



DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held at Dogmersfield Primary School 10th February 2014

Councillors present:

CLlr Geoff Beaven (GB)

CLlr Alastair Clark (AJC)

CLlr Graham Leach (GL)

CLERK Claire Inglis (CI)

Members of Public present:

Joan Varndell (JV)

John Varndell (JoV)

Mary Morrison (MM)

Jo Thomas (JT)

Steph Thomas (ST)

Chris Waller (CW)

Christine Smith (CS)

Chris Ward (CWa)

Inga Harding (IH)

Brian White (BW)

Jeremy Robson (JR)

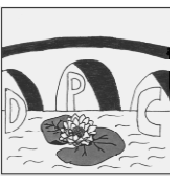
Max Fullbrook (MF)

CLlr S Gorys (SG)

Bianca Robson (BR)

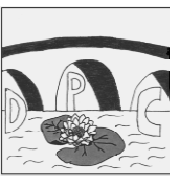
Elizabeth Waller (EW)

16/14	Agenda item 1	<p><u>Welcome & Apologies</u></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 7.30pm by Chairman who welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from CLlr Mike Ricketts (Prior commitment), CLlr Martin Hannah (Illness) and CLlr Ken Crookes.</p>	
17/14	Agenda item 2	<p><u>Declaration of interests – current agenda</u></p> <p>GL declared an interest in Agenda item 8 (Ownership and management of Common Land) as he is currently undergoing an activity to regularise his house deeds with his property boundary fence.</p>	
18/14	Agenda item 3	<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>GB highlighted certain topics that would arise on the agenda and invited the public to speak on those matters at the appropriate time:</p> <p>Residents Briefing Flooding/Sewage Footpath – 20mph limit</p> <p>CWa highlighted the erosion of the verge on Chatter Alley after the bend in the road from his property due to various vehicles parking here (Canal Authority and School mums). The verges are very churned up and a suggested solution for the future if funding permitted would be for the installation of ‘Dragon’s teeth’ (small wooden stumps). This was noted as an action.</p> <p>CW requested a follow up on the take up of email addresses following the residents briefing. This will be discussed later on agenda.</p> <p>Was there to be any action taken on hanging dead branches from trees along Chatter Alley? GB reported that some of these had been removed but some higher branches remained. There is an outstanding action for tree work to be assessed.</p> <p>CS asked whether there would be any council response to the consultation which opened last week relating to revised flight paths into Farnborough airport. GB confirmed that the council would look at the consultation and determine whether there was any impact on Dogmersfield and respond accordingly.</p>	<p>AJC</p> <p>GB</p>



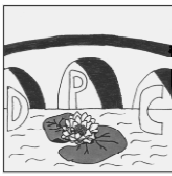
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22/14	Agenda item 7 cont'd	<p>Vortal were sent a communication which stated the Councils' position going forward outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Neighbourhood Plan would not be drawn up by DPC.• It is the intention of DPC to support Hart in delivery of its Interim Housing Delivery Strategy.• DPC would like to maintain an open dialogue with developers but any relationship will be at arm's length so as retain the opportunity and credibility to raise objections.• DPC would like to remain fully informed by developers.• DPC regretted Vortal's pursuing of a self-build strategy.• Vortal were advised of the concerns raised by residents of the proposed development.• DPC would be happy to meet with Vortal again. <p>A meeting has been arranged for 18th February for which the aim is to listen to Vortal and allow them to amend the 'miscommunication of custom build', provide information on alterations to the Fisk field proposal, their suggestions for parking solutions for the school involving further land and hear their proposals for Church Lane.</p> <p>EW inquired who determined the boundary fence to the Fisk field all those years ago. AJC confirmed this was as per land registry documents and was outlined by the Fisk trust.</p> <p>MF thanked Council for the residents briefing but sought clarification/elaboration on a couple of points which he and other residents had concerns over:</p> <p>a) Is it correct the parish council will not be involved in a residents' pressure group?</p> <p>GB responded that the a residents group will add another dimension to the planning process and using FACE-IT as an example the press coverage they achieved and impact was far greater than could be achieved by the parish council alone. GL added that any such group should have complimentary activities whilst keeping in step with the council, and taking care to avoid conflict.</p> <p>EW informed those present that Rus Slater had 26 homes signed up for interest in such a group and people should make contact with him direct if they wish to join.</p> <p>b) At the briefing it was mentioned that in some cases a councillor may not be able to comment on a planning application because it may cause a conflict of interest. I and other residents are concerned about this as the councillors were voted for to fight for our interests.</p> <p>GB commented that there were limitations to what council can achieve. Daryl Phillips of HDC has provided some general guidance. If a large scheme was seeking planning permission this would impact everyone in the village then councillors would not have a conflict of interest. The situation may arise where a small development may neighbour one or more councillors and a problem may arise in this situation.</p> <p>GL added that it will be valuable to meet with developers for them to provide information about planning proposals and determine any potential for shaping that development. It will be naive to think that no development will take place but it will have to be in-keeping, not excessive and DPC will require more vocal support from residents to achieve this.</p> <p>CWa inquired about whether there was any further information relating to the Special Protection Area 'cap' and whether it had been reached. GB responded that it has not</p>	
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22/14	Agenda item 7 cont'd	<p>been reached yet and it will be interesting to see how this progresses, as it is bound to be tested. More information will be forthcoming over the coming months about what Dogmersfield is facing.</p>	
23/14	Agenda item 8	<p><u>Environment</u></p> <p><u>Flooding</u> GB reported on actions taken since the January meeting and provided a brief overview of the main elements of communication with Thames Water since the last meeting. Please refer to APPENDIX I below.</p> <p>Matters arising from the resulting correspondence are summarised here:</p> <p>GB welcomes the proposal to sit down with Odiham and Crondall parishes to look at the issues affecting these parishes. A meeting is scheduled for February 11th. It is wise to look at the issues collaboratively with Crondall being upstream from Dogmersfield any actions taken there could be to the detriment of Dogmersfield.</p> <p>The responses from TW to the complaints from Mrs Duggleby and DPC have been unsatisfactory and there are still many issues that need to be addressed in the local system to provide solutions for all of the problems.</p> <p>SG commented that Cllr Crookes has asked for a better response from TW and explained that a 'Grampian' condition could be attached to any planning approval to force developers to address the capacity of pumping stations as part of any scheme.</p> <p>It seems likely from the TW communications that TW have not yet adopted the Four Seasons system. DPC has confirmed that the Four Seasons did not continue pumping during the power outages over the Christmas period.</p> <p>There is NO non-return valve fitted at Red Cottages as TW claim.</p> <p>Vehicles have been seen pumping out at the Chatter Alley pumping station and lifting manhole covers in the road.</p> <p>Councillors performed a walkabout at the weekend prior to the meeting to assess the ditches, manhole covers, drainage gulleys and GB will continue to follow up with TW and engage with local people to establish an action plan from TW.</p> <p><u>Ownership and management of Common land in the village</u></p> <p>This item will be deferred to the next meeting which will allow Cllr Ricketts to speak as he had requested its inclusion on the agenda.</p> <p><u>Willow tree</u></p> <p>Works to Willow tree have been booked to take place on Wednesday 19th February during half term school holidays and to be carried out by 1st Call Trees Limited. Contract includes removal of debris currently sitting under tree.</p> <p><u>Lengthsman Scheme</u></p> <p>CI confirmed that contact has been made to set up a meeting with Hampshire Highways Dean Cronk to sign the contract. GB will sign the covering letter that will accompany the contract.</p>	GB

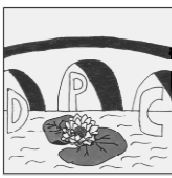


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25/14	Agenda item 10	<p><u>Other matters to report</u></p> <p>Community Liaison AJC made the public aware of further land slippage/ bank erosion along the Basingstoke Canal and confirmed it was currently closed to navigation.</p> <p>Training Chairing Skills booked for GB on 2nd July 2014.</p> <p>Website The website was updated during the month to include minutes from previous meetings.</p> <p>Newsletter None due.</p>													
26/14	Agenda item 11	<p><u>Crime and Disorder Act, section 17</u></p> <p>No matters to discuss.</p>													
27/14	Agenda item 12	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Scheduled meetings are as follows:</p> <p>2014 Provisionally March 24th, 7.30pm (This is a revised date due to Councillor availability and subject to school availability). The APA would take place on the date reserved for the April meeting – 14th April.</p> <p>2014/15 Meetings were agreed as follows: (Subject to confirmation of availability of school facility)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="336 1200 1254 1312"> <tr> <td>APA April 14th</td> <td>AGM May 12th</td> <td>June 9th</td> <td>July 14th</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>No August meeting</i></td> <td>September 8th</td> <td>October 13th</td> <td>November 10th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>December 8th</td> <td>January 12th</td> <td>February 9th</td> <td>March 9th</td> </tr> </table>	APA April 14 th	AGM May 12 th	June 9 th	July 14 th	<i>No August meeting</i>	September 8 th	October 13 th	November 10 th	December 8 th	January 12 th	February 9 th	March 9 th	CI
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28/14	Agenda item 13	<p><u>Information Sharing</u></p> <p>EW asked whether there was a potential problem of fat pumped from the pub kitchen into the drain system causing any issues. AJC reported that this had been considered in the past and was satisfied that this was not an issue. Odour monitors exist in the system at the Chatter Alley/ Church Lane junction to monitor any such issue.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.23pm.</p>													

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....



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APPENDIX I – Summary of Correspondence with TW since January meeting

16th January - Letter dispatched to Martin Baggs CEO of Thames Water Utilities (TW) recorded delivery copied to the EA and KC.

17th January - TW acknowledge receipt by phone and allocate named individual to respond from the High Level Complaints Department.

20th January KC meeting with TW takes place recorded that:
Dogmersfield Pumping Station Problem: Foul water. Pumping station failed, some houses flooded.

22nd January - Hilary Murgatroyd (Local Regional Government Liaison TW) responded to issues raised as follows:
Dogmersfield – This site suffered from hydraulic overload and there was an additional electrical failure. The pumps had been taking surface water which had got into the foul system. Again, we will need to look at how this can be addressed but there will need to be additional input from Hampshire CC with regard to surface water management. In addition, there is also an issue at Chatter Alley which you may be aware of. This is a very small pumping station which feeds into a sewage treatment works. Here, the foul system is also overwhelmed by surface water as there is no separation system and the site cannot keep up with the flows and backs up. Again we need to look at how such separation can be achieved and will need to involve Hampshire CC.

22nd January - KC suggests a 3 parish attack on the issues through a "Local Flooding Partnership" with Odiham, Crondall and Dogmersfield.

4th February - The following reproduces the GB email together with the TW response (in Red)

1. Impact of the Four Seasons Hotel – At the time of the original planning application for the new Four Seasons sewage pumping station Thames Water commented that connecting it to the existing foul system could lead to sewage flooding and that special measures were needed in order to avoid an adverse environmental impact on the community. We believe that these measures included a large holding tank so that sewage can be held back at the hotel should the existing system be unable to cope because of pump failure at the Dogmersfield pumping station. We need confirmation on three issues:

a) that the volume of effluent entering the existing foul system from Four Seasons pumping station is not the causing the current hydraulic overload. **We do not believe the overload is being caused by the Four Seasons but simply due to inundation due to wet weather. At the time we sought a planning condition and the developer funded a study and requisition. The condition was discharged based on Drainage Strategy – replacement of existing foul sewerage disposal system with new system comprising 500 m of gravity underground pipeline, pumping station and 1000 m of pumping main discharging into adopted foul sewer.**

b) that the Four Seasons pumping station did not continue to discharge into the existing foul system during the period of power loss (Four Seasons have standby power). **We would not know this because we do not hold records on the hotel's pumping station.**

c) that the Four Seasons pumping station does not continue to discharge when the existing system is overloaded due to surface water. Holding back the Four Seasons flow at such times appears to represent a relatively simple alleviation measure if it is not already in place. **Again, we do not know if these controls were added to the PS but in theory this may happen**

2. Preventing back flow into property – Currently the hydraulic overload is causing foul sewage to back flow into neighbouring properties with Red Cottages being the worst affected. This backflow is not caused directly by the river Hart which has continued to flow through the village within its channel throughout the very worst conditions. The back flow into property or emerging from associated manholes is resulting in the excess effluent either flowing directly or being pumped by residents into the river Hart. This is an unavoidable consequence until the cause of the overload is rectified. **NOTE: According to our sewer flooding history database Red Cottages have a non-return valve installed.** A key question to be answered is:



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APPENDIX I Continued – Summary of Correspondence with TW since January meeting

d) why cannot a simple overflow be installed at the Dogmersfield pumping station by Thames Water so that when the system suffers from hydraulic overload the excess effluent can discharge directly into the river Hart without back flowing into property or through manholes? The environmental impact will be no different but the benefit to the community will be immeasurable. **This is possible in theory but requires consent from the EA. TW is addressing as part of overall strategy to deal with severe weather and infiltration.**

3. Poor reaction by Thames Water – neighbouring Parishes are suffering similar problems to those experienced in Dogmersfield but it is clearly apparent that the reaction by Thames Water is quite different. A particular example is the placing of emergency standby pump-out vehicles in anticipation of adverse weather. At least two such vehicles are regularly deployed in Crondall with one connected and one in reserve. The key question to be answered is:

e) Why when there are excess emergency pump out vehicles on standby in the neighbourhood are none deployed in Dogmersfields when timely emergency pump out would prevent foul overflows entering properties and the river Hart. **In view of recent events and the impact of the adverse weather on pumping stations we will review contingencies including alarms, and emergency pumps, back-up generators at all pumping stations. We will prioritise based on risk with internal flooding episodes taking priority.**

7th February - reply to DPC letter received from TW.

Thank you for taking the time to write to Martin Baggs. Please accept my response on his behalf. I am really sorry the Residents of Dogmersfield Village were flooded by sewage. I understand how frustrating and difficult this can be. As you will be aware, the recent heavy rain has led to widespread flooding across our region. You will likely be familiar with the fact we have manholes that are a necessary feature of a sewerage system to permit access and general maintenance and are typically located in public highways, footpaths and verges. During severe weather as has recently occurred surface flooding becomes a problem, and if the locations of flooding coincide with our manholes, surface water can infiltrate into the sewerage system.

Our sewers can normally cope with a small amount of surface water getting into them. They are unable to manage the larger additional flows, as has occurred recently. When this happens the sewer becomes surcharged, can overflow and cause flooding. We know this is horrible and distressing for those people whose homes are affected, we do our best to assist where we can when this happens.

We will be looking into the flooding mechanism and also possible root causes to better understand the situation in the Dogmersfield catchment. So far, we identified a problem with groundwater getting into our sewer pipes, known as infiltration and also surface water entering our foul sewer. Foul sewers are not designed to carry surface water and are also not capable of being 100% water-tight. This additional water puts both our network and also pumping stations under significant pressure. Therefore, during heavy rain these can't cope with the amount of water in the system which means that the pumps sometimes fail, leading to flooding.

We are very much aware of the issues being faced by our customers and are working closely with the Environment Agency and local authorities to monitor known hot spots and minimise the impact of flooding as best we can.

While sewer flooding is unpleasant it carries virtually no risk to public health. The wastewater from our network is heavily diluted with rain and flood water, we are constantly monitoring the water quality.

I advise that every time our customer's experience flooding to call our Customer Contact Centre on **0845 9200 800**. We will then come out and investigate which will help us to build up a bigger picture. Any information provided that relates to sewer flooding will be entered into our Sewer Flooding History Database. This tool is used to understand the extent, nature, and frequency of flooding, which is used to prioritise investigations or investment in the future. Our funding is regulated into a five yearly investment periods. We are currently preparing our plans for the next regulatory period, of 2015 – 2020. Key factors taken into account in our ongoing prioritisation process to tackle flooding are the severity of flooding, the likelihood of further flooding, and the unit cost per property to resolve flooding.

If you need to contact us again regarding this matter, please telephone me on **08456 410016**. Our offices are open between the hours of 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. If I am unavailable when you call then you can either leave a message for me or one of my colleagues will be pleased to assist.