



DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

June 2020

Dear Resident,

When we last wrote to you in March, I am not sure any of us quite expected that we would be living this partial lockdown for the foreseeable future. What strange times these are. As a few weeks have passed, we wanted again, to extend a hand of friendship to all in our Parish and to remind all that there is help out there for those in need. We are conscious that this lockdown has continued longer than many expected and that for some, the next few months will bring real hardship. Now, perhaps more than ever, we need to look after each other.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

There is a myriad of support out there for anyone who needs it at this time. A brief summary of the support available is set out below:

Hampshire County Council has joined forces with district and borough council partners, alongside the county's community and voluntary sector, to ensure vulnerable people are able to access the support they need during the coming weeks. A new helpline is now available to provide information and advice, as well as practical support to frail or vulnerable Hampshire residents.

The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline – Hantshelp4vulnerable - can be contacted on 0333 370 4000. (Calls charged at local rate.) The helpline is available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm, and is for vulnerable people who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need assistance with practical issues.

If you're experiencing financial difficulty as a result of reduced income due to Coronavirus, you can access information and support via:

Central Government advice - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19>

Citizens Advice - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/>

If you would prefer to speak to someone locally, your Parish Councillors are always available to help. They can be contacted as follows:

Graham Chisnall – Chair – 01252 620157
Anne Fillis – Vice Chair – 07769 707530
Alastair Clark – Councillor – 01252 615498
Rob Molloy – Councillor- 07876 031391

Also, please remember there is also a group of Parishioners who are offering their services to anyone who may need to self-isolate or for whatever reason cannot get out of their house. This service is being co-ordinated by Anne Chisnall (01252 620157) and has plenty of volunteers willing and able to assist.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS:

Your Parish Council has had to adapt to the Covid19 times and Parish Council meetings are now being held via Zoom. Details are posted on Parish notice boards but if you want to be included in any meeting, please email our clerk, David Skellern at clerk@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk and he will make sure you are sent the link details. Unfortunately, we still cannot hold an Annual Parish Assembly where we can meet in person and give feedback on Council business. Hopefully we will be able to schedule something later in the year.

We are delighted to announce that Rob Molloy has joined the Council. Rob has lived in Dogmersfield on and off for his whole life. His family's association with the village goes back to 1960 when his grandmother purchased Derry Cottage – the house he now lives in with his wife Sophie and children Joshua and Florence. Both of Rob's parents served in offices within village life – his father having been a Parish Councillor and his mother having been Chairman of Governors at the school. Here is a picture of Rob in his Dogmersfield School uniform:



Rob would like all to know that he is looking forward to his involvement with the council as he feels extremely passionately about Dogmersfield and is proud to be living here. As a family, they have thrown themselves into the village life that now exists and which has made them even more appreciative of being part of such an inclusive community and a beautiful environment.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY:

We also wanted to inform the Parish that we have a vacancy for another Parish Councillor, following the resignation of Brian White. This is a great opportunity to join the local Council and to help look after the Dogmersfield Parish for the future. Are you interested in the life of your village, your Parish, your local environment, local facilities, transport, and planning issues – these are just a few of the areas where we get involved to help make a difference to our community.

No prior experience is required but a willingness to learn, coupled with a can-do attitude would make you a welcome addition to the team. If you feel like you can make a significant contribution to the area in which you live, then this is the position for you!

Any person willing to fill this vacancy should apply to the Clerk in writing on or before 30th June 2020.

To be eligible to apply:

- The applicant's name must appear on the current register of the Voters List; OR
- The applicant should during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within three miles of the parish; OR
- The applicant's only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date is in the parish; AND
- The applicant must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor.

Election to the Council will be voted for by the present sitting number of Councillors.

If you would like an informal chat about the role, or would like to apply, please contact David Skellern (Clerk) on 07747 016050 who will be able to assist you.

KEEPING IN TOUCH:

For those who haven't yet joined, the Dogmersfield Residents WhatsApp Group is a lively forum for keeping in touch with neighbours. You will need to have the WhatsApp application on your mobile device to use this but it will give you an opportunity to link with others in the Parish for support, company or humorous videos to keep spirits up at this time. If you would like your mobile phone number added, please call or message Anne Fillis on 07769 707530.

THANK YOU:



We would like to send an enormous THANK YOU to John and Sally Selfe for the gift of a new Christmas Tree which has been planted on Pilcot Green. The tree will provide a focal point for future Christmas events and hopefully we will all be able to socialise together come December. It is a very generous gift for the Parish and is much appreciated.

FINALLY, A COUPLE OF NOTICES WE HAVE RECEIVED WHICH YOU MIGHT WANT TO NOTE:

South East Water Newsletter – We Need Your Help:

Hot temperatures and dry weather this Bank Holiday saw exceptional demand placed on the drinking water network as everyone spends more time at home, particularly in the garden. This meant we had to pump an extra 140 million litres of water into our pipeline network to keep up with demand. The amount of water used was around a third more than usual for this time of year!

We understand that the world we now live in is very different to before and although we make very sophisticated plans covering the next 60 years of water use, as with everyone else, we could never have predicted this unprecedented situation which COVID-19 has brought about. The water is available in our boreholes and key reservoirs, the problem we're facing is that at times people use water at a faster rate than we can pump it from our sources, treat it and get it to customers' taps. Our key worker teams worked tirelessly over the weekend to keep taps running and will continue to do so, but to ensure there is enough water for everyone as the hot weather continues, we need your help to spread the message and make everyone in your community water aware. We're asking everyone to help make sure there's enough water to go around by taking two simple steps – let your lawns go brown, and be proud of your dirty car.

Hampshire Police Alert:

As we are moving into warmer weather and residents are more likely to have windows open, I would like to offer you all some crime prevention advice to make you less likely to become the victim of a burglary. Most burglaries are committed by opportunists. The criminal picks a house that looks unoccupied, has little or no obvious security or is in a location where they think they won't be seen. Often these are spur-of-the-moment decisions, made when they see an easy target such as an open window, valuables left on view or lapses in security. By looking at your current level of security you can identify areas for improvement and reduce the risk of becoming the victim of a burglary. Walk around your property - if you were locked out, where would you try to get in? Chances are that would also be where a burglar would try.

Benjamin Allman (Police, PCSO, Hart District)