



# DOGMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Notes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held at Dogmersfield Primary School 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### Councillors present:

Cllr Alastair Clark (AC)  
Cllr Graham Chisnall (GC)  
Cllr Jane Houston (JH)

### Members of the public present:

There were 16 members of the public present including  
Cllr David Simpson (DS) and Cllr Ken Crookes (KC)

CLERK: Helen Wright (HW)

<b>Parish Council Reports</b>	<p>Apologies were received from Cllr Brian White who was unable to attend due to work commitments.</p> <p>Parish Councillors and the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer each presented an update on the past 12 months and the current status of their respective areas of remit. Please refer to the associated slides on the Dogmersfield Parish Council (DPC) website. The following is a summary of the key points noted/raised:</p> <p><b><u>Councillor Vacancy</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DPC are currently recruiting for a Parish Councillor following the departure of Geoff Beaven. Applications are welcome and the closing date is 6.00pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The Parish Council and residents expressed their gratitude for the work done by Geoff during his time on the Parish Council, which is continuing with his work on the Neighbourhood Plan despite him no longer residing in the area.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Parish Council Finances</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The NHP has been funded to its final stages entirely by grant and earmarked monies, and all grants applied for have been spent.</li><li>• A small increase in the precept for 2019/20 is justified by the need to avoid a large increase later.</li><li>• DPC have sound accounts and the reserves are in line with our agreed policy.</li><li>• An Internal Audit will take place later in the month and will be carried out by an independent accountant.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Planning</u></b></p> <p><i>Chatter Alley</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A resident expressed concern that the developers may not be taking seriously the issues of safeguarding, as the proposed site is close to the primary school. He believes that</li></ul>
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appropriate checks of the builders and subcontractors need to be taken, and that although the issue has been raised before it needs to be raised again.

- GC emphasised the importance of a sound management plan for the duration of the works e.g. not building during school time perhaps.
- DS suggested that DPC check with Hartley Wintney Parish Council regarding the situation with Greenfields School car park, as unless DPC were to receive a lump sum for the maintenance of the proposed car park then it could become a considerable liability for the parish.

## *Schoolfield Corner*

- A resident asked whether in future the Parish Council can insist that hedges/trees be retained in situations similar to that at Schoolfield Corner, however it was noted that the developer at Schoolfield Corner had sought opinion on that aspect of the works and had re-hedged as desired.

## *Fermoy*

- GC stated that 8 out of the 22 units are classed as affordable housing, despite the fact that there are no amenities nearby. It was noted that the application has been refused.

## *Development on A287*

- GC confirmed that DPC is in discussions with other parishes regarding this development. Assurances are being sought that this development will not be used as a precedent for further development.

## **Highways**

- Volunteers are welcome to help set up a 'speed watch' team.
- The Parish Council is aware of the traffic congestion along Chatter Alley at certain times of the day, and the Council is currently arranging a meeting with the relevant Councillors and Highway Officers.
- DPC plans to hold regular Highway meetings with our County Councillor and the Highway Officers in the future.

## **Footpaths and Community Benefit Fund**

- Efforts are currently being made to progress improvements to Footpath No. 3.
- Cllr Jane Houston is seeking to rejuvenate the Community Benefit Fund Steering Group – volunteers are welcome.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

- AC thanked the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their fantastic



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work and efforts which have resulted in the draft Neighbourhood Plan now being with the Independent Examiner. The Examiner's questions are currently being answered by the Steering Group, via Hart District Council. If the Examiner is satisfied then the referendum will hopefully take place around June/July. It was noted that 50% of the people who vote in the referendum need to be in favour of the Plan, and that hopefully it will be in place by Autumn. Gratitude was expressed to Geoff Beaven for his ongoing contribution and hard work.

## District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Ken Crookes reported as summarised below:

### Local Elections

- Ken Crookes was re-elected in the Hart Local elections in May 2018. He expressed thanks for the continued support.
- In the May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 elections District Councillor Stephen Gorys will not be standing for re-election as he has moved to Southsea. Chris Dorn, Chairman of Crondall Parish Council, will be standing as the Conservative candidate. There will also be candidates from the Liberal Democrat and Green parties.
- The coalition of Liberal Democrats and Community Campaign Hart continue to hold political control of the Council.

### Hart's New Leisure Centre

- To complete the Leisure Centre project a new Sports Hall, funded by Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council, has been built and handed over to Calthorpe Park School. The old Leisure Centre has been demolished and the land handed over to the school for potential future expansion.
- The new centre continues to make a significant positive financial contribution to Hart's budget. As a result, the Council was able to balance its budget for 2019/20 with a Council Tax increase of just over 3%.

### Planning – Hart's new Local Plan

- The ruling coalition chose to include a new settlement in the Winchfield/Murrell Green Area even though the housing supply was not required to meet Hart's target.
- Following the Plan's Examination in Public, the Planning Inspector recommended that the new settlement be removed from the Plan. At a meeting in March, Hart's Cabinet accepted the recommendation, which is great news for our rural villages in the west of the District.
- Hopefully the Plan should be formally in place around Autumn time. It was noted that the appeal regarding Pale Lane has been suspended pending the Local Plan.
- The current application regarding Carp Farm is being pursued instead of the application



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for warehouses on the same site which was granted some years ago. This part of the site will be invisible from the road; it is effectively a separate site from the container site.

- Brand new housing on the A287 would be refused with regard to the Local Plan, because it would constitute development outside the settlement boundary.
- Work has started on the redevelopment of the former Gas Turbines site at Pyestock, which is a long term project to deliver significant new housing. The 'Grove Farm' site on Hitches Lane will deliver an expansion to the Edenbrook Country Park.

## Other items

- The refuse collection service is now being operated by Serco in a joint contract for Hart and Basingstoke Councils. The transition from the previous operator went well in Hart.
- Hart District Council has been successful in its recent application for a 'Site Closure Order' under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013. The Council has worked with partners including the Police, Hampshire County Council and Natural England to seek to resolve matters at the scrap metal dealer and motor salvage business located at Totters Lane, Hartley Wintney.
- Fleet Town Council's plan to develop a new Harlington Centre appears to have stalled for the time being.
- Mr Nick Steevens, Hart District Council's former Head of Regulatory Services, left the council in March. He has not yet been replaced. KC stated that he had very much appreciated Mr Steevens' hard work over the years.
- KC expressed thanks to Geoff Beaven for his hard work and contribution to the Parish Council; he had found him a pleasure to work with.

## **County Councillor's Report**

County Councillor David Simpson reported as summarised below:

- In Dogmersfield very little needing his intervention has occurred - minor problems with Highways the Parish Council had asked him to sort out and so on.
- Last summer DS helped in a minor way to get a Grant for the 200<sup>th</sup> centenary of Charles Kingsley. Attending a meeting with the organisers in Winchester and reversing a decision to give 0 to over £3,000.
- There was a long running saga on flooding (Webbs Corner) in Eversley but with the £100,000 that DS managed to secure for works it should be sorted this year.
- In Totters Lane Winchfield there have been horrendous problems with a scrap yard leaving HGVs in various states of disassembly around the area. The Chairman of Winchfield contacted DS the day after the election to tell him all about it. DS took action and now 2 years later the court has closed it down. DS emphasised that he did not get that involved, explaining that as with so many things his involvement was to facilitate and help cut red tape.



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- Hampshire Fire and Rescue (DS is a member of the 10 member Authority that runs it) is to merge with the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue once Home Office Approval is given. There is now a shadow board to look at how they will be run as one from April 2020.
- In the Ocado fire at Andover 4 ladders melted. Evacuation was ordered because ammonia, for refrigeration, was in canisters on the roof. If they had exploded a half mile to a mile radius would have had shrapnel and if the gas had escaped firefighters would have been at further risk.
- Street lights have been getting dimmer thus saving hundreds of thousands of pounds across the county. Most people appear not to have noticed though.
- Ever since the A30/A327 roundabout was designed DS has agitated for a 4<sup>th</sup> arm. Money is now available and he expects it to be completed early next year - providing CEMEX play ball as they have the right to the gravel where the road is due to go and have not extracted it yet.
- Hampshire County Council will take over road parking charges next April 2020 and will be going out to tender for a private contractor to enforce. Potentially this could mean parking meters appearing wherever double yellow lines exist. In reality this is not expected in the majority of places.
- An interesting statistic in the Budget. County now has some £648 million in reserves. Whenever challenged on such a large amount the answer is that it is all earmarked. But in 2010 it was only just over £200m - now it is three times as much so one has to ask when will the projects earmarked actually happen?
- Blackbushe deregistration of Common Land. This affects every common in the country. They are arguing that the airport terminal has within its curtilage the whole of the airport. If so it becomes a brownfield site and clearly the uplift in valuation is such that it will cease as an airport and become an industrial area.
- As an aside Hampshire is the most export intensive county in England.
- The LRF - Local Resilience Forum - has been looking at the impact of Brexit and amongst many other things have identified a 5km stretch of the A31, between Winchester and Alresford, to hold 2-300 HGVs on either side.
- There will be a new Leader of Hampshire County Council in May as Cllr Roy Perry, the current Leader, is stepping down.
- Regarding the fact that the Hart District Local Development Plan has been passed but NOT a new Settlement in Winchfield, DS expressed credit to Winchfield Action Group and stated that he is delighted that the best result has been achieved - no unwanted development and no new settlement in Winchfield. The knock on effect should mean no houses in Pale Lane but he will believe that when the Appeal decision is out.



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<b>Closing Comments</b>	<p>GC outlined the aims of the Parish Council for the next 12 months as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appoint new Chair + 1 new Councillor</li><li>• Complete last stages of the NHP</li><li>• Maintain activity around planning</li><li>• Develop a 12 month forward plan for the Parish council</li><li>• Action on the Community Fund</li><li>• Focus more on<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– road issues (e.g. close to the school, the bridge in the village centre)</li><li>– appearance of the Parish and village</li></ul></li></ul> <p>A resident expressed concern regarding the amount of litter near the entrance to Dogmersfield from the A287, and it was agreed that organising voluntary litter picks may be a suitable option.</p> <p>GC stated that once the Neighbourhood Plan is complete, then the Parish Council hopes to have more time to spend on undertaking small things which will make a difference to the Parish.</p>
	<p>No further issues were raised. The Parish Council thanked everybody for attending.</p>

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....