

Dorney Parish News

February 2023



Potholes

A serious problem on our village roads – see Page 12



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EDITORIAL

This issue of 'Dorney Parish News' includes updates on local issues such as the state of the roads in the Parish, the tortuous progress over the Orchard Herbs site plus notice of a new-style meeting of the Horticultural Society. But this editorial must deal with the magazine itself.

From this issue on the annual subscription will be increased from £5 to £7. We're not sure how long the cost has been a fiver, but that was the subscription when I started to write articles thirteen years ago. We have been proud that there has been no increase in recent years while the magazine has increased in size and the breadth of its content, while now featuring photographs and most importantly, colour.

Even so, we would prefer to have maintained the cost for another year. But that is no longer possible. Printing is our only major cost and over the span of my editorship – the last four years – printing costs have increased by 167%. The cost of producing one copy has risen from 46p to £1.23. Around two thirds of households subscribe, but we do not think that there is much scope to gain more revenue from readers or from our loyal and supportive advertisers.

We – myself and my colleague Bill Dax – have considered all the alternatives. Online distribution, free of charge has much to recommend it. We would eliminate the vast proportion of our costs. There would be no need to collect subscriptions or to pound the streets pushing copies through letter boxes. We do know that a move online would not be popular. The relationship with readers would change. DPN is like a glossy magazine. It is kept through the month and, we are told, often much longer than that. As someone said, the online version might be consulted just once, like a newsletter.

We could publish fewer issues over the year. Eton Wick's magazine, for instance, is quarterly. The burden on the tiny editorial team would be eased considerably. But it has been satisfying to update readers on developing stories - traffic issues, Parish Council affairs, planning threats to our environment. For the moment we'll stick to ten issues a year. Perhaps the best cost cutting policy is to reduce issue sizes. I think in 2023 we will be less likely to serve up 44 pagers which challenge the width of letterboxes. I admit this policy will serve as a good cost reducer to be used as appropriate as this year progresses.

We'd like our readers to help us out. We'd prefer, and with that awkward £7 sub, your distributors might as well, for subs to be paid direct to us by BACS. Make your payments, the sooner the better, to account number 13611690, sort code 60-04-53. Please, please use your name as the payment reference and we will let your distributor know that your sub has been paid.

Please let us know what you think about the various options outlined here. Please let us know if you are willing to help us with distribution of the magazine. Please contribute articles because perhaps the most significant issue facing 'DPN' is whether there are residents out there willing to take up the editorial responsibilities from the two of us now occupying the editors' desk.

Peter Bowman

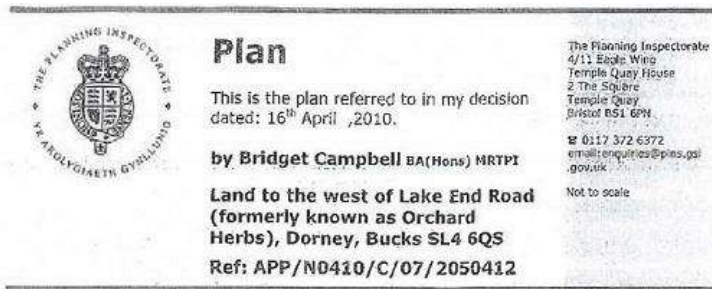
Buckinghamshire Council and Orchard Herbs: Council incompetence?

Are you frustrated by the apparent lack of effective action to resolve the illegal storage of hundreds of non-agricultural vehicles on Green Belt land adjoining Lake End Road, known as “Orchard Herbs”? Do you wonder what individual Dorney residents can do about this despoliation of our village?

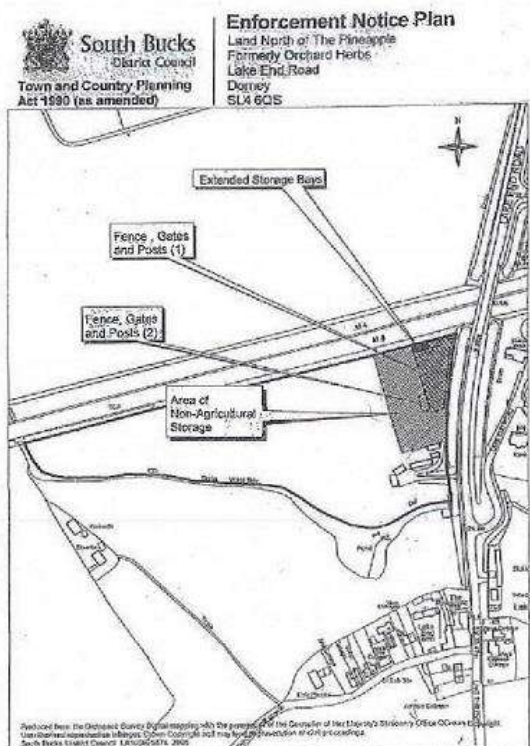
The purpose of The Planning Inspectorate is to ensure a fair planning system. One of the ways it does this is to ensure that the right to appeal a planning decision made by a local authority is a key feature of the planning system.

The owners of the Orchard Herbs site - *Land to the West of Lake End Road, North of The Pineapple (Formerly ‘Orchard Herbs’), Dorney, Bucks, SL4 6QS* – have appealed twice, firstly in 2008, regarding an enforcement notice issued by Bucks Council and, secondly, in 2010 against the conclusions of the first appeal.

The second appeal, which was remitted for re-hearing and determination by consent order of the High Court, was concluded on 16 April 2010. It was remitted on grounds that the first Inspector erred in law on the question of whether the storage area [of non-agricultural vehicles] had become immune from enforcement by the passage of time.



The second inspector – who conducted a very detailed assessment of the usage of the site between 1985 to 2007 – concluded that an area of the site had (through the ten year rule) achieved immunity from enforcement and, therefore, could continue to be used for the “storage of non-agricultural plant, equipment, vehicles and materials.” The Plan referred to in the two appeals is shown here. The total hatched area marked “Area of Non-Agricultural Storage” is the area which is now (since 2010) legally permitted for storage of any non-agricultural vehicles such as trucks, containers, fire engines etc etc.



area for such storage – which they have clearly failed to do.

The Council's use of Enforcement Notices over 12 years has been a complete failure.

The bazooka solution, which has been available to Bucks Council during the 12 years of apparent incompetence, has always been a High Court injunction.

Other similar instances of illegal land grabs in Bucks have been resolved through High Court injunctions instigated by Bucks Council.

In November 2019, an injunction covering land to the rear of Nash Park in Winslow Road, Great Horwood, Bucks was issued and eventually complied with.

Another High Court injunction was issued by the Council in 2020 with regard to extending the Willows Caravan Park, Marsh Lane, Bishopstone, near Aylesbury, Bucks onto adjoining land.

The Council also issued two High Court injunctions in 2021 regarding land in Lodge Lane, Little Chalfont where illegal dwellings and caravans were sited. Eventually the Council's specialist contractors entered the land to carry out works. This included the cessation of the use of the land as a caravan site, the removal of caravans, buildings, horse boxes and associated hardstanding.

Mr Williams (the then Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment for Bucks) said: *"The action we have taken is another example of the Council's 'no nonsense' approach to planning enforcement which we continue to employ where necessary.*

"We will always aim to work with parties to reach an amicable conclusion but where this is not possible, we will take further action such as this."

The Council will not tolerate breaches of planning control and use enforcement tools, Mr Williams said as *"a warning to others"*. But not Orchard Herbs, apparently.

Dorney Parish Council have been making very strong representations to our Councillor – George Sandy – who sits on the South Bucks Area Planning Committee and Bucks Planning Enforcement, and are monitoring site movements carefully. However, as can be seen from the Parish Council minutes – getting any kind of satisfactory resolution from Bucks Council is glacial.

As has been stated before in Dorney Parish News, there are times when residents can't leave all of the heavy lifting to the Parish Council – especially when the offending site isn't in our Parish but is Burnham Parish Council's direct responsibility.

Consequently, it is suggested that we leave Dorney Parish Council to continue with their due processes whilst others may wish to take a more direct communication route.

According to the South Bucks Local Enforcement Plan (March 2018), the decision whether to instigate court proceedings (such as prosecutions or seeking injunction proceedings) is delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services having received instructions from the Head of Planning and Economic Development.

The current Head of Planning and Economic Development is Ian Thompson, Corporate Director Planning, Growth and Sustainability, Bucks Council, Email: ian.thompson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The current Head of Legal and Democratic Services is Sarah Ashmead, Deputy Chief Executive, Bucks Council, Email: sarah.ashmead@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The Chief Executive Officer is Rachael Shimmin. Her email address is: rachael.shimmin@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

One resident has recently sent an email to Ian Thompson, copied to Rachael Simmin and Sarah Ashmead along the following lines:

As a resident of Dorney Parish I am extremely disappointed at the lack of urgency, over the last twelve years since 16th April 2010, by executive members of the Council to resolve the illegal storage of hundreds of non-agricultural vehicles on Green Belt land adjoining Lake End Road, SL4 6QS and the M4 motorway, known as "Orchard Herbs". It completely despoils our village.

It is abundantly clear that your Enforcement Notices are ineffective. The only solution is, therefore, according to your own Local Enforcement Plan, to issue a High Court injunction.

It is interesting to note that you have reached this decision over recent years for similar problems in Great Horwood, Little Chalfont and Bishopstone (and possibly others) but presumably, because Dorney has very few voters and is too far away from Aylesbury, it isn't a priority to the executive and/or it isn't worth the investment.

I would ask you to urgently reconsider your position on this matter so that this long-festering sore on the Green Belt and our beautiful village can be removed.

A large number of emails such as this to the three responsible executive officers might put some pressure where it is needed. A follow up to local, regional and national media will be the next step, if necessary, and our Member of Parliament.

Bill Dax and Peter Bowman



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News from Dorney School

I cannot tell you how pleased I am to see the back of 2022, especially the months leading into November and December when the dreaded Strep A and Scarlet Fever hit our community and school. I am so pleased that all our children have recovered even as some were hospitalised for serious symptoms. Although winter illnesses are still upon us for a few months longer, the promise of impending sunshine and the coming of spring bring with it hope, optimism and lots of Vitamin D, essential for good physical, and mental health.

Since the New Year, we have already welcomed some special visitors to school to enhance the learning experience for our children.

Author Visit

Gemma Stone and her son, Archie visited our school on Friday. Gemma is passionate about raising awareness of Albinism, a rare condition that Archie has. This condition affects his skin and his sight. She has written several children's books and we were privileged to hear her read one due to be published. Her books all centre on being different, and the trials that disabled children and their families face. She channels her emotions through writing, and our children were spellbound when she read aloud the story of **Herb, the Little Star who Twinkled Differently**. She was inspired to write this story due to the times when people have been unkind to Archie, staring and mocking him when the family have been out and about. Our children listened with interest, maturity and empathy as Gemma recounted some of these experiences. They asked perceptive questions and were delighted when Archie walked around them during assembly. Gemma visits many schools and organisations, but she wanted us to know that the children of Dorney School have been the best audience by far! Coming from an author who has received several awards, this is praise indeed!

In the next few months, we will also welcome celebrated children's authors Richard O'Neill and Chris Connaughton. Our school believes that such visits are important in creating positive relationships with children and young peoples' reading skills, and their enjoyment and confidence in both reading and writing.

Speak Out, Stay Safe

Pupils from years 5 and 6 attended assemblies and workshops organised by the NSPCC. Trained volunteers from this national charity delivered workshops aimed at helping all primary aged children understand how to keep safe from abuse, who they can turn to seek help and support, and to speak out if they are concerned, or worried about anything. Our school takes safeguarding and child protection seriously and we believe, when the community, parents and schools work together, we can keep all children safe from harm. Do look at their website for more information and links to volunteer or donate to this worthwhile charity <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Martin Luther King Day 17th January

We also celebrated the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. This is an annual event at our school as every year, our pupils learn more about Martin Luther King and the struggle for equality and civil rights. It is important that we remember the fight for justice, empowerment, and equity. Our children are inheritors of freedom, and we have the responsibility to keep lighting the way by carrying the torch to pass on to future generations. Racism has no place in our society and as a collective, we all need to remember this and stand up against discrimination, bias, and racism.

I am loving the start of 2023 and know that our school will go from strength to strength. Our pupils are happy, our staff are positive and committed to delivering an excellent education. Our parents support us in what we do, and I am privileged to lead a thriving and successful community. Why not come and see us in action? Have you considered helping out at our school? Email the school if you are interested in a visit office@dorneyschool.co.uk

I wish you well and hope that 2023 will be a happy and prosperous year for you too.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Sharifah Firza Jelany-Lee, Headteacher



Whilst January threw some of our worst winter weather for some time, DPC held our Annual Finance and the first PC meeting of 2023. The good news is, due to some careful budgeting over the past year, the annual Parish precept for 2023/24 has been set at £25,000 for the 3rd year running.

Some of the problem potholes

Pressure on Bucks continues with the hope that this will finally lead to further legal action on the Orchard Herbs site. Burnham PC (whose Parish this is sited in) are actively engaged and DPC have contacted Taplow PC who have agreed to support us so we can present a united front.

DPC PREPARING A FULL REPORT WITH PHOTOGRAPHS TO PRESENT TO BUCKS ALERTING THEM TO THE APPALLING STATE OF THE ROADS IN THE PARISH. PLEASE CONTINUE TO REPORT POTHOLES (WITH PHOTOGRAPHS ALSO) ON FIX MY STREET.

Following a survey of the oak trees in the Memorial garden last year Maydencroft were contracted to carry out the highlighted remedial work. We await details of the planned ongoing maintenance from Maydencroft.

DORNEY SCHOOL NOW INCLUDED ON THE EMERGENCY PLAN AS AN EMERGENCY HUB. INFORMATION CONTINUES TO BE UPDATED AND WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE.

Much progress with Neighbourhood Plan - await a notification through your door with updated information.

Next meeting 21st February 2023 at Dorney School.

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

RCCG Praise Embassy, Haywards Mead, Eton Wick, Windsor, SL4 6JN

Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334 www.rccgchurchatslough.com

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

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

Rev La Stacey writes: If you are reading this on 1st February, then in the church we are still in Christmas! The Christmas season in church ends with Candlemas, which is the 2nd of February. The truth revealed by the incarnation, which is what the church's Christmas festivities are all about, never comes to an end though. So, before we head into Lent, I'm going to dwell a bit longer on the wonder!

Because what happens in the incarnation is worth dwelling on! You see, it challenges all the things we thought we knew about God, and I love that. We who think we know it all, can only stand in awe. From now on all our thoughts about God neatly up there and out of the way, have to change. The incarnation shocks us out of our habit of keeping God safely out of our existence, tucked away behind a cloud somewhere. Because God emptied God's-self to be with us, to be one of us, to be among us.

Here is God, if you believe the claims of the gospel writers, made flesh among us: the invisible made visible, the impassable suffering hunger and tummy ache as any other infant, the ineffable needing love to thrive, the immutable needing to suckle its mother's milk to grow, the omnipotent as weak as a day-old baby...

God is here among us, making [him]self entirely dependent on human love.

And the Gospel of John says we rejected him. Of course we did! I mean, who wants to be caught gazing at a baby in wonder, utterly divested of everything we had thought that was important up to now? Who wants to be totally undone by a baby's reciprocal gaze and have that baby completely re-order our lives around it? Change us from the inside out? Upend all our priorities? Open our eyes to the frailty and value of each human being and the whole of created life? Who can afford to be that vulnerable, that naked?

Charles Wesley's hymn puts it beautifully – it says God 'emptied himself of all but love'. Our response is to find ourselves, likewise, emptied of all but love. As the

season of love approaches, may we allow the love of Christ, which is stronger than suffering and stronger than death, remake us and fill us with vision and hope again.

With blessings, La

Church Services in February 2023

Wednesday 1st February

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 5th February

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 12th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 15th February

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 19th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 22nd February (Ash Wednesday)

7.00 pm Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

Sunday 26th February

9.30 am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.

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

Potholes are a serious problem on our village roads!



I suspect every reader has recently encountered (or managed to avoid) one or more of the many potholes on Dorney's roads.

Dorney Parish Council have advised Bucks Council of the problems and are preparing a detailed report for them. Buckinghamshire Council says recent weather has caused deterioration in the roads and that it is aware of an increased number of potholes in local roads due to recent weather.

The prolonged period of cold conditions followed by wet weather has caused a rapid deterioration in some surfaces.

Freezing temperatures can impact surface layers where freeze-thaw action causes potholes and cracks to widen but can affect the integrity of the underlying layers if it

penetrates deep enough. If this does happen the damage to the roads can be extreme.

The council says repairs are being prioritised for the most serious defects and will be made as soon as possible, but some may need to be short term because of current weather conditions.

Councillor Steven Broadbent is the Cabinet Member for Transport:

"Where a defect is unsafe, repairs will be made as quickly as possible. Ideally this will be undertaken as a long-lasting repair, but at times, such as during very wet or cold weather, or when it is an emergency "out of hours" repair, this may be possible and a temporary "make-safe" repair will be undertaken.

"In extreme cases the issue may require the temporary closure of the road. None of these temporary options are ideal, as this type of repair may not last very long in poor weather, particularly where the road is subject to large numbers of HGV movements. The best time to fix road defects properly is when the weather is warm and dry – which, of course, is the opposite of when the majority of the problems occur! Transport for Buckinghamshire is working hard to assess and rectify defects as soon as possible.

"The council continues to invest heavily in our highway network and the ongoing programme of local schemes and strategic road repairs/improvements continues.

"Prudent financial planning has meant that severe weather reserves exist to help fund the required priority repairs to deal with the issues we are currently seeing.

"We urge residents not to repair potholes themselves - the best way to report a problem on the highway, so the council can repair the roads, is via [Fix My Street](#)". Available via the Dorney Parish Council website under "Report a Problem".

RAC advice regarding Potholes:

If the pothole you want to report is on a motorway or major A-road in England, you can also contact National Highways on 0300 123 5000 or visit <https://report.highwaysengland.co.uk>.

Making a pothole claim

If your car is damaged by a pothole, you may be able to claim compensation. The chances of being successful in claiming compensation will significantly depend on whether the pothole has already been reported.

Councils have a statutory defence in that they cannot be held liable for a defect they are not aware of – either because it has not been reported to them or it has not been picked up their own system of inspection and maintenance.

To make a claim you must address it to the right authority. Sending it to the wrong place could mean your claim is delayed or doesn't get looked at. If the pothole:

- is on a major A-road or motorway in England, contact [Highways England](#) on 0300 123 5000 or by emailing info@highwaysengland.co.uk
- is on any other road, contact Bucks Council and make a claim step-by-step online – search “Bucks Council Claim for Damage”.

If you have [fully comprehensive insurance](#), it might also be possible to make a claim via your insurer for the damage to your vehicle, but be aware of your excess amount.

Pothole damage

If your vehicle is damaged due to a pothole:

1. **Take notes** – When you are parked somewhere safely, write down all the key details including the location of the pothole, its rough size, shape and depth. If it is safe to do so, make a simple sketch of the area showing the position of the pothole including any surrounding features. It is also worth taking a photograph of the offending pothole (not on a Motorway!).
2. **Have witnesses** – Wherever possible, get the details of any witnesses who saw the incident. This might help your claim.
3. **Get garage quotes** – Make sure you get quotes for all repairs. Keep all quotes, bills and garage receipts safely in one place and make copies of them to support your claim.
4. **Weigh up the pros and cons** – It may not always be worthwhile making a claim for compensation if the amount is below a certain level. Before attempting to make a claim, do your research first as it could be a costly, time-consuming process.
5. **Prepare for rejection** – The highways authority may defend the claim under section 58 of the Highways Act and their right to statutory defence. If they can prove they have a regular inspection and repair system in place, they may be able to reject your claim.
6. **Do your research** – before going back to the authority to discuss the claim further, review the guidance provided on their website, check what the council is liable for and verify if they are carrying out a reasonable system of inspection and repair.
7. **Be willing to negotiate** – If the highways authority makes you an offer, you should seriously consider it. You may be able to negotiate but while you can claim the cost of repairs, you won't necessarily be compensated for additional travel expenses or the inconvenience caused.
8. **Consider the small claims court** – If your claim is rejected, you may be able to go to the small claims court. If you choose to, seek legal advice as you could end up incurring legal costs.
9. **Keep calm** – Always try to remain calm and professional when dealing with the highways authority. And keep copies of all the letters and emails you send and receive – if you do go to court, you will have to provide a record of all your correspondence.

What damage can potholes do to your car?

According to the RAC's tyre partner, ATS Euromaster, hitting a pothole can cause a number of wheel and tyre problems.

Initial impact on a vehicle can cause buckled wheels, cracks, lumps in the tyre, cracked alloys and it can knock out the tracking and wheel balancing.

Reports have found that a third of all recorded vehicle damage is as a result of potholes.

In more severe cases, it could lead to drivers losing control of their vehicles and being involved in an accident.

With thanks to Bucks Radio website and the RAC for certain of the content of this article.

Bill Dax

Dorney Horticultural Society
'Going for Gold'
with Jamie Butterworth
MD of Form Plants
RHS Chelsea Gold Medalist 2022



Friday 24th February 3 - 5 pm
to be held in
The cafe at Crocus at Dorney Court

Our February meeting has an exciting new format and will be held in a new venue courtesy of our friends at Crocus. Our new patron Jamie Butterworth tells us how his work with the children's mental health charity Place2Be led to his first gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Come and join us - all welcome

Tickets £10/head for members

£12/head for non members

New members can join on the day.

Tea/Coffee and Cake is included.

Numbers are limited so please book your place.

Book your places with Peter Bowman 07889 912714

or email ddhs@btinternet.com



The Palmer Arms Valentine's Specials Menu 2023

Starters

- Mix Platter to Share £12.95
(panko breaded squid, garlic mushrooms & bbq wings)
- Pea, Courgettes and leek risotto with parmesan *(VE,VG,GF)* £6.95
- Figs stuffed with stilton, wrapped in Parma ham, Balsamic glaze *(GF)* £7.50
- Beer Battered King scallops, lemon mayo *(GF)* £10.95

Mains

- Sweet Potato Red Onion Marmalade and Pumpkin Seed Tart *with fries and salad* £17.95 *(Ve) (GF)*
- Dover sole, new potatoes, spinach, and garlic prawn butter £25.95 *(GF)*
- Chicken supreme, buttered mash, creamy mustard chive sauce £17.95
- Roast Beef Fillet *with croquettes, seasonal vegetables and red wine jus* £19.95 *(GF)*

Desserts

- Strawberry cheesecake with raspberry coulis £6.50
- Chocolate Fondant *with Mint chocolate ice cream* £7.95
- Pear frangipane with vanilla ice cream* £6.50
- Selection of British Cheese *with red onion chutney* £12.95
(to share)
- Chocolate fudge cake vegan vanilla ice cream (ve)* £6.50

For any questions or allergy related enquires please ask one of your servers
GFA = Gluten Free Alternative VE

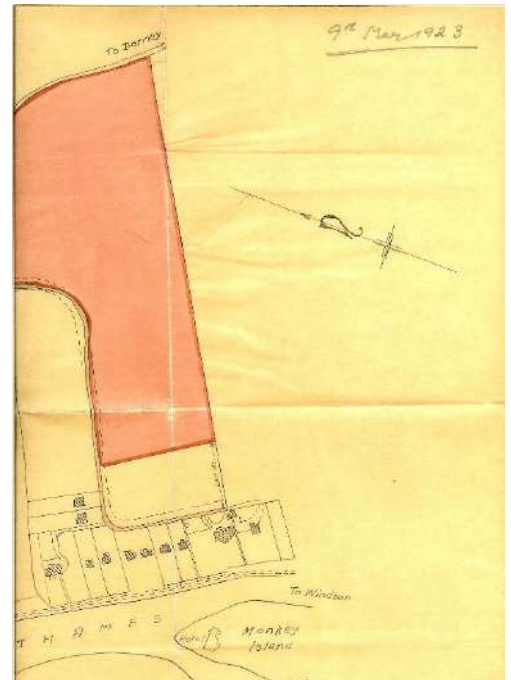
DORNEY REACH IN 1921

Before 1902, Dorney Reach did not exist as a residential area. The land was used by tenant farmers to grow arable crops. Then the landowner, Colonel Palmer, decided to develop for housing part of a field in the north east corner of the parish, next to the river. Between 1902 and 1910 eleven individual large houses were built in spacious grounds. Fitted out with servants' quarters, billiard rooms, tennis courts and such like, they offered the convenience of nearness to Taplow railway station combined with "*unspoiled rural surroundings*" and a relaxed riverside lifestyle. A ferry boat took passengers across to Monkey Island and there were even regattas held in Dorney Reach in 1912 and 1913.

Initially, all but one of the houses were rented out and the occupants changed frequently. The 1921 census gives us a picture of who was living there on the night of June 19th.

At the southern end of the riverside houses was Bray View, now called Touchdown. One of the few houses to be owner-occupied rather than rented, on census night the only residents were the owner's chauffeur, wife and baby. The owner at this time was probably Charles Bertram Liddell, who was certainly there by 1923. Born in China, the son of a wealthy tea merchant, Charles worked in the motor trade before the First World War, in which he served as an officer in the Royal Engineers. He married in 1917 and had two children. The 1921 census shows him in London where they lived in a flat. So, the house in Dorney Reach, which he kept until the late 1920s, was presumably used for weekends and holidays.

Next door was Riverdale, recently purchased by Joseph Gardner. He was living there with his wife and ten-year-old daughter, with one domestic servant and a visitor. Joseph's father was a farmer, in White Waltham and later Maidenhead Thicket, and his wife Jane had been brought up by her aunt who was the miller at Hambleton Mill. Joseph however worked in financial services in the City of London. He had previously lived in Thames Ditton after his marriage in 1909. The Gardners left Dorney Reach around 1930 and later lived in St George's Hill, Weybridge.



The neighbouring house to the north, Willowcroft, was rented by Vera Serkoff who lived there with her younger sister. Keen readers of this column will recall that I have written previously about Vera, who claimed to be a widowed countess with Russian connections. She was in fact Scottish. In 1921 both Vera and her sister, then middle-aged, said their occupation was journalistic work. Vera was indeed a prolific author, whose stories for adults and children were often published in newspapers. During her time in Dorney Reach, her written output concentrated on non-fiction books, on such subjects as the interpretation of dreams and fortune telling. She stayed in Willowcroft until she died in 1933, when her sister moved back to London.

Continuing up the bank, the tenant at Rippledene was Herbert Edward Carmalt. His stay really was brief – he was not there in 1920 and left in 1923. From London, he had married in 1911 but their only child was not born until 1919, after he had seen service in France as an officer in the First World War. Herbert was another resident who must have commuted to work in London, where in 1921 he said he was a ladies' hat maker in Regent Street. On other occasions, he was said to be a salesman in millinery or sportswear. At Rippledene, the family employed a live-in domestic servant.

The house now called Melrose was rented between 1921 and 1924 by David Leonard Oliver. In 1921 he was a company director in the textile trade living there with his wife and staying with them was his wife's sister and her husband. David had also served in the war, as an officer in the RASC, attached from the British Red Cross to the French Red Cross. After leaving Dorney Reach, David returned to London and changed career, becoming a barrister and JP.

Another army officer was living next door at Meadowcroft (now River House). Philip Arthur Hibbert rented this house from at least 1921 until 1929, then moving to Taplow. Originally from Wales, he had fought in the First World War and was wounded in action in France in 1916 and again in South Africa in 1918. In 1921 he was still in the army, assigned to the War Office, but later worked in the private sector as managing director of a dying and cleaning company. He had married in 1919 and their first child was born while living in Dorney Reach in 1924. In 1921 they employed one domestic servant living in.



The Mead was another rented property occupied by a former army officer. Kenneth William Elder had served in the Boer War and then in World War I when he rose to the rank of major. He was not however a professional soldier but an accountant who became Secretary of the Phoenix Insurance Company in London. His first wife had died only a few years after their marriage and by 1921 he had been widowed for 15 years. A few months after the census, he remarried and settled in Dorney Reach where two daughters were born in 1923 and 1924. Kenneth and his family moved to Sussex around 1928 and one of his daughters later described him setting off for work: *“My father was a businessman typical of the era. Each morning he would leave the house smartly attired in his business suit, complete with a fresh buttonhole for the jacket. This would very often be a rose, prepared daily and left ready for him in the hall. He always wore a genuine bowler hat to*

work each day and a silk top hat on special occasions. If he had a Board Meeting to attend, he would wear his tailcoat. Thus attired, he would travel by car to the station and then by train to his London office. The formality of his dress, and of his general demeanour, was quite typical for the era for people of his status in life, and especially so for those who spent their days in the world of commerce.” Although this description relates to Sussex rather than Dorney Reach, it's not hard to imagine the commuters through Taplow similarly attired.

Ambrose Francis Pollard who lived at the Chalet (now the Clock House) was a former manager for a brewery in Southwark. He had retired to Dorney Reach with his wife and adult son Francis Charles, who became an architect and building developer. Unlike most of the neighbours, the Pollards were long term residents who invested in local properties. They owned the Chalet and rented it out after moving in 1927 to Banksyde (later Tirra Lirra), a new house they had built on the riverbank south of Bray View. In the early 1930s they moved upriver to Dorney End, next door to the Chalet, which they also bought. Francis married the daughter of the tenant at the Chalet and they raised their daughters and remained at Dorney End until after his death in 1974. The Pollards kept a live-in servant to do the cooking and housework.

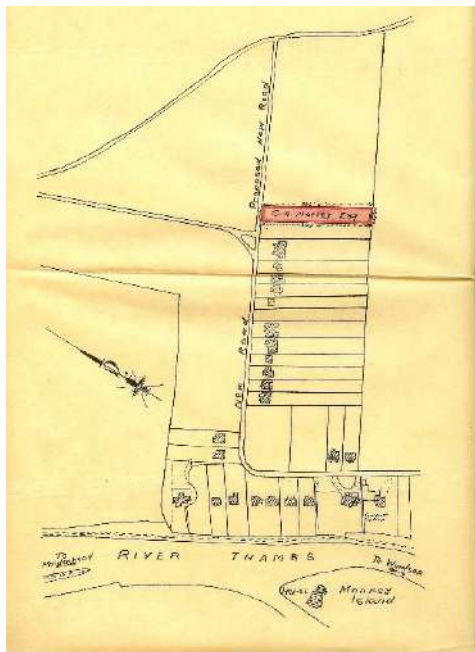
The northernmost house beside the river, Dorney End, was empty on census night in 1921, because its owners Herbert and Louisa Woodfield were in London, which was perhaps where Herbert worked as an electrical engineer. They had married in 1909 and bought the house soon afterwards, but by 1923 they were renting it out.

The remaining two houses in Dorney Reach were built at the bottom of what became Harcourt Road. In 1921 Island Close was rented by Herbert Ambrose Cope, an engineer who had married in 1911 and worked in London. He served as an officer in the Royal Engineers throughout the 1914-8 war and was in Dorney Reach by 1917 when he was renting The Mead. He made the move to Island Close by 1919 and stayed there until the mid-1920s when he moved to another new house on the riverbank, Littleholme (now Gable End), which he bought. The Copes stayed till the early 1930s.

The last house was Dorney Reach House, originally called The Elms. Henry Wordley had moved here from London after retiring as a senior civil servant. In 1921 he was living there with his wife, two adult daughters and mother-in-law. During the war, the house had also been home to another daughter and her young son while her husband was away serving as an army officer. The young

couple had both worked in the offices of the Prudential Assurance Company in London, where he subsequently continued his career. The Wordleys left Dorney Reach in 1923.

What does the census tell us about Dorney Reach in 1921? It was a world where the men went out to work and the women stayed at home, often supported by one or more servants who lived in the house with the family. There were few young children and most of the men worked in London. Other sources tell us that families often came from London and sometimes retained a home there. The shadow of the First World War loomed large, with many of the men sharing experience as officers. The houses in Dorney Reach were mainly rented and stays generally short.



It's possible that a factor leading families to move away was the rapid development of Dorney Reach from the 1920s. In 1919 Colonel Palmer sold a further 33 acres of arable land for building. The first new houses were built in 1923 to the east of Harcourt Road, detached houses with large gardens but more modest in scale than the riverside dwellings. Newspaper advertisements in 1924 offered houses ready for occupation or built to order. By April 1927, 33 of these houses had been built, plus three more large houses on the riverbank. Almost all the new houses were owner occupied. Development continued in the 1930s and by 1936 Dorney Reach had grown to 63 houses, plus Oak Stubbs Cottages in Marsh Lane, a terrace of four cottages for retired farmworkers. What had begun as an exclusive and secluded riverside retreat had become a commuter housing estate with a much more diverse population of residents.

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JOY MORRISSEY MP

Standing up for the Beaconsfield Constituency



Update from Joy Morrissey MP

joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk

In contrast to misleading and false assertions made recently, the simple truth is that this Conservative Government is the first government to set out our expectation that water companies must take steps to significantly reduce storm overflows. We are now delivering the largest programme to tackle storm sewage discharges in history.

Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan

Our Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan will revolutionise how water companies tackle the number of discharges of untreated sewage. Water companies will face strict limits on when they can use storm overflows and must eliminate the harm any sewage discharge causes to the environment under our plans.

By 2035, the environmental impacts of 3,000 storm overflows (75%) will have been eliminated. There will be 70% fewer discharges into bathing waters. By 2040, approximately 160,000 discharges, on average, will have been eliminated and by 2050, approximately 320,000 discharges, on average, will have been eliminated. Water companies will be encouraged to accelerate these timelines wherever possible.

The Government expects costs on water companies to deliver this programme will reduce through innovation, better asset management and maintenance, and identifying more effective local solutions. We will monitor the delivery programme, and the Government will not hesitate to set faster delivery timelines for targets if delivery costs reduce.

The Government and regulators will act against those companies who do not meet expectations. Our new monitoring and reporting framework as legislated for in the Environment Act will significantly improve the enforcement ability of both Ofwat and the Environment Agency.

Empowering Ofwat

It is government's expectation that Ofwat and the water industry will prioritise appropriate action to enhance water quality and deliver a resilient and sustainable water supply. We expect Ofwat to challenge water companies to prioritise improvements to protected sites and recognise the importance of priority habitats such as chalk streams.

Environment Act Water Targets

We have committed to restoring three quarters of our water bodies to be close to their natural state as soon as possible. We have also committed, in the 25 Year Environment Plan, to increasing supply and improving the efficiency of water usage, including the amount used by individuals and households. To make progress towards these ambitions, the Government is proposing targets to improve water quality and availability by 2037. We will reduce nutrient pollution by reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment by 40%; and reducing phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 80%.

We will reduce the length of rivers and estuaries polluted by metals from abandoned mines by 50%. These targets will act as powerful tools to deliver cleaner water, increase biodiversity and protect the water environment for future generations. These pollution targets will ensure national and local action to combat major pressures on the water environment, increasing the pace and ambition of the Government's existing interventions and sending a clear message to industry about what is expected of them. The target to reduce water demand will encourage more efficient and sustainable use of fresh water by businesses, water suppliers, and communities.



Enforcement

Since 2015 the Environment Agency has brought 48 prosecutions against water companies, securing fines of over £137 million. Some of the biggest fines were imposed last year, including a record £90 million fine for Southern Water in July for thousands of illegal discharges, making clear that polluters will be made to pay for damage to the environment. In addition, between 2020 and 2025, water companies are investing £7.1 billion to protect and improve the environment. Of this, £3.1 billion is being invested specifically in storm overflow improvements.

I hope you will agree with me that this is a comprehensive and robust plan of action to drastically improve our water quality across this country, and nothing like what the opposition want you to believe. As your Member of Parliament I will always do my utmost to protect and preserve our precious environment and will always strongly refute accusations to the contrary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joy Morrissey'.

Joy Morrissey MP

Member of Parliament for Beaconsfield
Assistant Government Whip

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Disraeli House | 12 Aylesbury End | Beaconsfield | Buckinghamshire | HP9 1LW | 01494 977505

www.joymorrissey.uk | @JoyMorrissey | fb.com/joy4beaconsfield

Black Friday

I always had a rather smug sensation when watching the evening news on Black Friday, thinking haughtily that I would rather pay the correct price for whatever rather than brave the queues and rushes, mostly from well-built aggressive females, although now I suspect, the modern equivalent is sitting in front of a screen gazing at crashing software.

“Honey?” wailed my lovely partner Cheryl, “I think the washing machine is playing up. Can you take a look please?” and sure enough, the digital display announced ‘error code 123 ABC’ and beneath it was a drum full of stationary dirty washing. My ex and I had bought ‘Old Faithful’ when our second son blessed us with his arrival forty plus years ago, so I could hardly address a whining missive to Mr. Hoover as she had performed impressively albeit for the last ten years with only one paddle instead of three.

Off to Mr. Curry we trotted in the estate car in the untutored expectation that I would be returning with a new machine in a cardboard box, but our arrival in the car park gave the first intimation that this was unlikely to happen, in that it was full.

I squeezed the Mondeo (Ghia no less!) between two lesser carriages, was warmly welcomed into the kingdom, directed to washing machines, and there, in a row of dazzling flash digital washing goddesses which would require a first-class honours degree in computer sciences to operate, sat the idiots’ version with proper knobs complete with little illustrations of bubbles, spinning and draining. It was made for an old git like me, and I approached one of ‘the team’.

“Just choose what you want, and I shall be right back,” he smiled his salesman smile. We didn’t see him again that visit.

We double checked the simpleton’s washer and decided it was for us and because of ‘Black Friday’ it was reduced!

Doh! I had been caught, but needs must, I would soon be running out of clean shreddies, so I approached another of ‘the team’. He was in a deep conversation with another family while pressing urgently on the keyboard of an apparently passive computer.

“Is there a problem?” I enquired respectfully.

“No Sir. No problem. I am busy. See a colleague over there.”

‘Over there’ turned out to be a lone lady swamped by other would-be customers who was similarly pounding apparently uselessly on another keyboard.

Cheryl and I returned to the washer of our dreams in the faint and useless hope that our disappearing saviour might return and found a middle-aged male looking at the same machine.

Seeking reassurance that I had made the right decision, I asked, “Excuse me Sir. What do you think of this machine?”

It transpired he had a lot more pressing matters than me. His views on my choice proved utterly irrelevant.

“I am in a flat in Slough,” he said with a thick Eastern European accent, “and it needs a washing machine.”

“Where are you from?” I asked. (It did not propel me to national disgrace!).

“Ukraine,” he looked sad. “My wife and daughter are there and won’t escape. I want to go home but my wife pleads with me to stay here. If I go home, I will be called up because of my age and experience. I was in the Russian army. There is a fifty per cent chance I would be killed. I miss home and would take the chance, but my wife and daughter, they say ‘please don’t’, so I stay for now.”

“What was it like in the Russian army?” I had to ask.



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"It was brutal," he looked even more sad. "They are animals!"

We shook hands and we wished him heart felt good fortune as we wandered back to the 'Team Member' with the large family. It appeared chaotic and conversations on a walkie talkie suggested that their system could not cope.

"Has it crashed?" I asked. "I know what I want."

"The computer is down," he confessed as the family glared at my interruption.

We left and returned later, thinking of our new friend with his frightened wife in a country three days drive away where he would probably die violently if he returned.

My frustrations were paltry, and we bought the thing without further drama, although it could only be delivered, not collected at extra cost, which in fairness it was, professionally and at the appointed time about five days later, during which I suffered the rigours of hand washing.

My mood was lightened later when, wearing my green uniform, I was having a well-earned break in an RBH eatery in Reading munching a steak slice when two ladies took delivery of a spectacular slice of cake. It transpired they had ordered two and I smiled saying it looked delicious.

"Would you like one?" one asked.

"Oh how kind," I offered reddening, "but no thanks."

Five minutes later, the waiter approached. "Someone has bought you a cake," he smiled. "Would you like to choose one?"

Later the same week I was 'caught short' and in urgent need in Slough. Next pick up was in Bracknell. Too far from any hospital or convenience, I pulled up outside Lidl and asked a Lidl lady, "Excuse me, but do you have a public toilet please?"

She grinned. "We don't, but we do for you. Follow me," and I was led to staff sanctuary.

Relieved and washed, I picked up a lovely prawn sandwich as lunch would be some way off, but my heart sank as I saw the pre-Christmas queue. I had no time, but hunger dragged me to the back.

"You must go to the front," the next in line ushered, and so I was pressed down to the front where the man at the checkout said, "Go ahead Mate. I'm buying that!"

I struggled to decline but did successfully.

People are wonderful, but especially if you're wearing a green uniform. Everyone should for a year. It restores your faith.

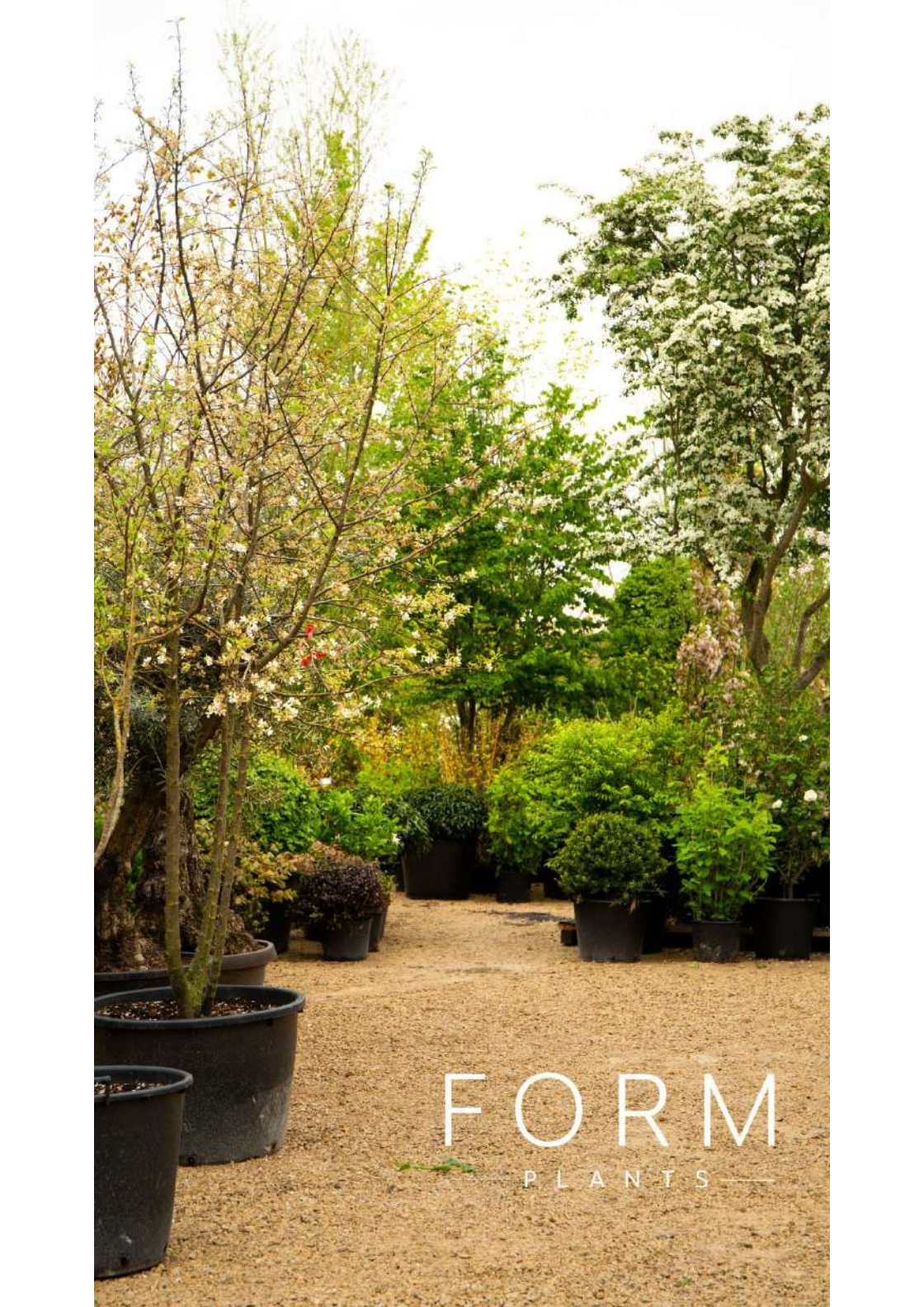
Janet Gillard is the [bell-ringing] tower captain at St James in Dorney. She was also the school crossing lady at Eton Porny School from 13.12.1982 to 16.12.2022. Forty years protecting our children (mine included) is quite remarkable and I for one, as you do, humbly offer our most grateful thanks.

Thanks Janet.

A very happy and healthy 2023 to my reader, with a desperate hope that it turns out better than 2022.

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey



FORM
PLANTS —



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 17th January 2023, 7.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Euan MacLennan Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford
Cllr. Robert Stopford Cllr. Stephen Baker Cllr. William Voaden
Clerk Ruth Senior and 4 members of the public

Public Forum

Mrs Barnard (representing Dorney School) thanked the Parish Council for their help in getting the potholes filled in the entrance to the Village Hall car park, this has made parent parking much easier. Mrs Barnard also spoke about the school reaching out to local groups in the area who may be interested in working with the school on projects.

Peter Bowman (resident and Dorney Parish News Editor) raised concerns about the amount of construction traffic on Harcourt Road for the various developments. The verges and trees are being damaged, **it was agreed** that the Clerk will investigate the responsibility of putting this right.

PC/01/23 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Anna Palmer

PC/02/23 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

None disclosed

PC/03/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2022

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

PC/04/23 To receive the Clerk report

No update from the Clerk.

PC/05/23 Items of business carried forward

05.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

County Cllr. Sandy has written to County Council regarding the lack of progress on clearing the site considering similar problem sites in the north of the county have been successfully dealt with very recently.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will also write to County to express concerns and disappointment that we are still in the same position with the site. It was also noted that Burnham Parish Council have written in the same vein.

It was agreed that Cllr. Dax will communicate with Taplow Parish Council to ask for their support due to their close proximity.

05.2 M4 Digital Motorway

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Balfour Beatty and other Smart Motorway contacts for information on when the last parts of the project will be completed, especially around the entrance

to the Village Hall and how the project will be signed off with us, also to request information on who to contact for future problems i.e. planting.

05.3 The Neighbourhood Plan

Local resident Mark Brand has joined the Neighbourhood Plan working group which is very much appreciated and is helping to develop a Village Design Scheme to be submitted to county.

It was agreed that the Dorney Parish Council website will be kept up to date with all Neighbourhood Plan developments.

The next part of the project will be to design and distribute an information/guidance leaflet to residents about the plan.

It was agreed that Cllr. Voaden will investigate costings for the plan.

05.4 The Emergency Plan

Local businesses and other contacts have been asked for their willingness for inclusion in the emergency plan.

It was agreed that we should add a provision for wild fires in the plan.

05.5 Playground

There was nothing to report on from the Playground charity. **It was agreed** this item will be removed from the agenda and only added as an item when needed.

PC/06/23 Planning

Eton have submitted slight changes to the planning applications at Boveney Court Farm PL/22/3562/FA and PL/22/3563/HB and some issues have been raised on these changes and **it was agreed** that Dorney Parish Council support the concerns and will make additional comment submissions.

It was noted that should any objections or comments be made, they should be made on both applications.

The Parish Council will have the opportunity to put forward any views when this goes to the Planning Committee and will endeavour to send a representative.

Planning has been granted for the demolition of the garages on Harcourt Close however no further development plans have been granted.

PC/07/23 Finance

07.1 The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

07.2 The Finance Committee Meeting took place prior to this meeting (17th Jan 2023), a Precept of £25000 was agreed which is the same as last year. In a year when everything is increasing for residents, the Parish Council element of Council Tax will not change due to the diligent management of the budget and having sufficient reserves to fund any unexpected costs.

It was agreed that the Clerk will notify Buckinghamshire Council.

PC/08/23 To discuss gulley cleaning

Following an email from Councillor Joy Morrissey in December 2022 stating that over two thirds of gullies in Buckinghamshire have been cleaned and repaired, **it was agreed** that Cllr. Dax will complete a survey of Dorney gullies in conjunction with RJC Landscapes as we don't believe these to have been included.

PC/09/23 To review/consider changes to the grounds maintenance contract

Cllr. Dax and the Clerk met with RJC Landscapes before Christmas and thanked them on behalf of the Parish Council for the smooth take over of the grounds work contract. **It was agreed** that should the need arise, one off clean/tidy jobs would be undertaken.

PC/10/23 To discuss Lake End Road and Court Lane resurfacing

All Councillors agreed the roads throughout the parish are in a dreadful state and despite the assurance that Court Lane and Lake End Road would be resurfaced after the M4 works, there has been no commitment from Highways to carry out this work. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will continue to chase this.

It was agreed that Cllr. Dax will produce a full report of the roads and potholes for submission to County and Highways.

The Parish Council stressed the need for all residents to report every pothole through the FIX MY STREET app as this is not currently being done and the more we get reported, the better chance that we will get the desired response.

PC/11/23 To receive an update on the Slough Treatment Works development

We have not had an official update, the last report stated that a redesign is being considered but not available at present.

PC/12/23 To consider the renewal of SBALC membership

It was agreed that we will renew this membership at £20 for the year.

PC/13/23 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

The Clerk confirmed that investigations into the Gatehouse light continue with an onsite meeting planned between SSE and the Council contractor.

It was agreed to instruct Maydencroft to carry out the works agreed last year on the oak trees in the Memorial Garden.

We have been informed by Transport for Bucks that the works to the cattle grid will be delayed until the next financial year. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will write to Keith Dolan to express our disappointment over the wait as the work had been agreed.

It was agreed that the Clerk will include details of local groups and community events on the Parish Council website.

PC/14/23 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 21st February 2023

Please keep a close eye on the parish Council website for a possible change of venue for the February meeting.

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.



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 17th January 2023, 6.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL.

PRESENT: Finance Committee Members; Cllr. Euan MacLennan, Cllr. Robert Stopford and Cllr. Stephen Baker.
Cllr. Jill Dax and Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford.

1. **Apologies for absence** - none
2. **Declarations of interest** – Cllr. MacLennan declared his interest as a Trustee for the Dorney Village Hall charity.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022** – These were agreed with no amendments.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda** – none
5. **To review revenue and expenditure for 2022/2023** – Cllr. MacLennan presented an overview of last years budget and the expenditure against the budgeted figures.
6. **To consider the budget for 2023/2024** – Cllr. MacLennan presented the proposed budget for this year which is more settled and easier to predict now that the groundworks contract has been in place for the year and admin/staff charges do not vary by much. The new budget will leave an estimated surplus of around £2000 to cover any unexpected expenses/projects.
It was agreed that the insurance renewal will be fully investigated this year to find the best price and ensure the cover is best for the Parish Council.
It was agreed that the Clerk will provide a breakdown of Clerk salary and over time hours.
It was agreed that money will be added to the budget for the Neighbourhood Plan project and tree works.
7. **To agree a precept for the year to 31st March 2024 to recommend to the Parish Council** – The Finance Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend a precept of £25000 which is the same as last year. In a year when everything is increasing for residents, the Parish Council element of Council Tax will not change due to the diligent management of the budget and having sufficient reserves to fund any unexpected costs.
8. Any other business – none
9. Items for the next agenda - none

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Dorney Parish News

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

Advertising in Dorney Parish News

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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Emergency Contact Details

Dorney Reach (Village Hall)	Defibrillator Code	C123X
Fire, Police & Ambulance	Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action	999
Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
Crimestoppers	Anonymously report information	0800 555 111
Water Leaks	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Power Cuts	SSE Networks - Central Southern England	0800 072 7282
Gas Leaks	National Grid	0800 111 999
Reporting Pot Holes	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Fly-tipping	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Footpath Problems	www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx	
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Swan Support	24/7 local swan rescue and rehabilitation	07968 868172

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