



DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Notes and Reports of the Annual Parish Assembly Held at Dogmersfield Primary School 10th April 2017

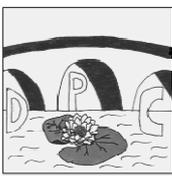
Councillors & Officer present:

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.

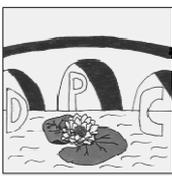
F Taylor	F Cathie	Mr R Dixon
Mrs Y Beaven	M Lowe	Mrs C Dixon
Mr C Ward	Mr C Waller	Cllr J Glen
Mrs A Chisnall	T Scott	V Scott
Mr G Chisnall	Mrs M Maunsell-Thomas	Mr J Maunsell-Thomas
Mrs C Lowe	A Fillis	Mrs S Sizeland
J Banks	Mr P Riley	C Street
Mr R Lister	Mrs C Smith	S Harmer
Cllr K Crookes	Mrs P Clark	T Davies
Cllr J Kennett	Mr B Leversha	S Smith
S Taylor	Mrs F Lister	

Slide 1	<p><u>Welcome & Apologies</u></p> <p>The meeting was opened at 7.35pm by Chairman who welcomed everyone including those new to the event.</p> <p>A safety briefing was provided.</p> <p>As in previous years GB will say a few words about some of the more significant matters that have arisen.</p> <p>Apologies from Cllr J Thomas Apologies were also been received from District Cllr Stephen Gorys, PC Paul Franks and PCSO Liz Wallace, Lyn Brutman, D Patton, Cllr D Simpson, R & A Scarborough.</p>
SLIDE 2	<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 each topic with an opportunity to raise any issues not covered during the evening at the end.</p> <p>GB displayed the outline agenda for the evening.</p> <p><u>Agenda</u> The agenda for the evening was displayed with time made for questions at the end of each item and at the end so please raise anything that you feel is not fully addressed by the various speakers.</p>



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	<p>No apologies for covering very similar topics to last year. This is because not much new has arisen but more important ensuring that you are all up to date on recent developments.</p> <p><u>Election</u> At this time last year DPC was able to anticipate the then upcoming election for the Dogmersfield Parish Council. In the event the Dogmersfield election was not contested and the same team of Parish Councillors continue as before.</p>
SLIDE 3	<p><u>Finance</u> Residents recently received their Council Tax Bill for 2017/2018 and no doubt will have noticed that the element for Parish Council – our precept - has increased by 36.9 % which is on the back of a 30.4% increase for the previous year. GB would like to explain why DPC felt that this level of increase is needed.</p>
SLIDE 4	<p><u>Pressure on Resources</u> This is the slide that used at the last two APAs to explain why the era of freezing the Parish Council's income or precept had come to an end. GB emphasized what was said last year as this doesn't mean that the finances have ever been out of control. It just means that for a number of years DPC have been budgeting and spent more than we received as income.</p>
SLIDE 5 & SLIDE 6	<p><u>Tax Take 2015/2016</u> <u>Tax Take 2016/2017</u> These two slides were shown last year to illustrate that for 2015/2016 the Parish precept was one of the lowest in Hart and that after the substantial 30% increase the Dogmersfield level of precept has only really caught up with similar local Parishes and it is still lower than most of our immediate neighbours.</p>
SLIDE 7	<p><u>Tax Take 2017/2018</u> This shows the same band D figures for the upcoming financial year. With the 36.9% increase we are now towards the top end of the league table but still far from the top and perhaps now much closer to where we should be. Before justifying this year's big increase it must be explained that the Council has to follow a strict timetable for setting its annual budget which is driven by the need to declare how much we want to charge for the coming financial year to Hart District Council in early January. This means that the final decisions have to be made in December. When the Parish Council had to consider what to charge for 2017/2018 DPC were faced with a difficult financial situation. Firstly we had already carried out an unprecedented amount of tree work over the last year driven by safety concerns. The most visible activity being the removal of three trees from Pilcot Green from beside the Queens Head. We were then faced with a further large bill to address safety concerns with the big Willow tree also on Pilcot Green but on the other side of the road. The cost of felling this single tree alone was much higher than the other three added together. At the same time it appeared that Hampshire County Council were not going to pay our annual invoice for the Lengthsman scheme. This was due to a technicality which had not prevented us from receiving the grant in previous years and hence DPC had already carried out £1000 worth of verge clearance work. Faced with this potential financial impact, although not bankrupt DPC were facing a potentially difficult balancing act which highlighted that the Council's reserves for such unplanned expenditure could not be tolerated in future years. DPC therefore recognised the need to continue what was started in the previous year and in order to restore the Council's financial health we increased our income by a further £2000 for the coming year. Unfortunately this was not the only consideration. At the same time in December work on the Neighbourhood Plan was proceeding at pace. More information will follow on this topic but in essence the newly engaged consultants delivered a new costed project plan which was more detailed and credible than earlier versions we had been working with. Although grants for up to £11,000 are available from central Government and Hart District Council it became apparent that a particularly important activity could not be afforded within this total amount. What is called an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required should the Neighbourhood Plan nominate particular sites as suitable for development. Unfortunately the £3000 cost for carrying out such an assessment could not be afforded from the grants available. Again back in December faced with this dilemma the Parish Council decided that it would keep alive the option</p>



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of nominating sites within the neighbourhood plan which would mean potentially meeting the cost of the Environmental impact statement from the precept. To achieve this a further £2000 was added to the precept for 2017/2018 making a total increase of £4000 which equates to the 37%

We are now in April and events have moved on. Firstly, with I believe some help from County Councillors, we persuaded Hampshire Highways to accept responsibility for addressing the big Willow tree. This tree which was a potential hazard to road users has been felled at no cost to the Parish Council. We were also successful in persuading Hampshire County Council to meet our Lengthsman costs for the current year and we will be making different arrangements for such work next year avoiding the same problem in the future.

Had we known in December what has actually occurred we may have come to different conclusions about the level of precept. However, DPC will of course take all these factors into consideration when considering the level of precept for the 2018/2019 although we would not like to speculate on the outcome.

SLIDE 8
&

Precept 2015/2016

SLIDE 9

Precept 2016/2017

Last year these figures were provided and showed that in terms of total income Dogmersfield was close to the relegation zone.

SLIDE 10

Precept 2017/2018

As you can see despite the £4000 increase for 2017/2018 Dogmersfield is still one of the lowest spending Parish Councils in Hart.

Questions were invited but none were raised.

SLIDE 11

Planning

Since this time last year the Parish Council has considered about 60 planning applications which is more than double the 25 that reported last year. Much of the increase is due to the clearance of conditions associated with approved applications and the usual tree works. There have been a small number of applications to extend existing properties and only a handful of applications having significant implications for the Parish and GB moved on to bring residents up to date on these particular proposals.

SLIDE 12

Church Lane

Many of you will recognise that this is the proposal to build three new houses on two plots of land in Church Lane. Permission was granted for this scheme about 12 months ago and as you will know construction is now well underway. However it appears that construction has recently ceased and this appears to be in relation to an enforcement issue due to lack of clearance of Condition 5 design of windows. The changes to the proposed windows and doors were more significant and HDC refused the details. A separate application may be required to regularise what has actually been built.

SLIDE 13

Schoolfield Corner

This time last year DPC were aware of early proposals to build 4 houses on this ex market garden and ex caravan park and as such 'brown field' site. The slide shows the latest proposal which is the subject of two planning applications submitted late last year. The two separate applications cover the front pair and then the rear pair of new houses.

Both of these applications were considered by the Hart District Council Planning Committee on 8th March when both were refused.

Before explaining why these applications were refused GB went on to remind residents about the local Special Protection Area or SPA for ground nesting birds. This is a well-established feature which places some restrictions on building new dwellings within a 5 Km zone which covers much of Hart District including Dogmersfield. The consequences are that any new building has to be compensated by the provision of what is called a Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space or SANG. Large estate type developments normally include their own area of SANG but this is often impracticable for smaller schemes which rely on SANG provided by Hart District Council.

Unfortunately all of Hart's SANG has been used up and the lack of SANG was a main reason why both of the School field Corner applications have been refused. However, this is only a temporary situation as in time more SANG will become available which will overcome this particular issue.

There were other reasons as well.



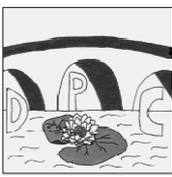
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SLIDE 14	<p><u>Schoolfield Corner from the road</u></p> <p>This slide shows the street scene and that the new houses will be hidden behind the existing hedge.</p>
SLIDE 15	<p><u>School Field Corner house design</u></p> <p>Extracted plans show that the two front houses are more or less identical. The Parish Council may not be able to control development but we can often influence planning decisions. We are very aware that in the Dogmersfield Conservation Area no two houses look the same which is an important characteristic that we must try to protect. Hence in our submission to Hart District Council on both applications the Parish Council highlighted its concerns about the similarity of the designs of both pairs of houses. These points were accepted by the Planning Committee and inadequate design was a second reason for refusal of both applications. This shortcoming will easily be addressed.</p> <p>Finally with respect of the rear pair of properties both the Parish Council and the Hart District Council Conservation Officer expressed concerns about what is known as backfield or back garden development. The Dogmersfield settlement is largely of a linear layout and irrespective of the merits of the School Field site we would not want to see widespread development of this type in Dogmersfield. Unsuitable backfield development was the third reason given for refusal of the rear pair although this issue was not discussed in any length at the planning committee and we can't be sure how it will be treated should the two applications be resubmitted which is believed to be inevitable.</p>
SLIDE 16	<p><u>Chatter Alley</u></p> <p>Hopefully all of you that are interested found time to attend the exhibition on 11th March of the developer's latest proposals for 6 new houses on this site. The loss of views, loss of discretionary parking, impact on the school and impact on parking and traffic flows in Chatter Alley are but a few of the issues raised by this proposal.</p> <p>GB reassured all that the Parish Council has done all that it can to highlight the problems that will be caused by this development. Hopefully you will be pleased to know that we invited the developer and his helpers to a site meeting in the field which we insisted should take place at 3.00pm on Friday 10th February which you will appreciate is the most critical time during a school day.</p> <p>Apart from some small success in persuading them to reposition the houses on the site to reduce the impact on an existing property we don't think that we have had reduced their resolve to submit a full application to build on this field which is being driven by the demands of the landowner.</p> <p>Looking at the slide we understand that discretionary parking on the same as the current terms will be allowed in the unused area behind the development after completion and that an access point will be provided. However, in DPC's view it is unlikely that this will be used much on a day to day basis.</p> <p>Questions were invited: Ownership of the Chatter Alley proposal land was queried but this was clarified. The number of houses in the Chatter Alley proposal was confirmed as being currently 6. It was also confirmed that there is no planning application submitted for garages to the rear of the Chatter Alley development and the proposal shows that there is sufficient parking for all properties off the road.</p>
SLIDE 17	<p><u>Heading Hart District Local Plan</u></p> <p>Ken Crookes will cover progress on the Local Plan in his report but beforehand GB explained what we can expect the impact on Dogmersfield to be.</p> <p>Hopefully you don't need to be reminded about the 2015 consultation called Refined Options for Delivering New Homes.</p>
SLIDE 18	<p><u>Refined Options Consultation</u></p> <p>This extract from the consultation document shows that one of the options for consideration was to build 141 new houses adjacent to Dogmersfield village. This was the dreaded COM001.</p>
SLIDE 19	<p><u>Dogmersfield Residents' Response</u></p> <p>Most of us were concerned at this prospect and DPC mobilised your support and advised you to respond to this proposal along these lines. GB was pleased to say that nearly all households responded in this way. So where are we now?</p>
SLIDE 20	<p><u>Possible basis for the Local Plan.</u></p> <p>This slide is based on a paper that was prepared by Hart DC as part of the build up to the production of the</p>



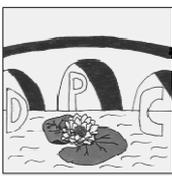
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	<p>draft Local Plan. This is different to what the options consultation was floating in some key respects.</p>
SLIDE 21	<p><u>Possible basis for the Local Plan.</u> Based on what we understand today it does appear that the threat of large scale development in Dogmersfield has receded. Equally important it appears that there will not be a specific allocation for new houses in Dogmersfield which has significant implications for the Neighbourhood Plan. However, development schemes for under 10 houses are still possible. Let us hope the draft Local Plan confirms this situation.</p>
SLIDE 22	<p><u>Neighbourhood Planning</u> GB's final topic is the Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan At last year's APA GB was pleased to announce that a number of residents have offered their talents to form the Steering Group that will shape and oversee the process to produce the plan. The group has worked well together. Its formal meetings are held in public just like the meetings of the Parish Council. The Steering Group normally meets every two months on the same evening as the Parish Council meeting so please come along and support this worthwhile activity. The first task for the newly formed group was to analyse your responses to the questionnaire that DPC distributed in 2015. As reported last year we received over 70 completed responses which was an excellent outcome bearing mind that these are only approximately 110 occupied houses in the parish. This information is a gold mine of your views on the key issues affecting the parish now and in the future. You will all have received a DPC newsletter which let you know that we now have the capacity to set up a Speedwatch initiative but just a reminder that this will not be able to commence without volunteers from residents.</p>
SLIDE 23	<p><u>Vision Statement</u> The Steering Group drew on the analysis of these responses to produce the Vision and Objectives statement that was subjected to consultation in late October last year. Your feedback revealed widespread support for this statement and some further useful comments. Before bringing you right up to date GB digressed firstly into residents feedback from the questionnaire.</p>
SLIDE 24	<p><u>Question 1</u> This slide shows the breakdown of what is most valued by residents. As you can see the rural environment and its various features is completely dominant.</p>
SLIDE 25	<p><u>Question 2</u> The slide shows the similar statistics for dislikes. Although a slightly lower number of responses to this question, traffic related issues are equally dominant. However, these are more or less equally divided between general traffic issues associated with speed and volume and specific problems in Chatter Alley linked primarily to the School. This information is shown to illustrate the dilemma we all face because in many respects these issues will be in conflict if addressing one undermines the other.</p>
SLIDE 26	<p><u>RCOH</u> The second digression is about consultancy support for the neighbourhood plan team. When setting up the neighbourhood plan the Parish Council engaged a small company to provide consultancy support. This appeared to be satisfactory from the outset but it soon became apparent that the necessary mutual confidence was not being established. Consequently members of the Steering Group reviewed the arrangements being used by the other local neighbourhood plan groups and recommended that a different company RCOH be engaged by the Parish Council to take the plan forward. This has been done. RCOH's first contribution was to facilitate a Vision Workshop involving all the members of the Steering Group and a couple of Councillors. This session reviewed the key issues and the feedback and aimed to start to firm up on the shape, size and content of the neighbourhood plan document. RCOH drew all of this work together and their resultant draft Vision Note identified the available options for the plan, the form that it might take and what would be needed to pull it together. For example it explored the merits of nominating development sites in the plan which was the issue mentioned when describing the reasons for increasing the precept.</p>



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	<p>To bring you right up to date the Steering Group considered this draft Vision Note but they were then aware that the draft Local Plan might be about to include a quite different situation for Dogmersfield as has already been described. As the draft Vision Note was produced before this situation became clear RCOH has been asked to reconsider its recommendations in light of the likely Local plan. The steering group will reconvene once the updated draft Vision Note is available which is imminent.</p> <p>Some of the draft Vision Note's recommendations were not affected and the Steering Group has set up a number of subgroups to work on specific topics</p>
SLIDE 27	<p><u>Subgroups</u></p> <p>The slide shows the topics and who will be taking the lead. We want and need to involve more residents in this work and don't be surprised if you are asked to lend a hand. If you want to volunteer just contact any of the names on this slide. Tasks will be specific and therefore will not be an on-going long term commitment.</p> <p>Questions were invited – none were raised.</p>
SLIDE 28	<p><u>QH Flooding</u></p> <p>Finally this slide from last year where DPC said "we know about it, we have a good idea about the root cause and we are doing are very best to get it fixed".</p>
SLIDE 29	<p>QH Flooding</p> <p>This slide shows that we have made progress but it is not fixed yet. The final solution involves replacing a collapsed drain under Chatter Alley just past the river bridge. Work appears to have commenced today and therefore we should be able to report soon "Job Done".</p>
SLIDE 30	<p><u>Report on Village Environment by Cllr Graham Leach</u></p> <p>Cllr GL introduced himself.</p>
SLIDE 31	<p>GL introduced the DPC theme which remains the same as previous years for what it tries to achieve within the village environment, in essence keeping the village neat and tidy and not destroying its rural nature.</p>
SLIDE 32	<p>The resources drawn upon include:</p> <p><i>Use of Lengthsman funding</i> which is funding of £1,000 received from Hampshire County Council annually to carry out delegated tasks such as verge clearance and maintaining ditches. To continue to receive this funding in future years DPC is required to form part of a cluster of parishes and will be joining Newnham who will administer the cluster of local parishes who will all share the same contractor (or Lengthsman) which creates an economy of scale.</p> <p><i>Community Payback Team</i> are utilised up to 9 times per annum incurring an admin fee of £75 per visit. A group of varied size will turn up in the village and be set to work on a particular task. Certain tasks may not be possible due to H&S issues. They have been heavily involved in reducing the impact of invasive species such as the Himalayan Balsam which pervades PGN.</p> <p><i>Self Help</i>, DPC have hosted volunteer days where residents meet invariably on a Saturday morning and set to a particular task. A date will be provided in due course for the Summer. DPC are also grateful to a team referred to as Dogmersfield Dad's who have also been instrumental in keeping the ditches cleared amongst other tasks. We also rely on our residents to maintain their hedgerows close to the roadway.</p>
SLIDE 33	<p>The main activities have therefore been to restore the ditches to allow the drainage throughout the village to work better, Tree works, Land management plan for PGN and traffic chicanes.</p>
SLIDE 34 & SLIDE 35 & 36	<p>The next slide explains the steps that were taken to assess the large willow tree on PGN which had been identified as a potential hazard to roadusers and neighbouring properties. Expert independent advice was sought and the end result was that HCC met the cost of felling the tree. The large cavity in the tree was shown via pictures on the next two slides.</p>
SLIDE 37	<p>In relation to the trees felled on PGS, DPC were advised to leave the area for a couple of years before replanting trees because of the fungal infection that had affected the trees in this area. DPC have heard from some residents that they prefer the openness of the green as it is now but residents will be fully canvassed</p>



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	before implementing any replanting of trees programme.
SLIDE 38	A land management plan for PGN was implemented 2 years ago to eradicate the area from Himalayan Balsam, improve the run off from the ditches in the village that feed in to ditches here to meet the River Hart. This has mainly been through self-help, CPT and expert tree surgeons where required e.g. to remove a felled tree from across the River Hart and in to a residents garden.
SLIDE 39 & SLIDE 40	The slide here shows what of the strategy has been achieved to date with a small amount of work still required to improve the bench area, keep the invasive species out and introduce natural flora and fauna. The immediate task is to clear the logs and remaining trunk of the large felled willow.
SLIDE 41	In relation to chicanes a couple in the village looked particularly ragged and unable to sustain plant life due to lack of soil depth and lack of light. Implementing a solution took over 12 months due to the bureaucracy surrounding obtaining the correct licence from HCC, which was eventually cut through. The two chicanes have now been laid to concrete and inlaid with pebbles but the end result was not as good as expected – whilst being better than they were.
SLIDE 42	Expenditure of the village environment last year totalled just under £4000 of which £2000 was on tree work excluding the large willow tree. The £1000 Lengthsman funding was put to use maintaining the verges. Budgeted for 2017/18 is a total of £4,800 of which the additional £800 has been budgeted for replacement trees.
SLIDE 43	Other issues of concern in the village, is the damage sustained to the verges and traffic islands by the increased volume and size of vehicles travelling through the village. Of most recent concern was the destruction of the finger post sign behind the Queens Head pub and the damage to the Church Lane sign on the corner of PGS. If you come across any such damage DPC are retaining a record of these incidences and therefore please send any photos and information to CI at her email address clerk@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk . Another concern is the increase in fly tipping. Of recent concern was blatant disregard for safety of others when a load of wood was dumped in the middle of the Chalky Lane on a Sunday evening which could have caused a very nasty accident. Recently 3 tons of building rubble was dumped on private land at Pilcot Farm. Residents reported another incident today but which was cleared quite promptly.
SLIDES 44 – 47	The background to the creation of the Community Benefit Fund was explained. The Solar farm which sits on the boundary of this parish with Winchfield was to generate a fund from the annual revenue streams of the farm to fund community projects over a 25 year period. When a new company bought the solar farm they contacted both parishes wishing to pay a one-off lump sum in preference to the 25 years of payments. After months of negotiating DPC managed to secure a lump sum of £28,000. This forms the CBF and will be ring-fenced from the normal precept income. DPC is obliged to maintain records of expenditure and there are certain restrictions on how the money may be spent but overall the idea is that this pool of money be used for the long term benefit of the village. It will be important to support projects over a 25 year span but there could be flexibility if a project is proposed that provides this long term view. DPC are looking to retain access to some of the funds in the early years but is also looking to invest some of the fund (even though returns at the moment will be low). DPC are establishing terms of reference for the CBF but will be looking for 3-4 residents to form a volunteer group to consider worthwhile projects for the benefit of all.
SLIDE 48	Questions were invited – none were raised.
	<p><u>Report on behalf of District Councillors delivered by Cllr Ken Crookes</u></p> <p>Cllr Ken Crookes explained the structure of district councillors and introduced Cllr J Kennett who also shares the ward with himself and Cllr S Gorys. All three have different positions in the cabinet of HDC.</p> <p>The most recent challenge for HDC is to produce a balanced budget and HDC have increased their element of the council tax by 3.2% again this year as per last year. This was after a number of years of council tax freezing. There have been no cuts to services which has been achieved by economies of scale and outsourcing to the private sector.</p>



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The new Hart Leisure Centre has been a pet project of KC in which HDC have invested heavily a very bold decision. The loans taken out to pay for the project will be repayable through the revenue streams of the centre. If you haven't had a chance to visit it yet it is highly recommended as it is a fantastic facility. On 10th May BBC South News will be broadcasted from there.

For the old centre this will be demolished following the building of a new sports hall for Calthorpe Park school.

In relation to the Local Plan the feedback from the consultation on options did not herald any surprises and in KC's view did not add much value. It identified that there was not much appetite for urban extension. Hartland Park which aims to deliver up to 1,800 homes will be a difficult and expensive site to develop due to the clean-up required from its former use.

The villages of Odiham and North Warnborough in their NHP asked for an allocation of houses and have got that. Crondall are looking to allocate sites for the 80 homes. Dogmersfield will be working on their NHP to determine the way forward for them.

The allocation to the village of Murrell Green along the A30 would generate the need for a secondary school due to the increased capacity required. This would not be a HCC school but a Free school.

The Local Plan is due to go out to a 6 week consultation period on the 26th April and this will consult with developers/ agents as well as with residents which it hopes will not generate any significant changes to the LP. It is then hoped that the Local Plan will be in place by this time next year.

Questions were invited:

Do homes that have already been built count towards the allocation? Yes the plan period covers 2012 – 2032 and numbers built will be offset.

KC further commented on the planning application refused by HDC but which has gone to appeal. It is not known how the inspector will judge this application but it is hoped that it agrees with the findings of HDC that the traffic mitigation was not significant enough for the additional load that would be generated by the 400+ homes.

GB further commented that DPC had objected to this application having picked holes in the findings of HCC on the "negligible" impact on the surrounding villages. This statement from HCC significantly undermined HDC's position.

KC did comment that the impact from the QEB development however had not been felt significantly by local residents. New roundabouts and improvements to junctions appear to have reduced the impact relatively successfully.

What is the likely outcome for Pale Lane & Rye Common applications? Will they go ahead?

The land at Rye Common was assessed and taken out of the Local Plan as a viable site. Pale Lane is also not in the plan but this has not stopped the landowner putting an application in. There is a risk the site might achieve permission but the LP would have to be reassessed if this application went ahead.

On the matter of fly tipping HDC are pretty good at clearing up quickly. It varies as to the type of rubbish left and the current favourite is bathrooms! HDC will have new powers to enforce fines but this will obviously be dependent on catching the culprits. There will be a big program of education to HDC residents for them to ensure that any contractor they employ holds the appropriate licence to dispose of the rubbish and obtain evidence of this.

Concerns about potentially unlawful activity on land to the side of A287 is being looked at very carefully by HDC. Planning permission was given for a storage facility and there was a question over whether construction commenced within the 5 year period. Enforcement is looking at this issue.

Further there has been significant tree felling and clearance of land on the opposite side of the A287 again enforcement have been looking at this site and are in discussion with the landowner but it is a wait and see what happens here before any action can be taken.



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Report from County Cllr Jonathan Glen

Cllr J Glen gave background to the structure of the County Council. 78 County Councillors across the county dealing with transport, roads, adult services, children's education standards.

£95M needs to be saved across the county a significant challenge. Devolution has very much been put on the backburner probably as a result of Brexit. JG considered this a significant waste of councillor's time. It may come back after Brexit has been sorted out though.

WHAT YOUR COUNCIL TAX HAS ACHIEVED

Now that we are coming to the end of the financial year, I thought I would share with you what I perceive as the recent important achievements of the County Council, based on our latest figures:

1. Following the recent press activity regarding Surrey County Council, it is heartening to know that Hampshire has managed to freeze our council tax for the last five years. Although it will be going up this year, it is still one of the lowest in the country (£100 lower than inflation since 2010).
2. 90% of Hampshire's schools have been rated good or outstanding by OFSTED.
3. 90% of children get their first choice of school.
4. We have improved family support by targeting the most needy.
5. 800 care beds have been directly provided and 6 ExtraCare homes established to help our elderly residents and ease pressure on the NHS.
6. Over £100 million has been invested in road improvements and repairs.
7. More energy-efficient offices (and fewer of them) have been built/adapted, resulting in reducing bills and benefitting the environment.
8. We have been protecting Hampshire's heritage by supporting museums, galleries and keeping all our libraries.
9. All our household waste recycling centres have been kept open and are now accepting commercial waste.
10. Super-fast broadband coverage across the county has been increased to 95% of all homes.

These results have been obtained despite the current difficult economic climate by careful management of our assets and making savings where we can, and are designed to improve the quality of life for all of us.

REFUGEE SUPPORT

I would also like to highlight that the County Council is participating in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and have to date accommodated 9 households in Hampshire. Following the launch of the Government's Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Programme in June the County Council also formally joined this scheme and we have already received a number of UASC cases into Hampshire. This programme is the one which is aimed at tackling the plight of the children in the jungle camps.

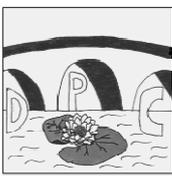
We will continue to do whatever we can to assist those identified by the Government in need of help and contribute to the relevant Government programmes.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I recently had the pleasure of sharing a surgery with Hart North Rural Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). These dedicated young guardians of the peace work closely with the police to handle those incidents which do not require immediate police presence (non-emergency, life-threatening, or criminal). Dogmersfield comes under the Hart Rural South district, where your contacts are PCSOs Elizabeth Wallace and Jack Whitear. Should you need their help or advice on any concerns you may have please ring 101 to explain the situation. They can also be reached on Hart.South.Police@hampshire.pm.police.uk for email queries, and to find out where they are holding their next surgery, which changes each month around the area—might even be in Dogmersfield! I do recommend you go and meet them over a coffee.

POTHOLE CHALLENGE

The cold weather this winter took its toll on our roads and Hampshire Highways is fully stretched in keeping up with the repairs. Last week I discovered that a local pothole had gouged a huge slash in my front right tyre, and having had the expense of replacing this with a new tyre (and lug nuts) I have made it my mission to review the state of the roads in our area. At the request of a resident I have recently visited Crondall's road anomalies and I would like to hear from Dogmersfield villagers about their 'pet' potholes! Please ring my home number as shown below, leaving your name and contact details and I will come along to see the problem and liaise with Hampshire Highways to make sure our concerns are highlighted.



DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

BOUNDARY CHANGE – FAREWELL BUT NOT ADIEU

Due to the boundary changes Cllr J Glen will no longer serve Dogmersfield but thanked the villagers for their support over the years.

GB thanked JG for all he has done in his role as County Councillor always working hard for the community.

Cllr J Glen closed by asking residents to be mindful that whoever their new County Councillor may be that they hold an annual devolved budget of approximately £8k to assist in fundraising endeavours and asked DPC and residents to be aware of this when considering any community project in association with the excellent opportunity provided by the CBF that DPC will be managing.

Immediate Past Chairman, Hampshire County Council

Tel. (01256) 763643

Email: jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk; sharon.glen1@btinternet.com

Report from Basingstoke Canal Society by Philip Riley

Philip Riley was introduced as the Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Society.

This is an organisation run by volunteers who have given many hours over the years in assisting with boat trips on the canal, dredging to keep the waterway open. The Joint Management Committee and BCS are working towards encouraging the Canal & River Trust (a charitable body) to take ownership of the Basingstoke canal but this all comes down to money. The ownership of the canal has been in public ownership for 20+ years in the hands of both County Councils Surrey and Hampshire. It was derelict and restoration has taken place over this time.

The County Councils are also keen to transfer ownership to the Canal & River Trust to manage the asset on a day-to-day basis and potentially this is where its long term future lies. There is not enough money however to take on another canal without funding of the capital cost of maintenance. Revenue streams from the canal include from boat licences, moorings, fisheries and crayfish. But these do not cover all the bills. The canal is also designated as an area of Special scientific interest with a rich ecology which restricts what can be done with it. The Canal & River Trust could not take it on without a dowry from the county councils.

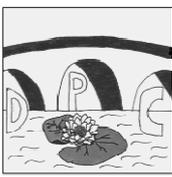
In relation to the Dogmersfield works after some 3 year delay work has now commenced to carry out the work on the landslip. The delays were mainly due to complicated negotiations between the landowners involved. The work is costing more than £1m. This whole area over the years has proven to be unstable with a landslip back in the 80's. The engineering solution has been extremely complicated but has now been agreed and work progresses. It is hoped that the works will be completed in June but the canal will not be open to navigation and the towpath will not be open until all works are complete.

In closing Philip asked DPC not to forget the canal when considering its NHP and to ensure its rich heritage is referenced in the plan as part of the green spaces in the village.

Report from Mrs Claire Inglis, Chair of Governors for Dogmersfield Primary School

Once again the school has had a busy year and since last year's report the school has had an Ofsted inspection where it maintained its GOOD grading. Ofsted arrived within the first term of the new headteacher appointment, Dot Patton, and therefore this was welcomed as an excellent result. The school also had a SIAMs inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) again achieving a GOOD rating. With changes to the rating system to maintain a GOOD rating was also welcomed as a big achievement.

As well as these significant events in the school year there has been a change to the governing body with the Chair of Governors Doreen Melbourne standing down to spend more time with her family. CI then took on the role of Chair of Governors and is enjoying the challenge of this role. Governance in the school has also changed dramatically with a greater level of monitoring of lessons, books and data taking place in all areas as well as all aspects of Safeguarding and Health & Safety with the usual challenge of balancing the school budget in these still difficult economic times.



DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Governing body is currently seeking to fill a vacancy for a Foundation Governor and would welcome anyone from the church and wider community within the village to join the team. If anyone would like to be involved in this way please feel free to discuss with CI after the meeting today or contact the school for more information.

The children continue to be at the centre of all the school does and they thrive at the school continuing to enjoy the organised residential trips throughout the year and all the school curriculum has to offer delivered by a hard-working dedicated team of staff. The football team sponsored by the Four Seasons have had some great success and the newly established netball team are making huge improvements in their game supported by St. Nicholas' school.

Fundraising continues to be an important aspect for the school as monies raised seek to enrich the curriculum and support the challenge of tight school budgets, Ipads have recently been purchased for KS2 children. The school is well supported by its DSA (parent fundraising body) and the whole school community including those in the village. The school is currently looking to apply for grants for two projects which include funds to replace wooden play equipment which is now unsafe for the children to access due to its age and also to install a Public Access Defibrillator situated on the outside of the school building.

Questions were invited by the Chairman

A resident involved in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme warned that there had been a spate of burglaries in the village predominantly to outbuildings. If anyone sees anything suspicious please call 101.

A resident thanked the parish council on behalf of all residents for all that they do for the village.

The evening concluded at 9.32pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SLIDES THAT ACCOMPANY THESE NOTES ARE AVIALBLE VIA THE WEBSITE AT
www.dogmersfieldparish.co.uk