



# DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes and Reports of the Annual Parish Assembly Held at Dogmersfield Primary School 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014

### Councillors present:

Cllr Geoff Beaven (GB)	Cllr Graham Leach (GL)	Cllr Martin Hannah (MH)
Cllr Alastair Clark (AJC)	Cllr Martin Hannah (MH)	Clerk Claire Inglis (CI)

### Members of Public present and denoted initials used in the minutes below.

M Morrison ( <b>MM</b> )	Mrs F Everett	Mrs P Pecorelli
Mrs Y Beaven	Mr D Everett ( <b>DE</b> )	Ms F Shipp ( <b>FS</b> )
Mr C Ward ( <b>CWa</b> )	Miss Everett	Mr C Waller
Mr B White	Mstr Everett	Cllr J Glen
Mr J Allaway	Mrs S Harmer	Mr G Stephenson
Mrs C Lowe ( <b>CLo</b> )	Mrs C McFall	Mr T Hannah
Cllr S Gorys ( <b>SG</b> )	Mr G McFall	Mr M Fullbrook
Mr R Lister ( <b>RL</b> )	Mrs C Smith	Mrs E Waller
Mrs F Lister		

44/14	<p><b><u>Welcome &amp; Apologies</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 7.40pm by Chairman who welcomed everyone. Following a safety briefing apologies were received from Miss Wall, Mrs Melbourne, Cllr Ken Crookes, Mrs I Harding, Mrs C Leversha, Mr &amp; Mrs Robson, Mr &amp; Mrs Whitehead, Rev. M Tanner and PC Paul Franks.</p>
45/14	<p><b><u>Chairmans Report</u></b></p> <p>GB welcomed questions at the end of the meeting which would provide an open forum for residents to comment, ask questions and provide feedback. GB continued;</p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>At this point it is normal for the Chair of the council to provide a blow by blow account of what has happened over the last 12 months. Hopefully you will be relieved that I am not going to relive what has been a difficult and disrupted year. I would like to start by thanking Susan Wall and the School Governors for allowing us to use the School for our regular meetings and the Hall for the Annual Parish Assembly this evening. I will briefly introduce the Council members.</p> <p>Firstly to introduce the new members we have Mike Ricketts who is in reality a returning Councillor having served on the council 2002 – 2009. Next is Graham Leach who is completely new to the work of a parish council but I am sure his military background will have prepared him well for the role. Alastair Clark has been councillor for longer than most of us can remember.</p> <p>Next we have Martin Hannah who needs no introduction</p> <p>Last but far from least is Claire Inglis our Parish Clerk and also the Responsible Finance Officer. The roles of each Councillor are set out on the Parish Council website.</p> <p>The APA is all about communicating with you the residents which means listening as well as talking.</p>



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Although we will start with some reports we have set aside plenty of time after these are completed for you to comment on for example:

What you would like the Council to be doing better,  
What you would like us to be doing that is not being done,  
and hopefully what we have done to your satisfaction.

To stimulate your thoughts I intend now to highlight the key issues affecting the parish, what we have achieved so far and how we intend to move forward over the coming months.

I will do this under three main headings which I will call planning, infrastructure and environment.

## Finance

However, before doing so I don't think that I can get away without mentioning the Council's finances. I can report that expenditure during the just ended financial year exceeded income by about £1200: or 15%.

However we budgeted to exceed income by much more than this and the Council is still in the black and our finances are under control.

Our end year accounts are fully audited in May and June and published for your scrutiny during June before being formally closed.

The Council has set its budget for the coming year and I am pleased to report that the level of Parish Council precept will remain unchanged.

## Planning

Firstly to clear off the statistics there have been 22 planning applications from within the parish during the past 12 months. Many of these were technicalities associated with existing approvals, duplicate applications or applications for advice etc.

The only significant applications were for the forge at Towpath Cottage, an extension to the unnamed new house next to Red Cottages, the conversion of stables into a dwelling opposite Ormersfield Lodge and a replacement for the existing house at the Bee Farm in Coxmoor. These were all approved. Many of you will have attended the development briefing that we held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at which I described in some detail

- the planning environment resulting from the lack of Hart Local Plan,
- the threat to the character of Dogmersfield highlighted by the publication of the SHLAA, and
- our dealings with a development company called Vortal Properties who are representing some of the landowners.

I am not going to rerun all the points made in January but I will bring you up to date on what has happened since then. I understand that our district Councillors will report progress on the new Hart Local plan.

You will recall that all parts of Hart could be very vulnerable in the absence of a Local Plan but we have been advised that some protection would be afforded by a cap on the number of houses that can be built within 5Km of the Special Protection Area (SPA). As far as I am aware the cap figure has not yet been reached and also there is no firm evidence to show whether or not the cap will prove to be a ceiling figure.

What is happening is a big push by developers to get new schemes approved which include several that did not feature in the withdrawn Hart Local Plan. Hook, Odiham and Crookham Village/Church Crookham are the parishes most affected. This is causing a lot of concern among the residents in these parishes and some of us recently attended a public meeting in Hook where residents confronted local MPs and left them in no doubt about the strength of local feeling about what appears to be unstoppable development. This meeting was attended by James Arbuthnot (our MP) and Maria Miller who is MP for Basingstoke and Deane and was a Cabinet minister at the time. James offered to invite the planning minister Nick Boles to come to Hook to defend his planning policies and if he does comes this will be one for all of us to attend.

At the January briefing we explained that we had met with Vortal and we provided a plan of their proposals for 4 dwellings in the area known to most of us as the Fisk field. After the briefing we wrote



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to Vortal setting out the Council's position on a number of matters they had raised with us and we also passed on your feedback on the Fisk field scheme.

We subsequently met Vortal again and discussed their refinements for the Fisk field scheme and also their ideas for development in Church Lane and for a much bigger scheme covering most of the land currently identified on the SHLAA. Most of these ideas were in the form of schematics to illustrate principles; they were not serious plans and in some cases had not been discussed with the relevant landowners. Quite rightly Vortal were not happy for us to circulate these schematics and they withdrew them after the meeting. The Council has been fully transparent over its dealings with Vortal and the minutes of our meetings are available on our website.

To bring you right up to date within the past few days Vortal have submitted a formal request to Hart DC for pre-application advice on a potential proposal for a single new house on one of the four smaller SHLAA sites in Church Lane.

Pre-application advice requests in their current form are relatively new and there are still some teething problems regarding how the Parish Council's views might be fed into the process (if at all). To give Vortal credit they have asked for the Dogmersfield Parish Council to be fully involved in Hart's deliberations on their request for advice. The reason this is important is that the area of the plot in Church Lane is such that Hart policies on housing density may lead them to conclude that it is too big for a single house and that more houses must be provided. The Council believe that we should be involved at least to find out what is going on. However, this does not mean that the Council has reached any decision on whether or not it will oppose or not object to a planning application should one come forward.

For those who want more information on Vortal's pre-application advice request there is a hand-out which provides the Hart website reference and a layout plan reproduced from the Hart website.

To wind up on planning matters just to say that the Council welcomes the formation of the Dogmersfield residents' group. We are already working to establish a positive relationship with DRAGON and we have invited them to say a few words this evening.

DE asked if questions could be posed at this time relating to planning as this seems a pertinent time. DE voiced his anger and concern over the planning situation and believed that the planning system at HDC was out of control. Whilst this pre-application applies to a single property with the land identified in the SHLAA this could be development by stealth. GB reiterated that more time would be made available at the end of the reports for comment and discussion.

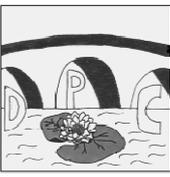
## Infrastructure

In this section I will cover the sewers, gas and electricity. Ditches will be covered in the environment section. You may recall that at last year's APA there was much time spent on the problems with nasty smells coming out of the sewers in Church Lane. Hopefully I am not tempting fate in saying that the causes of this problem have been addressed and certainly I am not aware of any significant reoccurrence since the permanent dosing system was commissioned.

Our focus has now moved on to the problems experienced during this winter's extreme weather when the sewers overflowed in both Chatter Alley and in Pilcot Road with Red Cottages being most badly affected. I can't think of anything worse than finding your house flooded with raw sewage and the Council is doing our very best to ensure this doesn't happen again.

There have been numerous letters of complaint to Thames Water but we are not alone in having sewer problems and a much more effective activity has been Ken Crookes' initiative to set up what is called the Parish Flood Forum. This brings together the parish councils from Crondall, Odiham and Dogmersfield with representatives from Thames Water, the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council as Cllr Crookes recognised that co-ordinated action is needed from more than one organisation to solve the problems. Although the Forum has only met once, I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made already.

Without going into too much detail about the pipe work beneath our feet just to say that there are two separate systems in Dogmersfield requiring slightly different solutions. However in bad weather both systems are being overwhelmed by surface water getting into the system somewhere.



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There are a variety of reasons why this may be happening such as broken pipes particularly with the older system in Chatter Alley. However, more likely is that water is getting in through manholes that are submerged by floods or that some properties are inadvertently channelling their surface water directly into the sewers.

I am pleased to report that tomorrow – the 15<sup>th</sup> – a Thames Water contractor called DeneTech will start what is called a full impermeability study of the houses and the school that are connected to the Chatter Alley system. We have been given a plan that shows the extent of the study which will stretch from Bridge House to Rushy House and the cricket pavilion to the Red House and Old Boat House. The Engineers won't need internal access to these properties but will want to lift manholes and use dye to trace the drainage around each property. They would like to do this by agreement with the residents concerned but if necessary they can demand access under their statutory powers.

In many cases the survey will simply confirm whether or not the property is connected to the system. Thames Water has said it will be helpful if residents can provide photos of local flooding around their property and in the vicinity of Chatter Alley.

Thames Water will also investigate all of the manholes in the centre of the village and in this respect I am helping them to understand the pattern of flooding that we experienced around Christmas. Again I expect they will need to gain access to some of the properties closest to the river. There will be a further walkabout with a more senior team from Thames Water and Councillors on the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

This sounds like progress at last but the downside is that should they identify where a property is channelling surface water into the sewer or a private manhole is likely to be flooded the residents concerned could be asked to remedy these problems.

One lesson from the Parish Flood Forum is that despite the long history of problems in Chatter Alley the Environment Agency was unaware of these problems. It is so important that all and every occurrence of sewage problems is separately reported to both Thames Water and the Environment Agency. This can be done on their websites but alternatively please report them to the Council and we will pass the message on.

I would like to briefly cover gas and electricity supplies.

As many of you know there has been a recurring problem with water ingress into the gas mains for some of us. The Council has raised this issue with the companies involved and again I am pleased to report that Southern Gas Networks has confirmed that it will carry out a full investigation of the problem in the Dogmersfield area starting in April. This work will involve detailed camera and pressure surveys to locate the sources of water in their system and some excavating the mains network in the roads.

Finally many of us suffered from power cuts over the Christmas holidays. I am not sure if you are all aware but Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) is paying out compensation of £129 per household that were cut off for more than 48 hours. (Details will be provided via the website for those that wish to make a claim).

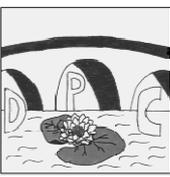
## Environment

We had a lively discussion during the January Council meeting when many of you raised concerns about problems with the ditches particularly in Chatter Alley. I dodged these bullets by explaining that we needed time to examine possible solutions but we would report back at the APA.

Firstly, I can confirm that Councillors have been observed crawling around in the mud since then and this has proved - what we expected - that problems with the culverts were the main cause of the localised flooding in Chatter Alley at Christmas.

The ditches are far from perfect but if the flow is unable to pass under residents' drives it backs up and finds another route to the river. I won't list them all but there are five culverts that were responsible for most of the flooding problems.

I will digress for a minute to talk about responsibilities for maintaining ditches and culverts. I raised this subject at the Parish Flood Forum in order to try and get either Hampshire Highways or the



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Environment Agency or even Thames Water to help us out.

This backfired as I was quickly given a lecture about 'Riparian' responsibilities together with some leaflets called 'Living on the Edge'. There are a few copies of this publication here tonight but it can be downloaded from the Environment agency website.

It is quite clear that responsibility for resolving our problems rest with the landowners, which in many cases means residents and the parish council where ownership is less clear. However, pointing fingers will not get the job done. Clearing blocked culverts could prove to be a very expensive task involving digging up drives to replacing damaged pipe work. Hence before deciding what to do your Councillors have undertaken what is best described as some very aggressive rodding of the culprit culverts and some residents have also done the same.

This has shown that clearing culverts is not as difficult as some of thought it might be - some of them have been cleared completely, one is still proving to be stubborn although the flow has been improved significantly but there is still more to be done. Nevertheless the efforts by residents and Councillors have proved that we can almost certainly address the root cause of the flooding through our own efforts. A technique that we are using is I believe correctly called dragging a pig through the culvert. However I can reassure you that no live animals are involved in this work. As I have said the problems are not yet fully resolved and Councillors efforts will continue. I am not going to ask for your help with this work but just to say that we will make it known when working parties are scheduled and anyone who would like to find out more about pig dragging will be very welcome to join us. So much for the culverts but the ditches themselves will need some attention.

Contracting out for a digger to re-cut some or all of the ditches in the village may sound attractive but it will be expensive and unless we also contract for the mud to be taken away the centre of Dogmersfield could resemble the Somme for some months or even years to come. Also the cost will be well beyond the Council's annual budget and we have not identified any available grant for this type of work.

However, we have recently joined what is known as the Lengthsman Scheme. Basically this devolves responsibility from Hampshire County Council for carrying out certain verge side activities from for which we have already received £1,000 and a similar amount should be available in the next financial year. We were already carrying out some of the work performed by a Lengthsman's ourselves through volunteer effort, parish funding or it was not being done at all. Joining the scheme clarifies responsibilities and will free up funding that we can now use on ditch work when extra effort is needed.

You will recall that Hart's Community Payback Team made a big impact when they cleared the verges in Church Lane and under the trees in Chatter Alley. I hope we can get the opportunity to employ them again and their efforts will also be focused on ditch clearing.

There is another funding source that might become available which most of us won't welcome but is associated with new houses. Section 106 now to be replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL is a charge levied on developers to offset the impact of new development. Dogmersfield has not in the past benefitted in this way from the small amount of building that has taken place over recent years. There are reasons for this but CIL has changed the rules and we should now be guaranteed some payback which will also be available for ditch work.

Although taken together this does not represent a firm plan to sort out the drainage it does add up to strategy which the Council will follow. If in a year's time with your help we have not made a major improvement we will reconsider the need to increase the precept to fund more systematic ditch improvement work.

Whilst on the verges as it were, last year we employed a contractor to brush cut the vegetation on the verges on both sides of Chatter Alley and in Church Lane. We intend doing the same this year. In previous years we have repeatedly wrung our hands over what to do about the invasion by invasive species on Pilcot Green. I realise this can quickly become a very emotive subject as it may prove difficult to do something about the Balsam and Knotweed without also considering more extensive clearance of the undergrowth. We can't keep putting this off and the council has already started looking at how others are addressing similar problems in order to examine the options available to us. I can reassure you that we will not make any decisions on what to do on Pilcot Green until the work



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has been properly scoped, described and costed and we have sought the views of residents.

The final topic I want to mention is the footpath down Pilcot Hill which is again an emotive subject. The works to create the footpath is nearing completion and once it is finished questions are sure to be asked again about whether improvements for pedestrians should be made in the centre Dogmersfield. At the APA I think it was in 2012 the Council agreed to consult residents to establish the level of support for any pedestrian improvements. Once the Pilcot Hill footpath became a firm scheme the Council concluded that any consultation should be deferred until after the footpath was in use. This would allow emotions to calm down and opinions would better reflect the true impact of having the Pilcot Hill footpath.

However the Council is not going to do nothing in the short term. We have concluded that introducing a 20 mph hour speed limit through the village would provide a number of benefits to residents as well as to pedestrian safety. Unfortunately, although 20 mph limits have sprung up in a number of local villages apparently these are only pilots. Hampshire County Council has said that there will be no further examples until the impact of the pilots has been fully assessed. This could take years and your Council is trying to convince them that Dogmersfield should be a special case. I hope we will be successful in this endeavour but we may need to seek your support in some form to add weight to our arguments.

In summary:

Although large in area Dogmersfield is a small Parish when judged on head count. Consequently we are a small Parish Council with limited financial resources and most of the work of the Council is very reliant on the personal contributions of the volunteer Councillors.

Other Parish Councils take a different approach and contract out much of what the council delivers and they also employ more staff than our single part time clerk. This means that almost certainly they achieve more than we do but it also means that their precepts are much higher than we currently take from you.

There is a choice about the way the Council operates and when we get to the feedback session perhaps you give us some views on whether we should change.

GB closed his report. CLo thanked the chairman for the comprehensive report.

GB then introduced Cllr Gorys to deliver a report on behalf of Cllr Crookes which is included below.

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## **Report from District Cllr Ken Crookes delivered by Cllr Gorys**

This brief report covers the period April 2013 to March 2014.

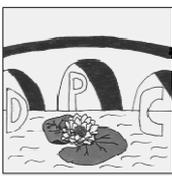
### **Hart Council and elections**

There were no Hart District Councils last May so there was no change to the political balance of the Council. KC continued as Leader of the Council for his sixth year.

In May 2014 all seats on a new Hart District Council will be up for election, with new ward boundaries. Dogmersfield will remain as part of an enlarged Odiham Ward which will include Crondall and the villages which currently comprise the Long Sutton Ward. Ken Crookes and Stephen Gorys along with Councillor John Kennett who now represents Long Sutton will be standing for re-election for the 3 seats in the new Odiham ward.

### **Chairman of the Council**

Stephen Gorys was elected Chairman of the Council at last May's annual meeting of Hart Council. This one year appointment of "Hart's first Citizen" is our equivalent of Mayor and Stephen has been very busy all year with his civic duties and his new volunteer recognition programme. SG commented that he had enjoyed meeting with many different groups in the local area which have included the Hook Women's Guild and a recent session with the children of Dogmersfield School where I was able to put



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my duties into a context they could understand such as the way the school operates. SG was also very proud to present awards to those in the community who volunteer and assist those more vulnerable members of the community.

## **Finances**

Hart's finances remain in very good shape. Our efficiency savings and joint working initiatives are paying dividends. We have frozen Council tax again, it remains unchanged for the fifth year. The financial outlook for local government is uncertain, but Hart is in much better shape than many other councils and ready for the future.

## **Planning – The new Local Plan.**

Hart withdrew its Local Plan after the Planning Inspector's examination last summer. He asked us to do more to meet our "Duty to Co-operate" with neighbouring councils in understanding "Objectively assessed housing needs". We are working with Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Councils on a Strategic Housing Market Assessment which should be published in the next few weeks and we shall then consult on options to deliver that housing. SG continued by commenting on the SPA cap and the desire to limit the damage to the SPA through development in the regional planning. Developers are hoping for higher numbers of units with the District Council hoping for a lower overall number. There are plenty of people that need housing but we want to get the level of development right. Odiham are starting to work on a Neighbourhood plan with the outcome hoped for a district designed plan that will be used to direct where housing is to go. This however will be a very onerous task with huge public consultation required and links to the Local Plan being made.

The lack of a Local Plan makes us vulnerable and Hart is not the only area that has failed to have its Local Plan approved but the ears of local MP's are being bent not to over-pressurise the system. It is likely that it will be a further 12-15 months before the plan is endorsed. Working with Surrey Heath and Rushmoor is an important aspect as in theory if there is not the capacity in the Hart Local plan then should be able to bear some of the load but this works both ways.

## **Parish Flood Forum**

In the very wet December and January we had a number of local flooding issues, mostly as a result of sewers being overloaded with rainwater. KC has set up a Parish Flood forum for Crondall, Dogmersfield and Odiham to work with Thames Water and other agencies to address these issues. This forum includes your Parish Council.

Once again in December the Halifax survey named Hart as best place to live. We are working to keep it that way.

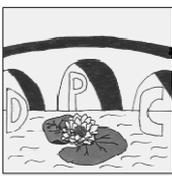
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## **Report from County Cllr Jonathan Glen**

Having just attended a cabinet meeting Councillor Glen reported on the requirement to make savings of £90 million over the next two years. This will require up to £50 million each year. Less than half of that will be through salaries. There will need to be effective collaboration with the health service, and the Commissioner for the Police will need to make further efficiencies. For example the number of buildings may be reduced to save on capital costs. These savings will need to be made without a significant increase in Council tax which is expected to see zero to low increases in the foreseeable future. Overall though the County is coming out high in the production of services.

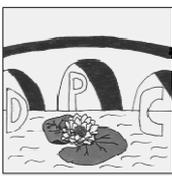
Councillor Glen also provided a breakdown of the Political composition within the county – 78 Councillors in total of which 47 are Conservative, 16 Liberal Democrats with the balance of 16 made up 10 UKIP, 4 Labour, 1 Local CCH and 1 Independent.

The rainfall over the winter has provided obvious problems. Thanks need to be given to the many agencies that were involved in helping the county battle the issues that emerged out of the significant rainfall. The Finance department provided funding, assistance was provided by the Environment



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47/14	<p>department, Fire &amp; Rescue, Police, Military, RNLI, farmers and the Environment Agency. The level of co-operation from local councils has been unprecedented with the most important thing dealing with the crisis.</p> <p>It is agreed that a debate needs to take place as to who takes responsibility for what type of flooding. To be debated also is how the run-off of water is dealt with in the future and lessons may need to be learnt from abroad such as America and Holland.</p> <p>CWa queried having listened to the Southern news what the costs of the floods were to Hampshire. Cllr Glen reported that claims were now going into Central Government.</p>
48/14	<p>In the absence of Mrs Doreen Melbourne, Cl drew residents attention to the excerpts of the Contact magazine that were copied and distributed amongst the chairs telling of the activities that have been going on during the year at the school.</p> <p><b><u>The report from Mrs Melbourne, Chair of Governors is included for your information below.</u></b></p> <p><u>Being a school governor and the role of Chair</u></p> <p>Those of you who attended last year's Parish Assembly have met me before. I am Doreen Melbourne, I live in Hartley Wintney and I am currently Chair of Governors at Dogmersfield School. I was appointed in 2009 as a Foundation governor, which means I had to be recommended and approved by Dogmersfield Parochial Church Council. Of the school's twelve governors, seven are Foundation Governors, two are parent governors elected by the other parents, one is a Local Education Authority governor and the other two are the headteacher and one other member of staff. As a Foundation Governor I take a particular interest in Religious education and Collective Worship - which was called 'Assembly' in my day! Collective Worship is monitored regularly by the governors according to a set of criteria provided by the Winchester Diocese.</p> <p>My other main interest, as a retired teacher, is Early Years. I am privileged to be able to help in Silver Class for one morning a week and really enjoy the hands-on experience. I also accompany this class, and others, on their visits to places of interest connected with the topics they are studying; we have just had a great day at Beaulieu Motor Museum consolidating the work on Transport. I was also lucky enough to be included in a week's residential visit to Minstead in the New Forest with the Year 4/5 class - exhausting but rewarding.</p> <p>As Chair of Governors I find myself involved in many and various activities - recently applying Cuprinol to the main gate and fence in preparation for the erection of our new school sign, which I hope you have all seen and which meets with your approval. This was probably one of the more relaxing tasks - mostly time is taken up with meetings and related follow-up work. Just a taster of some of my activities this school year so far: approximately twenty-five meetings; four governor trainings; four school services held in church; four Collective Worship; two Monitoring and Evaluation visits to school; helping Ann Goddard to up-date the script and photos for the Information Booklet which goes to new parents; taking many photos for the new school website which is going to be an exciting first introduction to our school for prospective parents, employees and Ofsted.</p> <p>But probably the most challenging matter we have had to deal with in recent years was in the Summer term of 2013, when we were faced with having to replace three of our five teaching staff. The possible effect on the whole ethos of our school was critical. There followed a round of advertising, rigorous shortlisting, interviewing and observation of teaching and I have to say that the school is probably stronger now than it has ever been and we are in the highly unusual - some may say desirable position of having three male members of staff! Whilst, being a woman, I can't subscribe whole-heartedly to that as 'desirable', it is certainly good for the children to have some male as well as female role models. Above all, my role as Chair is to support and be a 'critical friend' to Miss Wall</p>



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48/14	<p>and the rest of the staff and I have to say that I love every minute of it! Anything I can do to help Miss Wall and the fantastic school which is Dogmersfield C of E Primary is a privilege and a pleasure and working with such a dedicated and committed group of people is a joy. I am very proud to be associated with them all.</p>
49/14	<p><b><u>Report from the Residents Group by Chris Ward</u></b></p> <p>Chris Ward spoke on behalf of the recently formed residents group to be known as DRAGON. This came about as a response to the planning briefing held by DPC in January and consideration had to be given by residents to form a voice to represent and protect the village. At the first meeting 30 households were represented with 12 other households sending apologies therefore achieving over one third support for such an organisation. A small executive team has now been set up and DRAGON will be pleased to hear from all residents. The aim is to reflect the views of the majority voicing opposition to major development. An open dialogue has been established with the parish council and the desire is not to conflict with the parish council but resort to other tactics not open to the parish council.</p> <p>We hope to set up an effective means of communication with residents and would welcome email addresses to keep you informed (of course complying with Data protection). The next step is to flesh out ideas but we are not contemplating producing a Neighbourhood plan which seems on initial investigation to be a bureaucratic nightmare although ideas and thoughts may come out of the 2006 parish plan that was put together back then. DRAGON will then be ready to act when there is pressure and threat from planning applications lodged and something for the organisation to get its teeth into.</p>
50/14	<p><b><u>Report from Christine Lowe of Dogmersfield Events</u></b></p> <p>CLo thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak at this assembly. Dogmersfield Events is a not for profit organisation whose main aim is to bring the community of Dogmersfield together, being not just the residents but the church, school, hotel, pub and garages. We are very fortunate in receiving sponsorship from all of these organisations and support from you the residents. At every event we receive either raffle prizes, contributions of salads and puddings or auction prizes.</p> <p>At present we are a committee of 7 namely Phil and Denise Whitehead, Mike Ricketts, Sophie Harmer, Fiona Everett, Philip Toft and myself. We have a written constitution, our own insurance policy, independent bank account and whilst we receive support from the parish council we are totally independent of them.</p> <p>We aim to organise two events a year. An occasion at Christmas when we sing carols, turn on the Christmas tree lights and provide hot food and a drink; and a summer event which is centred around the duck race on the river Hart.</p> <p>Last year we held a successful English Summer Tea party in the grounds of Martin Hannah's house with a jazz band, croquet, boule and outdoor chess and of course the duck race. It was an unbelievably hot day in stark contrast to the Jubilee Street Party the year before.</p> <p>We are again holding a street party and planning for this is well underway. It will be held on Pilcot Green on June 29<sup>th</sup> are we are grateful once again to the Four Seasons providing us with the BBQ. There will be live music, the duck race, children's entertainment and a prize raffle. Tickets will be £12.50 for an adult and £5 per child. Any money left over from the event will partly retain a small reserve to establish the next event and then shared amongst our two local charities Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Research Trust and Friends of All Saints Dogmersfield Church. Ticket sales are limited to 120 and there are a few tickets remaining and application forms can be obtained from the committee members. Help will be appreciated before and after the event especially with the anticipated road closure in place we will need to clear away promptly.</p>



# DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

50/14	<p>In closing the committee has decided to branch out slightly and we are in the process of preparing a welcome pack that can be handed out to new residents when they move into the village. This aims to include local information with flyers from local tradesman, local facilities such as the Crookham Village post office, newsagent and milk deliveries as well as information on the school, church and parish council. Any ideas for contributions to the pack will be gratefully received and the information will be online as well as hard copy.</p> <p>Many thanks to all members of the events committee and to you the residents for your continuing support and new ideas for events in the future are always welcome.</p>
51/14	<p><b><u>Report from Fiona Shipp of the Basingstoke Canal Authority</u></b></p> <p>FS reported on the most pertinent aspect of the Basingstoke Canal relevant to Dogmersfield and the on-going issue of the land slippage and the work that has been going on over the last 12-15months or so in trying to resolve the problem. A long term solution is being sought as this area has been prone to problems. FS was pleased to report that at least some navigation had been able to take place during the boating season but that there is the problem of the footpath remaining closed, especially as walkers are the bigger users. The current timetable for repair following all the evaluation and investigative work that has gone on is that this is likely to take place in October. The situation has been blighted by bad weather. Solutions are being costed and the work put out to tender over the next few months.</p> <p>Questions were raised by members of the public relating to cost and when the towpath is likely to reopen. FS responded that the cost is not yet quantified and only commented that it would be significant and that whilst there are no guarantees it is hoped that the towpath will be open in early 2015.</p>
52/14	<p><b><u>Questions were invited by the Chairman</u></b></p> <p><b>MM</b> inquired about the progress with the ditches. GB commented that more is hoped to be achieved with more labour available. This is an area where the council may require additional support as funding streams are limited. There will need to regular TLC of the ditches if we ever get them back to a proper working status.</p> <p><b>RL</b> asked whether anything can be done about driving down Chatter Alley as there are constantly cars parked. GB commented that this was an unfortunate feature of village with the lack of parking and the price that may have to be paid by the village to have more parking may be high. Comment was passed on whether the forecourt of one of the garages could be freed up by removal of some of the older vehicles situated on it and thus freeing up road space.</p> <p>No further comments were provided.</p> <p>GB thanked all those that delivered reports this evening and for those attending.</p>

Signed.....  
Chairman

Date.....