no comments made on the current planning applications given the limited experience of the Councillors on these issues at this time.

PC/07/21 Finance

7.1 Cllr. MacLennan thanked the Locum Clerk for work undertaken on preparing a new spreadsheet cashbook. Expenditure in the cashbook circulated to Councillors before the meeting **was approved except in respect of the insurance invoice**. The Locum Clerk was asked to clarify why the premium had been increased. It was also noted that the Council was covering the Play Area's public liability insurance which should be investigated. Louise Whaley noted that she believed the Village Hall paid the public liability insurance for anyone using the grounds but it was noted the Play Area was not within the Village Hall grounds. It was **further agreed** that given the shortage of time to ensure insurance cover was in place the Locum Clerk would investigate and refer the matter to the Finance Committee members for them to make a decision under delegated authority in this case only.

7.2 Cllr. MacLennan had circulated the accounts, governance statements and Annual Return (AGAR) for 2020/21 and went through them in detail. The Locum Clerk noted she would not sign off as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) for these but was happy to be Locum RFO for the current year. Cllr. MacLennan **was authorised** to sign as the RFO for the AGAR. He noted that he was not sure how accurate the Fixed Assets List was that he had inherited but he would do more work on this going forward.

7.3 **It was agreed** that it was impractical to pursue new signatories on the mandate for the existing Bank of Ireland account as the process was lengthy and arduous and the hope was to move to a new account shortly.

7.4 Two out of any of Cllrs. MacLennan, Dax, Baker and Wescott-Wreford **were authorised** to be the signatories for the new proposed online community account with Barclays Bank.

PC/08/21 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

A resident had complained about a metal object embedded in a footway which had been sent on to Bucks Council's rights of way department.

PC/09/21 To review any matters relating to Groundsman/Maintenance

There were no issues. The groundsman was thanked for his hard work.

PC/10/21 Any other business/ agenda items for the next meeting on 13th July at 8pm

10.1 The Chair noted that the Locum Clerk was not free on 13th July and **it was agreed** to meet on 20th July instead and to bring forward the time of Council meetings to 7.30pm.

10.2 Alice Foxley reported that vegetation was obstructing the visibility splay for pedestrians at a spot near the rowing lake. James Palmer, as the land owner, commented that any cut

back would have to respect the restrictions relating to birds nesting and he would take a proportionate view of the best time to make any cut backs.

PC/11/21 S.1 (2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

It was **agreed** that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under the item below that the public be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw.

PC/12/21 To consider next steps in connection with the claim by Dorney Village Hall for the return of £5,000.

12.1 Cllr. Wescott-Wreford noted declarations of interest from Cllr. Jill Dax, owing to her husband being a Trustee of the Village Hall and from Cllr. Euan MacLennan who was also a Trustee of the Village Hall. He asked Cllr. MacLennan to make his representations but made it clear that neither Councillor could take part in the debate or any voting on the issue.

12.2 Cllr. MacLennan stated the facts as he knew them, namely that –

12.2.1 the Parish Council started charging the Village Hall £1,250 (in half yearly instalments) for grounds maintenance in 2015/16 and charges continued to be made for 5 years.

12.2.2 he became the Treasurer of the Village Hall in April 2018 and queried whether the charges were proportionate given the value of the services received. He took the issue up in early 2019 with Graham Easton who had been a Councillor and Trustee of the Village Hall in 2014 when the arrangement was made but sadly Mr. Easton became very ill shortly afterwards and subsequently died.

12.2.3 Cllr. MacLennan then met with Cllr. Richard Ormond – the Council's Finance Committee Chair - and demanded that the Council agree to accept £250 rather than £1,250 per annum for grounds maintenance and given that budgets were already in place for 2019/20 that the invoice for that year only be altered to say the balance of £1,000 be a financial contribution. However no invoice was received by the Village Hall for the year 2020/21.

12.2.4 owing to membership by the Village Hall of an organisation called Community Impact Bucks he was able to approach a pro bono solicitor who advised that any payments made of an excessive nature or not in keeping with the Charities objects as set out in its Founding documents would be a breach of Trust and Trustees had a responsibility to retrieve the situation. Accordingly he had sent an invoice in March for what he regarded as the excessive overpayment over the 5 years – namely £5,000.

12.2.5 he added it was his view that the arrangement was agreed in 2014 by Councillors and Trustees of the Village Hall who were wearing two hats with the intention of helping the Parish Council to balance its funds.

12.3 Cllr. Wescott-Wreford referred to papers circulated by the Locum Clerk including the solicitor's letter and statement from the Village Hall. He said that if a way forward could not be agreed at this meeting then perhaps a working group could be set up to look into the issues.

12.4 Following robust debate a majority of Councillors (Cllrs. Dax and MacLennan not voting or taking part in the debate) noted that although the grounds maintenance payments may have been set at a high rate over the years, nevertheless Council Minutes were very clear at the time with no suggestion of the monies being to subsidise the Council in any way, that any subsequent statements to the contrary years later may be unreliable, that it appeared to be a freely entered into arrangement and handing back the monies was not a step councillors would feel comfortable doing at this stage. It was also noted that no-one wished for any animosity to continue, for a fair way forward to be found going forward and that any likely fees that could be incurred in defending the claim should also be borne in mind.

12.5 The Locum Clerk was asked to comment if legal advice should be sought. Her view was that it was something to consider but, based on the written evidence she had seen to date, there was insufficient reason to incur such costs at this stage given that there had clearly been a documented agreement which the Village Hall now wished to completely overturn. Certainly, any arrangement could be renegotiated going forward but the Village Hall were

demanding to set aside the whole arrangement on the grounds of the alleged breaches of its own Trust documents and the Locum Clerk felt there was insufficient forthcoming evidence from the Village Hall at this time to seek legal advice on.

12.6 **It was unanimously agreed** (Cllrs. Dax and MacLennan not voting) that the Locum Clerk should write to the solicitors for the Village Hall putting them to proof of any written documents – perhaps Village Hall minutes - that could substantiate their claims whilst also noting the good intentions of the Council to try and find a fair way to resolve the issue.

Meeting ended 10.55 pm.

We have a new website, a new logo, a new website address and a new Clerk's email.



The new website has the following sections:

- News: where we will include items of interest that occur between meetings.
- Notices: to advise on important ongoing items, such as Defibrillators.
- Information about the layers of Government above us, through to our M.P.
- All Agendas, Minutes, Financial Reports and Policies
- Details of the Parish Councillors and their responsibilities.
- The Parish Plan (2005) and the development of the Emergency Plan.
- Updates on the Local Issues affecting our Parish.
- Some information about John Farrell, our Parish Groundsman and what he does.
- An Email Sign Up which will allow residents to receive updates and consultations.
- Finally, a Report a Problem section to assist residents to get things sorted.

Website: www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk's Email: Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk

DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL – PLANNING APPLICATIONS: June 2021

Details can be found on the Bucks Council Planning Applications website.

Application No.	Location	Proposal
PL/21/1882/PNE	2 Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach	GDPO:single storey rear extension (depth extending from the original rear wall of 5.4 metres, maximum height 3.3 metres, eaves height 2.4 metres)
PL/21/1809/FA	1 New Boveney Court Farm Cottages, Boveney Road,	Demolition of existing garden shed and carport and erection of a new outbuilding
PL/21/1203/FA	Flaxford House, Lake End Road,	Two storey front extension
PL/21/1774/SA	9 Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach	Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed widening of existing vehicular access and hard standing
PL/21/1927/SA	Middle Lodge, Village Road,	Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed single storey rear extension
PL/21/1884/HB	Boveney Court Farm, Boveney Road	Listed building consent for removal of existing decayed timber sole plate, installation of new concrete foundation and new oak sole plate and other associated repair works including rebuilding of brick infill panels between timber stud
PL/21/2066/FA	17 Meadow Way Dorney Reach	Vehicular access
PL/21/1176/PAHAS	Little Pippins, Ashford Lane, Dorney	Notification under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, Amendment to Part 1 of Schedule 2 Class AA for: additional storey to existing dwelling house (maximum height increase 2.7 m)
PL/21/0705/FA	The Gatehouse, Village Road	Single storey rear extension and relocation of rear door
PL/21/0706/HB	The Gatehouse, Village Road	Single storey rear extension and relocation of rear door
PL/21/0124/FA	Ambleside, 61 Harcourt Road, Dorney Reach,	Demolition of garage, part single/part two storey side extension, side dormer window and changes to windows and doors.
PL/20/3452/EU	Orchard Herbs Farm	Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use as a builders yard and storage of commercial vehicles, equipment and building materials.
20/2020/OA	Orchard Herbs,	Outline permission for re-development of existing partial brownfield site into renewable energy park with high-capacity battery storage, 416 bedroom hotel (Use Class C1), two office units (Use Class A2), biogas waste digester energy unit, advanced educational facility, two-storey car park and associated landscaping



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Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

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RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION: £5 per annum for 10 issues

The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents expressed in letters or articles published in this magazine.

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Dorney Parish News is an A5 newsletter that is circulated monthly (except January and August) to residents and businesses in Dorney Village, Dorney Reach, Boveney and Lake End.

Our current print run is 250. Estimated readership is around 400 people. There are approximately 300 residential properties in Dorney Parish.

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Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
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