

DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held at Dogmersfield Primary School 12th January 2015

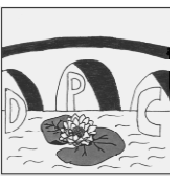
Councillors present:

Cllr Geoff Beaven (GB)
Cllr Alastair Clark (AJC)
Cllr Mike Ricketts (MR)
Cllr Graham Leach (GL)
CLERK Claire Inglis (CI)

Members of Public present:

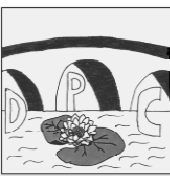
Mary Morrison (MM) Jo Thomas (JT) Steph Thomas (ST)
Elizabeth Waller (EW) Chris Waller (CW) Jeremy Robson (JR)
Bianca Robson (BR) Carol Leversha (CLe) Brian White (BW)
Christine Smith (CS) Christine Lowe (CLo) Cllr Ken Crookes (KC)

01/15	Agenda item 1	<p><u>Welcome & Apologies</u></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 7.30pm by Chairman who welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Parish Council in 2015.</p> <p>In addition apologies were received from District Cllrs Stephen Gorys and John Kennett, and County Cllr Jonathan Glen and Chris Ward.</p>	
02/15	Agenda item 2	<p><u>Declaration of interests – current agenda</u></p> <p>None received</p>	
03/15	Agenda item 3	<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>GB opened the Public Participation session with the following news:</p> <p><u>Martin Hannah</u> “Unfortunately I have to open with the sad news of the untimely death of Councillor Martin Hannah who passed away at Frimley Park Hospital last Wednesday evening.” Martin volunteered to join the Parish Council in 2012 at a time when the Parish Council was finding it difficult to recruit new members. He was not a natural Councillor although whatever he said or did Martin always had the interests of the Dogmersfield community at heart. He was less active over recent months and although it was obvious that he was not well he never complained or explained the extent of his illness. On behalf of the Parish Council I have already written to his family and relatives offering the condolences of all the members of the Parish Council at this difficult time. Now is not an appropriate time to discuss the mechanism for filling a Councillor vacancy but the council, at a time it feels appropriate will commence the process and follow the rules that govern such a matter.</p> <p>GB continued by updating the public present on progress on recent matters:</p> <p><u>Development in Dogmersfield</u> At the last meeting it was reported that Hazeley Developments had submitted an application for pre application advice for the Chatter Alley site. The meeting with Hart DC took place on Thursday 11th December with the Parish Council in attendance. The Parish Council’s notes of this meeting are on our website. Please note that the summary of the meeting was prepared by our clerk and is not a record of the formal Hart DC response which should be provided in writing. However, nothing further is currently</p>	



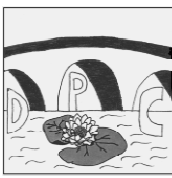
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<p>03/15</p>	<p>Agenda item 3 cont'd</p>	<p>available on the Hart DC website.</p> <p>In essence the notes record that the Hart DC planning officer expressed a number of concerns about the proposed development particularly the urbanising effect on the character of the settlement due to the closing of the rural gap in Chatter Alley, concern also about the bulk of the proposed dwellings which appeared to be of two rooms depth rather than the single room depth of most of the existing houses and the adverse impact on parking for the school. However, development of this area was not ruled out. Subsequent correspondence from Vortal indicated that they found the meeting unsatisfactory due to the negative stance taken by the planning officer from the outset. Vortal commented that Hazeley do wish to proceed on a three unit basis but this is predicated on this not being an adversarial application with Hart. It was further implied that should the application go to appeal the inspector would require more houses to be built on the site.</p> <p>We are expecting revised plans from Hazeley that in some way take more account of parking for the school and we still anticipate that there will be a public exhibition before a formal application is submitted. It is not clear what this will represent in terms of the parking situation. Nothing further has been heard on the Church Lane development.</p> <p><u>Water in Gas Mains</u></p> <p>About 12 months ago GB reminded those present that he had written to Southern Gas Networks (SGN) complaining about the problems caused by water in the gas mains. Much has happened since then, however, just before Christmas GB received a call and follow up letter from Peter Greenwood who is the Engineering Manager for the area. He confirmed that after they closed off the redundant mains they had continued to monitor water levels at several strategic syphon points and have subsequently found no water in the system.</p> <p>SGN consequently wish to close off the original complaint and has asked if DPC would be happy to confirm that we are satisfied with what has been done. They have also confirmed that the complaint will be reopened should there be any reoccurrence and has provided his personal number as a contact.</p> <p>Although there is no positive evidence that the problem has been resolved DPC intend to accept that the complaint can be closed off. However please contact GB or any other Councillor as soon as there is any indication that the problems have returned and we will ensure that SGN act quickly and thoroughly.</p> <p>EW commented that they had experienced a variance in the gas supply but had not lost service requiring a call-out.</p> <p>GB asked if there were any other matters that residents present wished to raise at this time:</p> <p>CLe asked whether the Highways department could attend to a pot-hole by Victory Cottages as this is causing a problem for the resident and whether the payback team could attend to the footpath leading to Hungerford Farm which is becoming overgrown with bramble. The planned seasonal cut by HCC in September is considered too late as the pathway becomes too overgrown.</p> <p>AJC confirmed that he is still trying to arrange a meeting with the Highways department to discuss the issues that are outstanding to be resolved and will add the pothole to this list. GB confirmed that following this meeting, DPC are due to meet with the Community Payback representative to decide on future works and to enable them to be risk assessed by the payback supervisor to ensure that they can be performed.</p>	
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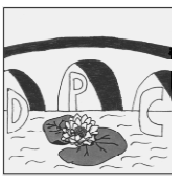
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03/15	Agenda item 3 cont'd	<p>Upon arrival of District Councillor Ken Crookes, GB asked in light of KC making his position clear on the planning status can he advise the current position and whether there is anything that DPC should be doing at this time:</p> <p>KC confirmed that he is still a member of the Hart Cabinet but stood down as Leader of the Council following the Council's decision to "test" Winchfield for a new town settlement.</p> <p>The exercise to test Winchfield has begun, the first phase involving establishing whether the land that was shown as being available for development in Winchfield is actually available. Other large site availability is also being assessed such as Lodge Farm, Pale Lane, Grove Farm and Pilcot Farm amongst others. A report will be presented to cabinet in March.</p> <p>The second phase will look at deliverability and assess the impact on neighbouring parishes and all others potentially impacted. This will take place from March onwards to result in a thorough testing of the options.</p> <p>GB asked whether funding of such a large scheme would be forthcoming in the form of a grant such as seen to enable development of Bicester which saw a £108m grant. KC confirmed that cost of such a scheme would be a factor and whilst it is premature to assume a grant or CIL funding, external funding would have to be significant to implement the required infrastructure.</p> <p>GB considered that a Local plan that wasn't fully funded would not be credible.</p> <p>AJC asked whether Councillors are deciding whether this Option is viable or is this in the hands of inspectors. KC was able to confirm that infrastructure was loaded into the plan and the question would fall on the affordability of it.</p> <p>GB asked whether KC could confirm that there is a five year land supply as there has been a recent appeal ruling which reversed a refusal of planning permission at Redfields because there is not a five year supply. KC confirmed that Daryl Phillips and Steven Parker are confident that a five year supply exists.</p> <p>EW raised a question about the validity of creating a Neighbourhood plan. GB said that there is a lot of argument to say not to bother but this is the main reason that he and GL are attending a Planning training course to explore this further. KC confirmed that Winchfield have received a £7,000 grant to get started on their Neighbourhood plan.</p>	
04/15	Agenda item 4	<p><u>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2014</u></p> <p>It was resolved that the minutes (133/14 to 145/14) be accepted as a true record and they were signed by GB. (GL proposed, AJC seconded and all were in favour).</p>	
05/15	Agenda item 5	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2014</u></p> <p>The outstanding action list was considered at this time with many items due for consideration as an agenda item below.</p> <p>Other actions outstanding or completed are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath requiring repair has been located and discussed. A decision now needs to be taken as to what action is required and how this will be carried out. • On-line banking access is now operational. • CIL consultation response was submitted to HDC. 	GB/GL



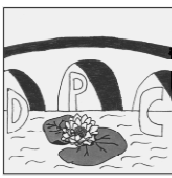
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05/15	Agenda item 5 cont'd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed monitoring scheme is still under consideration. Highways department have liaised with AJC on the Dragon's teeth in Chatter Alley and only voice concern that the work is carried out by someone licenced to work on the highways and carries adequate insurance. A stock of wood is due into the depot which could be used for this purpose so AJC to continue to work with them to complete this task. Work continues to unblock culverts to improve drainage around the village. Payback team dates have been agreed. Highways department have promised to have a walkabout the village. AJC to chase for date. HCC and the Diocese have been contacted again by the school to arrange a meeting to discuss the Car park situation in the village. Planning training is booked for the 13th January for GB and GL. AJC has cross referenced the Electoral register with the house list; this is now to be compared with the current email list in time for delivery of the newsletter. 2015/16 Meeting dates have been scheduled. AJC to continue discussions with Brian Leversha regarding Neighbourhood Watch scheme signage. 	<p>ALL AJC GB AJC AJC/CI AJC</p>
06/15	Agenda Item 6	<p><u>Finance and Regulatory Matters</u></p> <p><u>To receive and approve the financial statement of account and payments in period from 1st to 31st December</u></p> <p>CI reported that the Bank balance at end of December stood at 8,358.37 and this has been agreed by AJC and signed. The increase in balance in the month is due to the receipt of the 2014/15 Lengthsman funding of £1,000. DPC may no longer require an external audit due to new regulations which CI will seek to confirm. This may necessitate a Finance page on the website to enable access to the Parish Council finances.</p> <p>December payments made were confirmed as follows: Chq no: 896 £75 Community Payback Team October 14 visit Chq no: 897 £387 Clerk December salary Chq no: 898 £30 Peter Barton Electrical safety certificate</p> <p>CI confirmed that Online access for banking with Lloyds is now operational.</p> <p>It was resolved that the statement of accounts be accepted as a true record and payments listed therein be confirmed (GB proposed, MR seconded and all were in favour).</p> <p>Payments requested for authorisation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2015 Clerk Salary payment £387.00 due 20th of the month Community Payback Team £75 for January 9th visit HDC Planning Training for 2 councillors £156 <p>It was resolved to authorise payments to be settled as listed upon receipt of relevant paperwork (invoice or expense claim) (AJC proposed, GB seconded and all were in favour).</p> <p>GB sought clarification on the amount committed under Village maintenance of £375. CI confirmed that this relates to the approval of 5 Community payback team visits which are</p>	<p>CI</p>



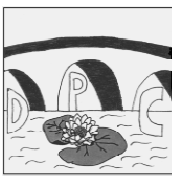
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06/15	Agenda Item 6 cont'd	<p>yet to take place (February and March) or have taken place and are yet to be invoiced (November, December, January visits to be invoiced). CI requires a virement to be made relating to Lengthsman expenditure during the year and will bring this to the February meeting.</p> <p><u>To approve the outcome of the Pay review process for Clerk</u></p> <p>GB explained that the employment contract of the Parish Council with the clerk provides for an annual salary review. Any revised salary will be payable from 1st April 2015 and it is now timely to approve this in order that it be reflected in the 2015/16 budget. The 2014 review was carried out by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and other Councillors have endorsed the findings. Factors including public sector pay increase norms, inflation, whether the reward is in line with duties and local pay levels for similar work in the area were taken into account and a conclusion reached. The Clerk salary will be increased by £10 per month from 1st April which reflects a 2.7% increase. Councillors are in agreement and the findings have been agreed by CI.</p> <p>It was resolved that following the Annual review it be agreed to increase the Clerk salary from £4,644 to £4,764 per annum which includes an unchanged expense payment of £228 per annum (GB proposed, AJC seconded and all were in favour).</p> <p><u>To note the changes, confirm and approve the Budget proposal for 2015/16 following the Annual Pay Review for Clerk</u></p> <p>Having approved the expenditure budget in December and following the pay review of the Clerk the additional £120 pay increase per annum has been reflected in the expenditure budget by decreasing the Election contingency by £100 and Admin Consumables by £20 thereby maintaining an expenditure budget of £12,500 in total.</p> <p>GB commented that the current level of expenditure budgeted is unsustainable unless the Precept is increased in future years or the parish council carry out less maintenance in future years. This topic will be included for discussion at the APA.</p> <p>It was agreed to accept the Budget proposal for 2015/16 following the Annual Pay review of Clerk which affected Election Contingency by £100 and Admin Consumables by £20 but retaining Internal Operations at £8,250 and overall expenditure at £12,500 (GB proposed, GL seconded and all were in favour).</p> <p><u>To confirm and approve the Precept request for 2015/16 for submission by the Clerk</u></p> <p>AJC explained that the aim was to set the Precept this year to reflect a nil percentage increase/decrease on individual council tax bills. To achieve this AJC performed a calculation which takes into account the number of dwellings and related this to the Band D dwelling calculation. The calculation results in setting the precept at £7,481 to the nearest pound, in addition to this the parish will receive a supporting grant of £56.84.</p> <p>It was resolved that the Annual Precept be set at £7,481 excluding the supporting grant of £56.84 (Total income budget of £7,537.84) (AJC proposed, GB seconded and all were in favour).</p> <p><u>To confirm Clerk to seek insurance quotes for Annual Insurance renewal</u></p> <p>CI asked if GB was still content for the Clerk to seek a market check on the Annual Parish Insurance quote to ensure that we are receiving a competitive rate. GB confirmed that this is appropriate action to take this year.</p>	<p>CI</p> <p>CI</p> <p>CI</p> <p>CI</p>
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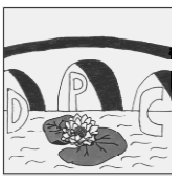
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06/15	Agenda Item 6 cont'd	<p><u>To agree meeting dates as proposed by Clerk for 2015/16</u> Meeting dates have been circulated which set the DPC meetings on the 2nd Monday of every month. The only date for consideration not to follow this pattern is the APA which would fall in the Easter holidays and therefore 20th April has been suggested for this meeting. GB agreed that a greater attendance may be achieved which will be important as there will be many important topics to consult public opinion on. CLo requested that dates of meeting be notified as soon as possible to residents.</p>
07/15	Agenda item 7	<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p><u>Report on current planning applications and confirmation of Parish Council responses</u></p> <p>The following applications were discussed and decisions noted where applicable: GB commented on a recent lull in applications Knights Close – GB commented that to his knowledge this has been approved but this is not showing on the HDC website. Netherhouse Copse – Not yet gone to committee and KC confirmed that there was no date yet. Bowling Alley extension to Gypsy site – GB commented that to his knowledge this has also been approved but again this is not showing on the HDC website. Rose Court, Rye Common Lane - This application has been withdrawn for which the reasons are unknown. Ye Old Boat House – Permission has been granted for a two-storey extension. Notification was not received by DPC on this application and missed however there did not appear to be anything contentious about the application. It did not defer too far from the PREAPP that DPC decided on a nil response. Chatter Alley PREAPP - Have spoken on this under agenda item 3. Acorns – Extension is going ahead.</p> <p><u>To report on Pre-Application meeting of 11th December on Chatter Alley development proposals</u> This was reported on under agenda item 3.</p>
08/15	Agenda item 8	<p><u>Environment & Rights of Way</u></p> <p><u>To report on progress from current month visit by Community Payback Team and agree task list for future visits to be agreed at meeting with Paula Robertson on 13th January</u> GB reported that the most recent visit was low on numbers but the team that came worked hard. The team continued to focus on the rear ditch along Chatter Alley. They have achieved a good flow of water along the ditch now and the work will continue upstream to re-establish the flow back to the River Hart.</p> <p>At the meeting with Paula Robertson, due on 13th January GB would raise the matter regarding the low attendance numbers and the possible free visit that was offered. Various jobs would be discussed to enable them to be risk assessed by Paula Robertson.</p> <p><u>To receive an update on suggested proposal for improvement to green space on Pilcot Green North.</u> GB opened by stating that the intention is to manage Pilcot Green North better from a point of view of improving wildlife. At this time of year it becomes quite evident the extent of damage being caused by the invasive species Himalayan Balsam. This is having a significant adverse impact on the natural species effectively killing them off. There are other aspects such as in-filling the gap in the hedge but that the project is being prepared</p>



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08/15	Agenda item 8 cont'd	<p>for presentation to the residents to consult on prior to any decisions being made on the way forward.</p> <p>GL continued by confirming that there is no intention to create an overflow area from the pub garden. The key is to ensure that the drainage through the area works and flows into the River Hart. There has been some cutback of undergrowth in the area which has improved this but there are still issues to resolve. The need is to eradicate the Balsam so that the river does not spread the problem downstream. It is proposed that the work will be carried out with minimum spend utilising a self-help approach and the payback team. Currently it is not worthwhile re-establishing the hedge as there are drainage problems that need to be resolved and the assistance of highways department. Gulleys in front of the pub need to be unblocked to improve flow into established ditches rather than surface water sitting on the roads which would hinder a new hedge growth. An entrance could potentially be established at the rear of the area to enable future maintenance and access for locals to enjoy the natural flora and fauna as it gets a chance to regrow. This is another potential topic for proposal at the Annual Parish Assembly in April.</p> <p>GB also expressed the thanks of DPC to Mr & Mrs Pecorelli who met the cost of the recent tree maintenance to the Willow tree on Pilcot Green North after the top had blown out during a recent storm. A letter of thanks will be delivered to them on behalf of the parish council.</p>	GL
09/15	Agenda item 9	<p><u>Highways</u></p> <p><u>To report any updates on Highways matters</u></p> <p>AJC was pleased to report on the completion of two items from the list of outstanding Highway items:</p> <p>New Church Lane sign now sited near the noticeboard on Pilcot Green South.</p> <p>Completion of the improved sightlines at the A287 junction with Chalky Lane and footpath clearance at the same site.</p> <p>It is hoped that the issue relating to Dragon's Teeth on Chatter Alley is finalised and then works carried out. The walkabout with highways representatives is considered high priority to get some commitment of work from the department; namely, Chatter Alley kerb grips rectification to allow water to flow into the newly recovered ditches; for all road gulleys (43 in total) to be cleared and not on a crisis management basis especially the constant flooding by Myll Mead Cottages and the Queens Head. Apparently it costs £1,700 to hire jetting equipment and the highways department need to ensure they have enough work for a day. It was noted that there may be some rotten posts on the Green by the pub. It is believed that this is the work that was carried out in the Summer but the Green would be checked to ensure that there are no further issues. A chicane post also needs resetting along Chatter Alley.</p> <p>AJC confirmed that he was awaiting news on the outcome of the consultation on the success or otherwise of the trial 20mph speed limits in Fleet before determining whether this was available to instigate in the village. CLe asked whether the residents would be consulted on this as it would mean considerably more signage in the village. This was suggested as an item for the annual parish assembly.</p> <p><u>To discuss car parking at school</u></p> <p>CI is aware that Mrs Melbourne, Chair of Governors and Miss Wall, Headteacher are still trying to secure a representative from the Diocese and HCC for a meeting on the matter of car parking. GB confirmed that this is proving difficult and that a meeting would go ahead without them if this is not achieved soon.</p>	<p>CI AJC</p> <p>GB</p>



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10/15	Agenda item 10	<p><u>Other matters to report</u></p> <p>Community Liaison – CI spoke of a request received via email relating to a historical enquiry, and requested that if anyone knew of any residents that may be able to help or interested in liaising directly with the individual then please let the clerk have their details to pass on.</p> <p>Training – GB and GL to attend a Planning training course on January 13th.</p> <p>Website – CI spoke of small council no longer requiring an external audit. This would however require certain documents to be available to the public and therefore more consideration to a dedicated Finance page within the website will be looked at by AJC and CI in due course.</p> <p>Newsletter – MR requested confirmation from all that they were content with the expected contributions to the newsletter. MR further requested that if initial content could be submitted as soon as possible and by the February 9th deadline for first draft. Final drafts required by February 16th.</p>	<p>CI/AJC</p> <p>ALL</p>			
11/15	Agenda item 11	<p><u>Crime and Disorder Act, section 17</u></p> <p>No matters to discuss.</p>				
12/15	Agenda item 12	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p><u>2014/15</u> Meetings are scheduled as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 1220 1171 1294"> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1220 557 1294">February 9th</td> <td data-bbox="561 1220 812 1294">March 9th</td> <td data-bbox="817 1220 1171 1294">2015/16 confirmed and available via the website</td> </tr> </table>	February 9 th	March 9 th	2015/16 confirmed and available via the website	
February 9 th	March 9 th	2015/16 confirmed and available via the website				
13/15	Agenda item 13	<p><u>Information Sharing</u></p> <p>GB asked about the Clerk printer and if the need for a replacement was particularly urgent. CI confirmed that at the moment the current printer in use is satisfactory.</p> <p>CLe requested that DPC look into the Taxishare service on behalf of residents after the loss of the bus service from the A287. It may enable residents to get into Fleet. CI would contact Councillor J Radley to request information.</p> <p>On mention of the bin collection service driving on the verges and churning them up Cllr Crookes suggested GB contact Patricia Hughes at HDC to report the issue.</p>	<p>CI</p> <p>GB</p>			

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....