

Minutes of the Meeting Held at Dogmersfield Primary School 12th March 2018

Councillors present:

Members of the public present:

Cllr Geoff Beaven (GB) (CHAIRPERSON) Cllr Alastair Clark (AC) Cllr Jo Thomas (JT) Cllr Brian White (BW) There were 5 members of the public present including Cllr Ken Crookes (KC)

CLERK: Helen Wright (HW)

28/18	Welcome & Apologies for Absence	
	GB stated that there had been a meeting of the Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering	
	Group that evening and he would provide a progress report under agenda item 35/18. The next	
	Steering Group meeting has been pencilled in for 6.30pm on 14 th May 2018.	
	Apologies were received from Cllr Gorys and Cllr Kennett.	
29/18	Declaration of Interests – Current Agenda	
	It was noted that BW has declared an interest in the Pond House planning application which will	
	be mentioned in the planning report.	
30/18	Public Participation	
	It was noted that work is nearing completion on the new gas main down Pilcot Hill. Work has	
	started in Church Lane which is now closed to traffic although the level of disruption is currently	
	very variable.	
	GB reported that the sewage odour problem has returned to Church Lane. He had received a	
	complaint during the period of adverse weather and the affected resident also pointed out a	
	gradual deterioration of air quality in the area behind the Queens Head over recent months.	
	Having established that Thames Water are now fully responsible for the installation at the	
	Queens Head, GB consequently pointed out the problems to the local Thames Water liaison	
	officer and asked the affected residents to submit a formal complaint. He understands that	
	Thames Water have visited the area although he is still awaiting their response. KC requested	
	that GB copy him in on any related correspondence.	GB
	GB stated that should residents wish to raise any planning matters no doubt they would be	



	addressed later in the agenda and questions may be asked at that time.	
31/18	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 th February 2018	
	It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 th February 2018 (14/18 to 27/18) be accepted as a true record and they were signed by the Chairperson. (JT proposed, AC seconded, and all were in favour)	
32/18	Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 th February 2018	
	 To include consideration of outstanding action list With consideration to the action list from 12th February, the following points were noted: 18/18 To schedule inaugural meeting of CBF Management Group - JT reported that this has been arranged for 10th April 20/18 To consider feedback from the survey on worthy causes and reach a conclusion regarding the outstanding matter of sponsorship of this year's flower show - To be covered under agenda item 34/18 20/18 To engage IAC for the internal audit for year ending 31st March 2018, and send notice of termination to Do the Numbers - HW completed 21/18 To look into the possibility of extending the current grant period to the end of March 2018 - HW completed, to be covered under agenda item 35/18 21/18 To liaise with Winchfield Parish Council regarding consultation on draft Hart Local Plan - To be covered under agenda item 35/18 	
33/18	Councillor Vacancy	
	To report progress on recruitment actions GB reported that a vacancy notice has been displayed with a closing date of 5:00pm on Friday 9 th March 2018, and that one application has been received which will now be processed. It is likely that a decision to co-opt can be made at the DPC AGM on 14 th May.	ALL
34/18	Finance & Regulatory Matters	
	To approve appraisal of probation period for Parish Clerk GB stated that an end of probation review was put in hand immediately following the last meeting, which involved the compilation of an appraisal report that assessed HW's performance when carrying out the duties of the Parish Clerk and her suitability for the post based on her personal qualities. GB completed the report which was seen and endorsed in its draft form by	



all Councillors prior to it being formally issued. The report concluded that HW has performed very well in a new role quickly becoming a fully effective Parish Clerk, and consequently HW has satisfactorily completed the period of probation. GB commented that at the last meeting the outcome of the annual salary review was resolved which was to be subject to the satisfactory completion of probation, therefore resulting from this decision regarding the completion of the probation period the new salary level will become payable from 1st April 2018. GB will now instigate the formal appraisal process agreeing objectives that will be assessed in the summer.

GB

It was resolved that Helen Wright has satisfactorily completed the period of probation and her permanent employment in the post of Parish Clerk is confirmed.

(AC proposed, JT seconded and all were in favour)

To receive and approve the financial statement of accounts from 1st – 28th February, confirming payments made in February, and to authorise any payments due in March and April HW reported that in summary the transactions in February were:

Payments: Cheque nos. 1050 (Hants & IoW CRC Ltd, CPT visit 14/12/17 £80.00),

1051 (clerk salary £370) and 1052 (training £48.00 inc VAT)

Receipts: Nil

It was noted that the financial position at the end of February is as follows:

Total cashbook: £18,506.48 of which £7,566.48 is ring fenced for the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was resolved that the February report be accepted as a true and correct record and the payments listed therein be confirmed.

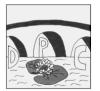
(AC proposed, BW seconded and all were in favour)

It was resolved to authorise the payments listed below:

- Cheque no. 1053 £370.00 Helen Wright (clerk salary March 2018)
- Cheque no. 1055 £432.00 Premier Grounds & Garden Maintenance (invoice no. 02319)
- Cheque no. 1056 £120.00 Premier Grounds & Garden Maintenance (invoice no. 02332)
- Cheque no. 1057 £50.56 Helen Wright (admin expenses)
- Cheque no. 1058 £395.00 Helen Wright (clerk salary April 2018)

(GB proposed, JT seconded and all were in favour)

It was noted that cheque no. 1054 (£3,600 inc VAT payable to RCOH Ltd) will be considered under agenda item 35/18.



To report on survey of residents regarding financial support of beneficial causes

GB reminded the meeting that in January 2018 the Parish Council had carried out a survey of residents' views on Parish Council expenditure on worthy causes, and in particular whether the Parish Council should place more emphasis on the wider beneficial implications of such expenditure than it has done in the past. The survey closed on Tuesday 6th February. 28 responses were received which is a corrected figure as 23 was reported at the last meeting. The

I am happy for the Parish Council to provide more financial support to worthy causes: 19

28 responses represented approximately 25% of the households contacted. The results were:

- I do not want the Parish Council to change its approach towards worthy causes: 9
- I would like the Parish Council to provide less financial support to worthy causes: 0

14 comments were also received which mainly provided further support to, or some clarification of, the positions taken. Two respondents suggested that the Community Benefit Fund should be used for this purpose, rather than precept funding as proposed by the Parish Council. GB explained that the possibility of using the Community Benefit Fund for supporting worthy events was considered some time ago, but the Parish Council had concluded that this windfall finance should be used for schemes that would have an enduring benefit. If the fund were to be used to support the running costs of events it would easily be dispersed with no lasting legacy.

It was noted that the clear message from the survey is that the Parish Council should consider adopting a more generous approach towards requests for support of worthy events. However, in order to ensure consistency of approach GB proposes that policy guidelines should be established for deciding which requests should be supported.

He explained that should the Parish Council wish to support worthy causes such expenditure would normally be covered by Section 137 of the Local Government Act, which allows a local authority to incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants. However there are limitations to this empowerment, as for example the direct benefit accruing should be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred. There is also a limit on the total expenditure allowed which is currently £7.57 per elector which for Dogmersfield would be around £2,000 per annum.

GB further explained the need to be aware that providing financial assistance to the church is potentially problematic and legally complex. The Local Government Act 1894 transferred powers from the Vestry and Churchwardens to the newly formed Parish Councils, except relating to the affairs of the church or to ecclesiastical charities. In general the 1894 Act prohibits Councils' involvement in property relating to the affairs of the church, such as the maintenance or improvement of buildings or land or contributing to those costs. Although subsequent legislation has provided clarity or overridden some of the provisions, the complete



legal picture is still unclear. For example although Section 138 of the 1972 Act does empower a Parish Council to support or facilitate a religious event, underlying legal uncertainty remains, and special care would be needed when considering any support request connected with All Saint's Church.

One survey response drew attention to some potentially relevant advice in NALC's Good Councillor's Guide. However, the section highlighted no longer appears in the 2017 edition of this valuable guidance document.

The following statements have been drafted to reflect the legal background and other concerns expressed by some respondents and by Councillors, and these could be used to provide a policy framework for the consideration of individual requests for support of a worthy cause:

1) Worthiness

Worthiness can only be a subjective judgement and consequently it will not be possible to establish clearly defined criteria with thresholds. An event or proposal must be open to all Parish residents and satisfy the Section137 requirements in that it must be in the interests of, and bring direct benefit to, the Parish or any part of it or all or some of its residents.

2) Viability

Events and proposals are likely to fall within one of the following categories:

- (a) a new initiative or event requiring help to 'get off the ground'
- (b) a well-established event which is not, or is no longer, financially viable requiring support to enable it to continue
- (c) a well-established or new event that should be self-sustaining without support

Unless there are extra special circumstances Council-funded support should be limited to categories (a) and (b), and all support requests should justify why the event or proposal comes within category (a) or (b).

3) Limitations

- (a) Recognising that funding made available under Section 137 is limited to a cost per elector, Council-funded support should also be based on a contribution per elector or household. In this respect the Council should use a rounded figure of 120 households. Hence for example £1 per household would represent a support offer of £120.
- (b) Any financial support provided should be commensurate with the direct benefit accruing.
- (c) The legacy of legal limitations regarding the provision of assistance to the church must be respected.

It was resolved that when considering requests for support for a worthy cause



consideration will be given to the Parish Council's Support Policies covering Worthiness, Viability and Limitations.

(JT proposed, BW seconded and all were in favour)

It was resolved that the Dogmersfield Parish Council Worthy Cause Support Policy document dated March 2018 be adopted.

(AC proposed, GB seconded and all were in favour)

To consider the request for sponsorship of the craft tent at the Dogmersfield, Winchfield and Crookham Village Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show and Fete

GB explained that this request has been assessed in accordance with the newly adopted policies for supporting worthy causes as follows:

- 1) Worthiness The event is open to all residents and does bring direct benefit to the Parish in that it is an easily accessible environment for social interaction, providing entertainment and an opportunity for other locally important worthy causes to raise funding for themselves. Many residents support the event through volunteer participation and attendance.
- 2) Viability the event is likely to come within category (b). An explanation of the reasons for requesting financial support was made in 2015 which is probably still valid, however this explanation needs to be updated and confirmed.
- 3) Limitations recognising the level of need and benefit accruing, the proposed level of support is £1.50 per household which will equate to £180.

It was resolved that £180 be provided as sponsorship of the craft tent at the Dogmersfield, Winchfield and Crookham Village Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show and Fete subject to updated confirmation of the reasons for requesting financial support.

(AC proposed, JT seconded and all were in favour)

residents regarding the Local Plan

To discuss and agree actions regarding APA preparations

The following were agreed in preparation for the forthcoming APA:

•	GB's Chairman's address will cover such topics as the precept, the worthy causes	GB
	survey, planning applications and the Neighbourhood Plan	
•	District Councillor Ken Crookes will be asked to present regarding the Local Plan	HW
•	AC will invite the Police to attend and offer them the opportunity to present	AC
•	GB will invite the school to attend and offer them the opportunity to present	GB
•	County Councillor David Simpson will be invited to present	HW
•	AC and HW will draft the pinkies, which could be distributed alongside a letter to	AC/HW/

Minutes 12th March 2018 6

GB

GB



AC will print the pinkies	AC
BW will arrange for wine and returnable glasses from Auriol Wines	BW
AC will try to arrange audio	AC
GB will arrange timings and running order for the evening	GB
To review risk assessment for Parish Council meetings	
GB stated that Dogmersfield Primary School are considering their risks and DPC needs to	
ensure that its own assessment is still relevant; some changes are needed to reflect the use of	
the school hall and an updated version had been produced and circulated to Councillors for	
review. It was noted that minor further updates are required, and that following amendments the	GB
final version will be brought to the AGM for consideration and subsequent adoption.	HW

35/18 Planning

To report on current planning applications and confirmation of Parish Council responses

16/03129/OUT Pale Lane – This application seeks outline approval for 700 new houses and some local infrastructure including a primary school and a community centre. At the last meeting GB had explained the reasons given by HDC's planning officials for refusing the application. Although there is nothing further to add GB suspects that there will be a response from the developers.

17/02373/PREAPP Chatter Alley – At a previous meeting GB gave a full explanation of the preapplication meeting at HDC on the scheme involving 5 new houses and the provision of 20 parking spaces for public use. There is still no change.

17/02557/PREAPP Rushy House – This is a pre-application for a single new house in the paddock adjacent to Rushy House. HDC have issued an opinion although this has not been made available on their website. GB commented that HDC are inconsistent with the publication of details of their opinions on applications. GB agreed to send a note to this effect to KC who will look into it further.

GB

17/02664/FUL Emilys Farm – This application seeks to renew the permission granted in 2012 for a temporary mobile home to house a stockman close to the animals under his/her care. The previous permission expired in 2015. The Parish Council has not objected through a nil response. No further information is available; HDC may be awaiting the outcome of 18/00157/FUL.

17/02887/LDC and 17/02888/LDC Farnham Lodge – These two applications seek Lawful Development Certificates, firstly for the bungalow called Farnham Lodge which has been occupied for a number of years without fulfilling the applicable agricultural tie, and secondly for a



building on the same site called The Paddock which has been occupied as a dwelling for more than 10 years without planning permission. The Parish Council concluded that it would not respond to what is a legal matter. HDC have issued a certificate for the Paddock but are still considering the case for Farnham Lodge.

18/00049/FUL Pond House – This is the expected full application to install a gas tank and sewage digester on non-residential land adjacent to the converted garage. The earlier proposal to construct a new service entrance off Ormersfield Lane had been dropped, and the Parish Council submitted a neutral response highlighting the lack of clarity regarding the arrangements for ongoing servicing of these facilities. Subsequently amended plans were submitted by the applicant that reinstated the new service entrance, but these have now been withdrawn probably in response to objections from local residents. GB anticipates that there will be further applications.

17/01678/CON Four Seasons – This application seeks to clear a condition associated with the granting of permission for the Children's Swimming Pool. The Parish Council has not responded.

18/00195/FUL Grace Gardens – Work to demolish Floods Farm Cottages is well underway. Nevertheless this is a new application for a number of changes to the approved design of the replacement building. The Parish Council has submitted no objections. The Assistant Conservation Officer has recommended refusal, as the increase in footprint has become out of scale with the neighbouring listed properties.

18/00157/FUL Emilys Farm – This is a recent application to build a slaughter and butchery unit, which was expected following the outcome of the recent pre-application for the same facility. The Parish Council has objected because no adequate justification was provided. The business case which needed to demonstrate the viability of the facility was not made publically available. There have been several other refusal recommendations, including Environmental Health which has identified numerous shortcomings with the proposed facility.

13/01938/NMMA Ormersfield Lodge – This is a recent application to regularise where the rebuilding of the stables to form a three bedroom dwelling has deviated from the approval scheme. The Parish Council has submitted no objections.

17/01286/NMMA and **18/00299/HOU** Forge Cottage – There have been two virtually identical applications to delete an unsatisfactory design feature. The first was a minor amendment and the second was a full application with a much fuller description. The Parish Council has supported the full application. **17/01286/NMMA** has now been withdrawn.

18/00358/CA Old Stables - This is an application to fell a fir tree in front of the unoccupied



house next to Red Cottages. The Parish Council has not responded.

KC confirmed that the storage containers visible from the road at Carp Farm are temporary, and that the owner is at present considering using the land to create a number of smaller industrial units. KC will also investigate the tarmacking of the field off the A287, as BW stated that it has resulted in flooding of the road when rain falls.

Advice to residents regarding consultation on draft Hart Local Plan

At the last meeting GB had reported that the Proposed Submission Version of the Hart Local Plan has been published and is available on the HDC website. The Parish Council has been provided with one hard copy which can be made available to anyone wishing to see it. Hard copies are also available to view in HDC's Council Offices in Fleet and all libraries in the district. The consultation of the plan closes at 4pm on Monday 26th March 2018.

It was difficult to be certain how the Parish Council should respond to the consultation and what they should advise residents to do. GB reported that as agreed at the last meeting AC, BW and himself have met with representatives of Winchfield Parish Council who are inviting their neighbour Parish Councils to work together, either in the form of a joint response to the consultation or by supporting a Winchfield Parish Council response. That meeting established that Winchfield Parish Council have engaged a respected planning expert to compile a detailed and comprehensive set of comments which respond to the assessment criteria, and also to represent the Council's views at the Inspector's public hearings. GB, AC and BW were able to examine the tasking document for the expert which covered a range of matters relevant to the wider local area, the intent being not to undermine the whole of the Plan but to focus on the soundness of the Plan's inclusion of the new settlement planned for the Murrell Green/Winchfield search area. GB, AC and BW concluded that the proposed scope adequately encompassed all of Dogmersfield's interests.

As a next step DPC have been invited to examine the set of comments in draft form, which will be an opportunity to request changes and additional work if time permits. This review is scheduled for Wednesday this week.

It was noted that Winchfield Parish Council are not asking DPC to contribute to their costs as they feel our support and involvement will itself be very valuable to them, although they indicated that any voluntary contribution however small would help them to bear the financial burden of using professional help in this way.

GB stated that on the basis of what DPC has heard and examined it has agreed in principle to work with Winchfield Parish Council, with the aim of producing a submission prepared by the expert that DPC can support, and it was also concluded that a competent submission supported by a number of the closely affected Parish Councils would have far more influence than DPC



could ever achieve through a submission of their own, less well-informed, comments. GB anticipates that DPC should be in a position to decide whether or not to support Winchfield Parish Council's initiative towards the end of this week; GB will seek an ex-Committee decision. GB stated that residents will need to be informed of DPC's chosen approach, and he will be drafting a suitable letter to deliver to all residents for their consideration in the same timescale.

GB

GB

It was noted that DPC has been invited to meet the promoters of Murrell Green (Tristan Fitzgerald Associates) but a convenient date could not be found. Such a meeting is now likely to be postponed until nearer to the time when HDC begin detailed consideration of the new settlement.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

GB reported that a draft Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan has now been received from ONEILLHOMER, and that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group met last week to consider this draft and what the next steps should be.

In providing the draft plan ONEILLHOMER highlighted a number of sections that needed further contributions from the Steering Group, or the insertion of a better plan or illustration than those that they had provided. All but a few of these suggested additions, including the required policy map and the changes, were made locally before the Working Group considered the document. ONEILLHOMER also indicated that with the aforementioned changes they considered that their draft plan was in a suitable state to use for the next critical steps of seeking an SEA prescreening opinion from HDC, and for the local informal consultation planned by the Steering Group.

After careful consideration the Working Group concluded that in their view the draft plan was not yet sufficiently mature to use for these next two steps. In particular they felt that a number of the most important policies as drafted by ONEILLHOMER were too general, and lacked the precision and scope of similar policies in other local Neighbourhood Plans that had already been adopted, and also more importantly the latest draft of HDC's Local Plan. The Working Group is currently drawing up its own proposed changes to the draft plan, and these will be put back for consideration by ONEILLHOMER. The required more mature version of the draft plan will be completed later this week.

GB reported that the Working Group had considered the arrangements for seeking residents' views through an informal consultation, and it was agreed that this should be completed prior to the finalisation of the Pre Submission version of the Plan that would be submitted to HDC for them to carry out the required formal and much wider consultation. The Working Group concluded that for this informal consultation it would not be practicable or affordable to deliver a hard copy of the draft plan to every household, and alternative arrangements would be required whereby residents would be asked for their comments by a letter that would identify where the



draft plan could be found on the Parish Council website. Hard copy versions of the plan would be provided for those residents who are unable to access the website.

When they delivered the draft plan ONEILLHOMER submitted RCOH Ltd invoice no. 528, which also covers their effort to respond to any comments from the Steering Group or HDC on the draft plan. It covered six days of work in line with both the agreed project plan and the Council's Purchase Order, at a total cost of £3,000 (VAT EX).

The financial position is that the current Purchase Order (PO) authorises work to the value of £5,500, and if invoice 528 is paid the expenditure to date against this PO will be £4,500. The overall NHP funding situation is as follows based on the Parish Council's financial report for end of February 2018 (VAT EX):

Receipts Total £13,000

Expenditure to date £5,433.52

Current Invoice £3,000

Balance £4,566.48

Outstanding ONH commitment £1,000
Uncommitted Balance £3,566.48

As the precept reserve is earmarked for an SEA the available balance for further commitment with ONH/expenses/printing is £1,566.48. This is satisfactory except that under the agreed terms the Parish Council is obliged to repay any of the current Groundwork UK grant that is unspent at the end of the grant period. Although HW successfully extended the period of the grant as progress has not matched expectations, £785 will have to be repaid by the end of March. However, it has been confirmed that an application can be made in the new financial year for a new grant to the value of the repayment.

When the end of the financial year 2017/2018 repayment is taken into consideration the position is as follows:

Expenditure to date £5,433.52

Current Invoice £3,000

Repayment £785

Available balance £3,781.48

Outstanding ONH commitment £1,000

Remaining Balance £2,781.48

As the precept reserve is earmarked for an SEA the available balance for further commitment



with ONH/expenses/printing is £781.48. If the further grant application for the financial year 2018/2019 of £785 is successful the available balance becomes £1,566.48. The Steering Group resolved that they would request payment of RCOH Ltd invoice 528 and advise that the unspent grant of £785 needs to be repaid.

It was resolved to pay RCOH Ltd invoice 528 at a cost of £3,600 (VAT inclusive)

(GB proposed, JT seconded and all were in favour)

It was resolved to repay the unspent Groundwork UK grant of £785

(AC proposed, GB seconded and all were in favour)

36/18 Environment and Rights of Way

To report on progress of Lengthsman visit works

GB stated that since the last meeting the outstanding work on the ditches upstream of Rushy House has now been carried out. He reminded the meeting that DPC had agreed a price for the work opposite the garages, and intended that the other work would be covered by outstanding Lengthsman hours which could be topped up if needed. In the event some 5 hours of extra Lengthsman effort were required which was about half of the expenditure that DPC had resolved for this top up. This extra work was regularised through the issue of a Purchase Order and the expenditure was included in the list of payments authorised under agenda item 34/18.

37/18 Highways

To report any updates on Highways matters

AC reported that HCC have promised to look at repairing the verge on Chatter Alley (following the lorry falling into the ditch) in the next financial year as they cannot afford it this year.

It was noted that no gritting in Dogmersfield seemed to have been undertaken by HCC during the recent snowy period, despite HCC's assurances to the contrary. AC will pursue the matter, and BW is to send an email to AC stating his own experiences of the lack of gritting. AC has been successful in procuring a grit bin which is located outside the school

AC BW

HCC have offered DPC a 'walkabout' to look at some highways issues.

The speedwatch initiative is being progressed as and when it is possible to do so.

38/18 Other Matters to Report

Community Liaison

GB reported that the full entry criteria have been received for the Box Car race being staged by Odiham Parish Council to commemorate 100 years of the Royal Air Force. There will be a meeting on Thursday evening to decide whether or not to submit a



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		formal entry by the closing date at the end of March.	
	ii.	Training	
		Nothing to report.	
	iii.	Website update	
		The website is being updated and maintained on a regular basis.	
	iv.	Newsletter update	
		Nothing to report as the draft Local Plan is taking priority.	
39/18	Crime	e and Disorder Act, Section 17	
	Nothing to report.		
40/18	8 Next meeting date		
	The next meeting will be the APA on 16 th April, with the AGM following on 14 th May.		
41/18	Inform	nation sharing	
	Nothing to report.		
	The m	neeting closed at 8.45pm.	

Signed	Date	
Chairman		

Abbreviations	In place of
DPC	Dogmersfield Parish Council
HDC	Hart District Council
HCC	Hampshire County Council
NHP(SG)	Neighbourhood Plan (Steering Group)
CBF	Community Benefit Fund
CPT	Community Payback Team
HALC	Hampshire Association of Local Councils
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
SPA	Special Protected Area
NPPG	National Planning Policy Framework
APA	Annual Parish Assembly
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment