



DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes and Reports of the Annual Parish Assembly Held at Dogmersfield Primary School 20th April 2015

Councillors present:

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

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

M Morrison	Mr K Harrison	Mrs P Pecorelli
Mrs Y Beaven	Mrs P Harrison	A Harrison
Mr C Ward	Mrs S Collins	Mr C Waller
Mr B White	Mr B Collins	Cllr J Glen
Mr D Melbourne	Mrs M Maunsell-Thomas	A M Revell
Mrs C Lowe (CLO)	Mrs C McFall	Mrs S Sizeland
Cllr S Gorys	Mr G McFall	Dr P Whitehead
Mr R Lister	Mrs C Smith	Mrs D Whitehead
Cllr K Crookes	Mrs P Clark	Mr S Harrison
Mrs S Groombridge	Mrs C Leversha	Mrs C-A Harrison
Mrs M Lawes	Mr J Lawes	S Smith
D Fisher	Mrs J Varndell	Mr J Varndell
Miss S Thomas	Mrs J Thomas	Mr J Maunsell-Thomas
Mrs C Dixon	Mr R Dixon	

40/15	<p><u>Welcome & Apologies</u></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 7.35pm by Chairman who welcomed everyone.</p> <p>A safety briefing was provided.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from District Councillor John Kennett, PCSO Liz Wallace, PCSO Paul Franks and Max Fullbrook.</p>
41/15	<p><u>Chairman's Report</u></p> <p>Please refer to the associated slides that were produced for the event.</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.</p> <p>Slide 1</p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>It is normal for the Parish Council to provide an account of the events of the last 12 months. However instead this Council would like to focus on a couple of the major issues that it faces. GB gave thanks to Miss Wall and the Governors for the regular use of the school for the monthly</p>



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council meetings.

The recently delivered newsletter also provided an update of current issues and most contributors to the newsletter are available here tonight if you have any questions.

Slide 2

Annual Finance

GB reported that, although as intended and budgeted, the Council's expenditure during the financial year 2014/15 exceeded income from the Council Tax by a significant amount the Council still remains in the black and the finances are under control. The end of year accounts will be fully audited and published for the scrutiny of the public during June before being formally closed.

The Parish Council has set its budget for this financial year and as seen on the recent Council Tax notification from Hart District Council the Dogmersfield precept (this is the appropriate name for the proportion of the Council that we determine) represents a 'decrease of 0%'. This means that it has been set at the same level as last year.

What about the future

The Council's income represented by the level of the precept is roughly £7,400 in total and which is £73 for a Band G household and less for smaller properties. The precept has now remained the same for the last 5 years which has been possible due to under expenditure in prior years resulting in a relatively modest but comfortable financial reserve being built up.

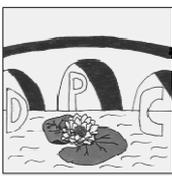
However, the current Council has spent a much higher proportion of its budget and has begun to eat into the reserve. GB went on to give examples of where the higher spending took place.

Slide 3

- Higher costs on what we buy in due to inflation over the 5 year period
- The Council has also changed its way of working which has increased its costs - the best example is that in 2014 our clerk became Responsible Finance Officer. In this parish the RFO duties were in the past carried out by a Councillor but in 2013 our accounts were qualified by the auditor as an elected member should not discharge this role. Our clerk is well qualified and she agreed to accept the increased level of responsibility and the additional working hours involved. These are recognised as a salary increase.
- The current Council is more active and we are more effective at carrying out what we set out to do.
- Resident's expectations are increasing and for example we are contracting to trim the verges twice this year in response to resident's comments about the scruffiness that developed in July last year. This must be compared with the single annual strimming undertaken in summer of 2013 and 2014 and the absence of any verge maintenance in the years previous to this.
- The Community Payback Team which we have used extensively in the past was free but now costs £75 per visit. This is still excellent value for money.
- We have had an election in 2013 which proved that our contingency provision for such an event was a significant underestimate.
- The Lengthsman scheme that the Council joined in 2014 has contributed £1,000 last year to the Council's income but this can only be spent on qualifying tasks many of which were a County Council responsibility before the scheme was introduced.

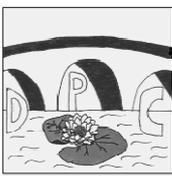
Consequences

Although we have been able to set a responsible budget 2015/2016 without increasing the precept this was only just possible and involved committing our reserve as far as is credible. This situation cannot continue but we concluded that we would not increase the precept without setting out the issues and listening to your views about how we should proceed in the future at this meeting.



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Slide 4	<p>Options</p> <p>GB explained the four options proposed which are summarised below but please also refer to slides.</p> <p>A – Carry on without increasing the precept for as long as possible requiring cutting back on expenditure and therefore what the Council does e.g. maintenance work.</p> <p>B - Increase the precept to cover current levels of activity and expenditure. The actual figure would be determined during the annual budget setting carried out at the end of the year an assumption would be that the Council would seek to increase the precept by £1,000 per year.</p> <p>C - Increase by a higher amount to rebuild our reserves and allow the council to expand what it does e.g. maintenance to other areas such as footpaths being less reliant on volunteers seeking more professional paid advice more often. A good assumption to meet this objective would be to increase the precept by £2,000 per year.</p> <p>D – Increase by a substantial amount to allow the Council to fund specific new initiatives e.g. Should the Parish decide to produce a Neighbourhood Plan this would require the Council to find around £5,000 in addition to any available grants. If any such Neighbourhood plan be funded through the Council tax the precept would have to rise by this amount but probably for one year or at most two years only.</p>
Slide 5	<p>GB went on to explain the impact on households that these increases in the Precept may have. GB explained in terms of a band G property.</p>
Slide 6	<p>For the current year budget the Council tax take will be £73.38 for a Band G property</p>
Slide 7	<p>A £1,000 increase to the precept becomes £8,400 which for a band G property will mean an annual increase of £9.02 (approx. 75p per month). For smaller properties the increase is much lower for example at band D the increase would be only £5.41 per year. (12.5 % increase)</p>
Slides 8,9 &10	<p>A £2,000 increase to the precept becomes £9,400 which for a band G property will mean an annual increase of £18.83 (approx. £1.50 per month). For smaller properties the increase is much lower for example at band D the increase would be only £11.17 per year. (25 % increase)</p> <p>Although not shown increasing the precept by a further £5,000 will require an increase of £45 per year for band G or £3.7 per month and £26.45 or £2.20 per month for band D. These figures must be added to the other increases. (almost 100% increase)</p>
Slide 11	<p>Looking instead at the total precept figures it can be seen That Dogmersfield still remains at the bottom of the league table and increasing the precept by £1,000 only just gets us out of the 'relegation zone'. It can also be seen that increasing by higher amounts still means that we are a low spending Council.</p> <p>Council obtain views on the options</p> <p>At this time GB welcomed views from the residents in attendance on the options requesting a show of hands.</p> <p>CLo welcomed any plans to spend more on the maintenance of the village. What has been achieved to date has made a dramatic difference for the better to the village. Other residents voiced agreement to this opinion.</p> <p>In a show of hands a majority were content to raise the precept by at least £2,000. No hands were raised against the option.</p>
Slides 12 & 13	<p>Planning</p> <p>GB stated that he did not intend to say much about the current situation in Dogmersfield as the newsletter provided a comprehensive update and I expect Ken Crookes/Stephen Gorys will cover progress on the Local Plan later.</p> <p>The only additional information is firstly about the request for pre application guidance for the 3</p>



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houses scheme in Church Lane. The meeting between the developers, the builder (Oakford Homes) and Hart DC has now taken place. The DPC attended and the notes on the meeting and Hart DC's formal response can be found on the website.

Regarding Chatter Alley the Land Owners and Vortal are still considering what to do after the potential builder (Hazeley Developments) dropped out. It is possible that the next step will be a public exhibition of one or more schemes at which residents will be invited to express views. DPC have held meetings with the school and were present at a meeting between the school and the landowners. The parking problem was discussed extensively at both but there is no simple solution available or currently on the horizon.

The Council is committed to keeping you well informed through statements made at our regular monthly Council meetings which are all reproduced in full in the minutes, the newsletters and Dear Resident letters which are delivered either to all of you or to those directly affected by individual applications.

Slides 14 & 15

GB moved on to the subject of Neighbourhood Planning stating that there is a difficult decision to make regarding what was a flag ship planning initiative of the coalition government called a Neighbourhood Plan, which aims to give more power to local people, allowing them to play a stronger role in shaping their area.

A NP would not simply be a Council initiative and stressed that production of a plan would require heavy involvement from the community and therefore DPC cannot proceed without the support of its parishioners. In essence it is for the Community to decide whether you want to go ahead although the Council will be heavily involved.

Whether or not to go ahead is a complex matter and to do it justice some background research has been carried out to best inform you.

A lot of information is provided in the slides underpins the decision to be made and these will be made available on the website in due course.

The abbreviation NPPF means the National Planning Policy Framework and NPPG is the associated on line Guidance.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The concept of a Neighbourhood Plan is a fundamental part of the NPPF which states - Please refer to slide 14 and 15. GB went on to explain what this means in reality.

Slide 16

A plan for the neighbourhood that must reflect resident's and landowner's desires and have the support of the majority of residents.

However, it can only be a positive document that implements and delivers policies and housing numbers allocated to the area by the Local Plan.

It can deliver more development than required by the Local Plan but it cannot be used to frustrate what the Local Plan sets out to achieve.

Slide 17

What are the key essential activities for drawing up a NP

Step 1: Designating the neighbourhood area

This involves submitting an application to Hart DC nominating the area to be designated. The area designated does not have to coincide with the Parish Boundary although this is normally the case.

Designating the smaller area between the northern parish boundary and the canal could have advantages but it could be divisive.

Step 2: Preparing a draft plan

This is the most difficult step as baseline information and evidence must be gathered before a plan can be developed. This will involve talking to residents, landowners, potential developers, service providers and Hart DC. Some studies by consultants such as on housing demand may have to be commissioned. It is common practice to gain evidence of residents views through a questionnaire but this may also be a multi stage process. In the absence of a Local Plan or an allocation of housing numbers Dogmersfield will need to do a deal with Hart DC for the number of new houses that will feature in the neighbourhood plan.



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Other bodies like the EA and English Heritage must also be consulted to ensure that the plan has no significant adverse environmental impact.

Step 3: Pre-submission publicity & consultation

This involves publicising and collecting comments and views on the draft plan from residents and other formal consultees which includes Hart DC. The consultation responses must be considered and the draft plan must be amended if appropriate.

Step 4: Submission of a neighbourhood plan to Hart DC

Hart DC will check the plan and if it is legal and appropriate it will publicise the draft plan (again) and invite representations. Hart DC will also appoint an independent examiner.

Step 5: Independent Examination

The independent examiner undertakes examination and issues a report allowing Hart DC to decide whether the plan should proceed to the next step.

7: Referendum and 'Making' the neighbourhood plan (bringing it into force)

The final stage is a referendum to establish whether Dogmersfield residents support the plan. This is arranged and paid for by Hart DC. A simple majority is needed and the plan should then be 'Made'.

Slide 18

What benefits will an NP provide?

Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work and in supporting new development proposals. This is because a NP forms part of the development plan and sits alongside the Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and the NP, and any other material considerations.

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next ten, fifteen, twenty years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. They can put in place planning policies that will help deliver that vision or grant planning permission for the development they want to see.

Slide 19

To help deliver their vision communities that take a proactive approach by drawing up a NP or Order and secure the consent of local people in a referendum, will benefit from 25 percent of the revenues from the Community Infrastructure Levy arising from the development that takes place in their area. This may not apply to Dogmersfield as HDC have advised that the CIL charges don't apply to developments of under 1000 sq. metres which could be 7 to 10 houses depending on size.

If Dogmersfield is to go ahead residents must want to have a stronger role in shaping this parish bearing in mind there may not be many choices where development can take place although hopefully it will be relatively modest.

Another good question is whether a neighbourhood plan can offer longer term protection. Although many residents accept that some development in Dogmersfield is inevitable most residents would not want large scale development now or in the future.

Slide 20

What are the realities from developing a NP?

A NP will have no impact on the current schemes being worked up for Chatter Alley and Church Lane. It will probably take at least a year to work through the mandated steps. The Council and residents will need to come off the fence, accept and support the levels of development that Hart DC require from us and then decide where this development should be located potentially very divisive.

Slide 21

Although large in area Dogmersfield has few residents compared to other parishes. Drawing up the NP must be a community activity with significant Council involvement but the plan will be rejected if we cannot provide strong evidence of community involvement. We will need a willing, competent team of committed residents to carry out most of the work.



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	<p>There will be a cost to the Council of at least £7,000 in addition to a government grant of up to £7,000. Hart DC will also provide some funding but this will be used on the cost of the referendum and of the inspector.</p>
Slide 22 & 23	<p>Should we go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan? – What factors will drive this conclusion</p> <p>The Council has concluded that the key factors are:</p> <p>Benefits – We will be able to decide where development takes place but not the amount and the choices are limited. A NP might provide us with some protection against excessive development in the future.</p> <p>Downsides – Creating the plan could be divisive and constrain opposition to development in the future. Resources will be key as we will not be able to go ahead unless there are sufficient committed volunteers and sufficient support in raising the necessary funding. IN some communities it is not uncommon that 100 people are involved, with other teams comprising 25-30 volunteers split into numerous sub-committees focusing on different issues such as environment.</p>
Slide 24	<p>A neighbourhood plan might provide us with some protection against excessive development in the future.</p> <p>GB summarised some scenarios which were drawn up to test this important matter. Please refer to the examples provided on slide 24.</p>
Slides 25 & 26	<p>Will a Neighbourhood Plan protect us?</p> <p>This question was posed to HDC who advised that - at any time either before the neighbourhood plan is adopted or afterwards Hart DC can change the allocation to Dogmersfield and the neighbourhood plan must be amended to respect the new figure. However Developers claim that once 'made' a neighbourhood plan will take precedence over a Local Plan. Please refer to slides 25 and 26.</p>
Slide 27	<p>DPC has tried to nail down this issue by asking the government - the Department for Communities and Local Government who drew up the rules. They advised the same as Hart DC – If the Local Plan is changed it will override the Neighbourhood Plan. Please refer to slide 27.</p>
Slide 28	<p>However this is unlikely to be the definitive position and it may also be some time before the truth is known as very little of the NPPF has been tested in the courts and until case law builds up on this issue this will remain unanswered.</p> <p>Equally the Secretary of State for the Environment and Local Government (Eric Pickles) has recently overruled appeal inspectors who have not taken due account of emerging or made' neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>To date DPC have not been able to resolve the dilemma and the truth is that until it is tested in the courts nobody can be sure.</p>
Slide 29	<p>Should we go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan – the Dilemma?</p> <p>If we go ahead and suffer the pain of providing resources and making difficult decisions this could all be a waste of effort should Hart DC be able to overrule a NP in the future.</p> <p>If we don't go ahead in a situation where many of our neighbouring parishes do and it emerges that NPs cannot be overruled we may be one of the few areas where Hart DC can impose additional development in the future.</p>
Slide 30	<p>The Council's view</p> <p>In the current circumstances the Parish Council conclude that the risk of not having a plan is too great and we must go ahead.</p>



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However we need some feedback on what you think DPC should do.

GB at this time asked for comment from KC to ensure that the information provided was not misleading. KC confirmed that the detail provided was well representative of the position. From his point of view KC considered that the emerging NPs in neighbouring communities are bringing people in those communities together. Some of them are progressing into Step 3 as outlined above. The challenge will relate to the uncertainty which takes precedence NPs or the local plan. KC confirmed that the testing of Winchfield as a new town option is already showing signs of taking longer than predicted. KC did not see a scenario where HDC “dumped” large scale development on Dogmersfield because if HDC had to revise its local plan it would be looking at all villages. KC also reiterated that it will require huge engagement from the Dogmersfield community as a whole.

JG echoed KC. Whilst he is not involved in planning his opinion was that a NP should be produced.

Comments were then received from the public and included:

Can a NP be put in place without the Local Plan finalised?

Would we be able to establish the ‘number’ of dwellings that Dogmersfield would be required to accept before embarking on the process? It was confirmed that this would form an early part of the process as a deal would be done with Hart DC to determine this number to enable the NP to commence. The allocated number at this time is up in the air. There are many moving parts to the required numbers of housing in the area and HDC may also need to factor in providing for Rushmoor and Surrey Heath’s claims that they cannot fulfil their quota. HDC needs to fight this.

The level of funding mentioned as the potential cost implication to Dogmersfield may be a significant underestimation based on the costs emerging from other local parishes.

The community would need to determine what it has an appetite to accept in terms of housing numbers. Small scale and not a mini town.

A decision should be made after the General election although all governing parties state housing numbers of significant scale need to be built to meet demand.

When does the clock start ticking on numbers built e.g. if Chatter Alley and Church Lane developments get the go ahead would they count. It was confirmed that 2012 was the starting point for new development to be included in the figures.

A show of hands was requested for support to move the process along. A large proportion of those present indicated agreement to tentatively move forward with a NP with no one objecting to this course of action.

GB thanked all for listening and invited GL to speak on the Village Environment.

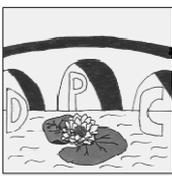
Village Environment

GL spoke on a number of slides which summarised the work that had been carried out in the village during 14/15 and the projects to be considered in the current budget year and future years.

What has been achieved was with limited resources financially with a large amount of the budget spent on important tree works in the village. This in turn should reduce the need for such expenditure for a couple of years although the council has been prudent and budgeted for emergency works in case of e.g. storm damage.

Huge improvements have been made to the village drainage system with volunteer help in the

Slides 31
to 42



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shape of Dogmersfield Dad's and the Community Payback Team. This year it is the intention of the Council to continue the use of CPT and encourage volunteer days to assist in tidying up the village and maintain these improvements. A plan of works will be put together for the CPT and may include footpath reparation amongst other projects.

More pressure is placed on Parish Council budgets than ever before to carry out tasks once funded at District and County level. DPC has benefitted and will continue to this year from the Lengthsman scheme funding but this may not continue indefinitely in the future. A summary slide of the current year budget is provided.

GL went on to explain that the chicanes in the village will continue to be maintained along Chatter Alley until further information is forthcoming about development and any necessary road layout changes as a result. However there are two chicane islands in the village that are not sustaining plant life for a variety of reasons such as lack of soil depth and significant shade. DPC will consider with residents agreement filling these in and decorating with inlaid stones.

Everyone should have received the Pilcot Green North Land management proposal which has been carefully compiled after consulting with experts from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and local residents immediately impacted by their proximity to the green. DPC has made it clear what the green should not develop into e.g. extension of the pub garden, but also recognises that the area is key to the village drainage system. Work has commenced by clearing drainage ditches and it will now be important to keep them clear and make an impact on clearing the invasive species that dominate the locality. This is seen as a gradual implemented project over a few years eventually providing a pleasant space for residents to visit.

GL asked for any questions. He was thanked for a good presentation.

Concern was voiced over a small element of the Vision statement and requested clarification on what was meant by "occasional" visits to the area and how this was to be policed. It was agreed that the space would be available to villagers but that it would evolve as the area improves environmentally and in conjunction with future discussion with the community.

42/15

Report on behalf of District Councillors delivered by Cllr Stephen Gorys

Hart District Councillors Report March 2015

District Budgets

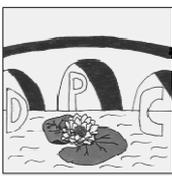
The district council continues to carefully monitor its budgets and has for the sixth year in succession made no increase in its portion of your council tax. Despite this we have developed our services in conjunction with neighbouring authorities and continue to bring first class service to our residents.

Make up of District Council

As there is currently no overall control by any political party in Hart the cabinet, led by Councillor Stephen Parker, is an amalgamation of three parties, Conservatives, Liberal democrats and the Campaign for Community Hart. With one third elections for Hart in May 2015 as well as a general election the political control in Hart may change but that is, of course, up to the voting public.

Local Planning Matters

There continues to be concern by us over the proposal for the testing of Winchfield as a possible housing option in the local plan. The progress of the local plan has some way still to go and your input into the process is an important element which will help us, as your elected representatives, ensure that we continue to represent your views at the district council level.



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We understand that some developers are putting pressure on parish councils to accept levels of development that many feel are not appropriate. At Hart we currently have a 6.2 year housing supply (as at 1st April 2015) and the challenge is that our strategic housing market assessment (SHMA) has not yet been tested in front of a planning inspector. Others argue that our land supply buffer is not large enough, however if we take into account this concern then Hart believes the land supply figure is around the 5.6 year mark. We must bear in mind that all land supply figures are a rolling number and Hart needs to continually grant permissions to keep the land supply figure at the recommended level.

Future Local Amenities

The current piling work that is being carried out on Hitches Lane near Calthorpe School is due to finish in the next week which will please local residents. The sewage works are due to be fully complete in 2016.

We are pleased to report that the new leisure centre proposals are now going through the planning system and we hope that in the next few months this will be resolved and implemented promptly.

Best wishes

Councillor Stephen Gorys, Ken Crookes and John Kennett

[Members for Odiham, North Warnborough, Dogmersfield, Crondall and western parishes](#)

43/15

Report from County Cllr Jonathan Glen

The Council have for the 6th year running retained Council Tax at the same level with Hampshire setting the 3rd lowest Council Tax rates in the country.

The Government set targets in 1997 and since that time to current date the Council has seen a complete change in Officers with numbers of officers down and huge changes taken place. This whilst keeping and looking after the services that are provided. Hampshire also ranks the 2nd lowest in receipt of grants from central government.

The County's Children's Services department is just one of ten in the country rated as Good and the only one where the leadership is rated as Outstanding. Hampshire has specifically prioritised child social care and added £12.5m to that budget whilst the capital programme for new schools and improvements is the largest ever at £248m. Youth Service is also safeguarded in the budget this year.

Funding is provided for families of Children with disabilities and is also safeguarded for another year. This service has been fought for by Councillors and seen as a service which should not be stopped.

£30m of public money has also been allocated to rural broadband with over 60,000 extra dwellings benefitting from Superfast broadband. Openreach are being encouraged to install in areas that may not be profitable.

The County have also provided a small devolved budget of £8k to fund up and coming organisations in getting Capital projects off the ground. Grants will be made available from 1st June this year so if you know of any such organisation such as Scouts, Riding for Disabled then please encourage them to apply.



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44/15

A report from Miss Wall, Headteacher of Dogmersfield Primary and Mrs Melbourne, Chair of Governors is included for your information below.

School Report April 2015

In this era of worldwide communication, our lively and informative website is updated weekly. Anyone can read about the daily life of our school and its 127 children and 25 staff. The website also contains all relevant policies, weekly newsletters and details of our before and after school clubs.

For many of our children, we cannot begin to predict or envisage what career path they may follow in the years ahead; their particular profession has probably not even been invented yet! Therefore with the onset of the new curriculum in September 2014, we had to decide on a unique pathway which would benefit our children and equip them for future challenges. With this in mind, we decided to strengthen and build upon our programme of residential visits. These begin in Year 2, when all our 6 and 7 year olds have the opportunity to spend the night in school. For many, this is the first time away from parents or close family members. After a meal with their family, the children arrive at school at 7pm and prepare their beds for the night ahead. All 20 children and staff sleep in the hall (I say sleep, but as you can imagine, with 20 tossing and turning little bodies sleep doesn't come easy!). By 4am many of our clientele are awake and full of beans, ready to greet the day. The evening provides physical challenges, team games and a mental agility Treasure Hunt with cryptic clues. A story, film and hot chocolate finish off the evening before bed.

This is just the start... those children who are 7 and 8 years old spend three days away; either at Hooke Court in Dorset where the focus is learning to be an Egyptian, or at an Elizabethan manor near Reading where the highlight is a Tudor banquet. Here the children will try eating whole chickens with their fingers, followed by Pease pudding and apple cake, before learning to dance a pavane.

For the 8 and 9 year old children, it is either a Viking focus week at Minstead in the New Forest, or an ecology week at Stubbington. Here the children make animal traps (known to the children as "animal hotels"), watch badgers from a specially built Hide, and more importantly learn to mix with a group of children from a different cultural and socio-economic background.

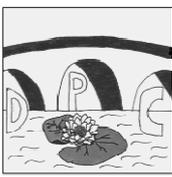
By the time the children reach their final year at Dogmersfield, the challenge of a week away at Bruton in Somerset may seem quite tame. This is until they discover the challenges that lie ahead for them. Walking across a high wire, or being propelled down Europe's longest zip wire, makes for plenty of screams, tears and laughter.

Giving those around you encouragement and developing the determination to succeed against all odds is a vital part of our visits away from school. Building resilience, tolerance and self-belief is what makes our children special; giving them the ability to tackle anything new with gusto and positivity.

Finally, an optional visit which takes place bi-annually is to the UK Sailing Centre in Cowes. Navigating a keel boat across the Solent from Cowes to the Hamble is more than adventure, and teamwork and trust in their companions gets all the children through.

Whilst many schools shy away from these types of activities due to the inordinate amount of preparation and paperwork, along with the ultimate responsibility of looking after the children in their care, I am proud that our staff has a "can do" attitude too, and never question the importance or validity of these visits.

TEAM – Together, Everyone Achieves More. This enables us to "Dream, Believe, and Achieve" anything we put our minds to.



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Report on the Accountability of the School Governing Body April 2015

The role of the school Governor is to be a partner in the journey towards school improvement and in order to do that efficiently and effectively it is necessary for each governor to complete considerable training.

Training sessions are run by Hampshire Governor Services at venues throughout Hampshire and we choose the ones linked to our special responsibilities, whether that is Finance, Curriculum, Pay and Personnel or Health and Safety, plus any others which are of interest.

We are also offered online training and at the moment we are being asked to complete three such units; they are:

**Complaints Handling,
Governors' Discipline Committees
Dealing with Child Protection Allegations**

At every meeting of the Governing Body, Miss Wall presents a very full report on the current position with regard to children's targets and whether or not they are on track to achieve them. We are also given copies of all available data. It is necessary to understand the assessment system and to make sure that the system has moderation and accuracy – this is challenging as the system is changing and the powers that be have not yet given any clear indication as to what the new system will be!

Senior Management is responsible for the monitoring of teaching and learning through all year groups and for reporting back to the governors. However, it is essential that we validate the information we are given and this is done through Governor monitoring visits to school. Visits are pre-planned for the whole year and are progressive, so any issues identified during one visit are followed up at the next one. Governors visit classes and look closely at the children's workbooks and the teachers' marking.

Governors must be aware of the impact of teaching in different subjects and year groups and of the impact of any special measures being taken to address perceived problems. We must also question the satisfaction of parents and the happiness and safety of children; this is done through parent and pupil surveys and by pupil interviews.

Lastly, Governors must make sure that all necessary records and paperwork are in place and, that should Ofsted arrive, we are fully prepared to answer their questions and demonstrate what a very well-run, happy and successful school we have at Dogmersfield.

45/15

Questions were invited by the Chairman

GB commented on the on-going parking/traffic problems which he confirmed is a multi-faceted issue. DPC has met with the school and the Diocese but County were not able to provide a representative. In meeting a representative of the Fisk trust the problems were laid out. It was made clear what would have to be done to provide some alleviation to the situation arising from development of the neighbouring field as the Diocese and the County would not commit to expenditure to provide a parking surface on an annual lease basis which is all that is suggested as being proposed upon development of the field.

A public exhibition would be potentially provided to gauge residents support for a couple of proposed schemes but no further details on this are currently available.

Comment was received on the number of lorries travelling through the village. This was responded to by AJC who considered that the majority of them were relating to the significant shifting of soil connected to the landslip on the canal. It has been assumed that these larger vehicles are adhering



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to the size limitations on the road assumed to be 7.5tonnes along Chalky Lane.

GB commented on his recent discussions with Veolia regarding bin collection vehicles ruining the grass verges and has been reassured that better practices will be invoked to prevent this from occurring.

AJC provided an update on the Canal works adjacent to the landslip. A contract has gone out for resurfacing of the towpath and it is hoped that this will be placed within 4-6 weeks and the footpath can at least be opened. However it will be closed again when the culvert and bank works of the canal takes place in October/November later in the year.

The level of litter was discussed and asked if the CPT could address this. GB said that the teams are not allowed to work adjacent to the roadway. The Four Seasons are seen to do their part but the litter does seem to collect as quickly as it is cleared.

GB asked for feedback on the newsletter as more effort is put into the production of this. All welcomed the new style and it was complimented as being "outstanding".

No further comments were provided.

GB thanked all those that delivered reports this evening and for those attending.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....