



## Dormansland Parish Council

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### Minutes of the 212<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Dormansland Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9 January 2019 in The Parish Rooms, The Platt, Dormansland RH7 6RA

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#### 1 Roll Call

##### 1.1 Members present:

Councillor Mrs Maureen Young (**Chairman**)  
Councillor Mr Guy Kaiser-Davies  
Councillor Mr David Bright  
Councillor Mrs Dawn Cook

##### 1.2 Also in Attendance:

District Councillor Sir Nicholas White, 3 members of the public and the Clerk.

#### 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Mr Harry Fitzgerald (**Vice Chairman**), Councillor Judy MacKenzie-Dunn and County Councillor Lesley Steeds.

#### 3 Declarations of interest

As trustee of the Memorial Hall, Councillor Cook declared an interest in agenda item 13.

#### 4 To receive minutes of the 211<sup>th</sup> meeting held on Wednesday 12 December 2018

4.1 It was resolved that the minutes of the 211<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 12 December 2018 previously circulated to all members, be signed as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

#### 5 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

No reports were received this month.

#### ***CHAIRMAN SUSPENDED THE MEETING***

#### 6 Charters Village

William Crawford (Group Development Director) and Guy Flintoft (Planning Director) of Retirement Villages Group Ltd (RVG) were invited to DPC's meeting to give an update on the developments at Charters Village. Mr Crawford explained the proposals for phase 3 of the site which was for 31 units made up of 24 apartments and 7 cottages and the reasons for this. There were plans to build a new club house that would be 3 times larger than the existing one. Enhancements to the club house included moving the bar and creating a new catering facility. A new catering kitchen has already been installed.

The proposed site is in the Green Belt and home to many trees. Mr Flintoft said RVG had been liaising with Tandridge planning officers and would retain as many trees of significance as possible. Most of the trees to be removed were not mature or significant. The significant mature trees were around the outside of the site and inside were younger mainly self-seeded trees. Councillor Mr Bright wanted to know what the very special circumstances were to justify building on Green Belt. Mr Flintoft said that this case is based on a specific need for extra care housing in the district and it is easier and more

efficient to increase an existing site than build a new one.

Members were concerned about the current highways issues along the road. RVG have been liaising with County Highways department who do not appear interested. RVG have agreed to pay for a road sign to encourage drivers to slow down. They have also offered to contribute towards other speed measures but highways are reticent that nothing can be done and are happy with the current set up of that road. Mr Crawford confirmed the shuttle bus service was still in operation and they were looking at making more use of it. Moving the bus stop was suggested but they stated that Highways had said there was no suitable alternative. They also said they were prepared to do anything within reason that Highways asked but that the view of Highways was that the scheme did not meet sustainability criteria because of increased private car use. There was also a doctor's surgery on site 2/3 hours week as well as a prescription service. RVG contribute £13,000 a year to these services.

The Chairman thanked Mr Crawford and Mr Flintoft for their presentation and stated DPC members would need time to consider and discuss this further.

## **7 Public Question Time**

One member of the public expressed her views regarding the Silent Soldier and poppies around the village. She felt it was extremely offensive and disrespectful to have had the poppies displayed for so long after 11 November 2018 and that the flag and Silent Soldier should also be removed or at least remembrance dates removed from the sign. The resident previously contacted the Clerk about this and Councillor Fitzgerald removed all of DPC's poppies. Members explained they have taken advice from the Royal British Legion and the poppies could remain for any length of time but reiterated these have since been removed. The Chairman suggested DPC ask residents whether they would like the Silent Soldier removed and will place an ad in the Village Voice. **Action: Clerk**

## **8 Planning**

8.1 Members approved minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 19 December 2018 previously circulated.

## **9 Chairman's Comments**

The Chairman arranged for 2 Christmas trees to be planted in the village over Christmas and thanked Adam Neill for his help with planting these. The Chairman reported she has also recently potted some new bulbs in the village planters.

## **10 Correspondence and Communication**

10.1 Members noted various items of correspondence and communication previously circulated by the Clerk.

## **11 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported:

- Confirmed DPC have sent their response re the closure of St Pier's Children's Centre.
- Piers Mason has confirmed the PC can use their permitted development rights for installation of the new outdoor gym equipment.
- The Clerk will set a new date for an open surgery at the end of February/beginning of March.
- Clerk to liaise with Website designer to make a couple of changes to the DPC website.
- The bench near The Plough has been hit and **Members agreed** for the bench to be removed and not replaced due to its inappropriate location.

## **12 Neighbourhood Plan**

12.1 TDC have asked the Steering Group for evidence documents but there have been no responses to date.

**Action: Clerk**

12.2 No expenses incurred.

### 13 Dormansland Memorial Hall

- 13.1 Councillor Cook confirmed that the Trustees' solicitors have received documents from the Land Registry including deeds/documents from Lloyds and now await confirmation that the Charge is off to the Land Registry.

Mr Mills had received a letter from the Charity Commission in connection with Sir Nicholas' letter of complaint. The Charity Commission have spoken to the Trustees' solicitors who have replied. The Charity Commission confirmed they are happy with the information they have received from the Chairman of the Trustees and the Trustees' solicitors and all questions/queries have been settled. The Trustees will liaise with the proposed developers start to get the finer points in place. Once this has been done the plans will be presented to the village for their views. Councillor Cook said the trustees plan to put an article in the Village Voice requesting photos/dates of events/special memories of events from residents in order to create a new memory board that will be put up in the new hall.

Jane Vogt was unable to attend not present at DPC's meeting but asked Sir Nicholas to read out her questions. These were:

- There is still no indication of any plans for alternatives to the hall.
- Should be 3 valuations from independent of reputable estate agents to establish the value of the Royal Oak, not the value that Enterprise Inns requires to be paid.
- The village should be able to see what the costs of everything is going to be. Residents have to make sure that money is being saved on behalf of the Memorial Hall.
- An article on Facebook stated there was a recent flood at the hall. Sir Nicholas asked whether the Parish Council were still paying the insurance? PC Members confirmed they were not paying the insurance. The Manager of the Royal Oak reported there was no damage caused by the flood as this was located in the cellar and not in the hall. The water had been turned off and an act of vandalism/theft caused the flood in the first place. Extra security has been placed on the entry points.

Councillor Cook confirmed she would speak to Mr Mills regarding insurance on the hall. She confirmed surveyors looked at the hall and the Royal Oak site and have been involved from the very beginning. With regards finances, until the final agreement is agreed there are a couple of different financial options available. Each option will have a different layout of costs involved and once finalised will be made available. Councillor Cook confirmed the Trustees have a bank account.

Sir Nicholas questioned why Company running the Royal Oak is no longer Quest. The Royal Oak Manager confirmed Quest are still in charge of the day to day running of The Royal Oak.

Councillor Cook stated the new hall will never just be a club. It will provide a new modern village hall for hosting parties/clubs/scouts/classes and there has already been a great deal of interest from clubs. Two other possible sites were not feasible and therefore they were only left with The Royal Oak site. Chairman of the PC confirmed she was happy with what the Trustees are doing. Councillor Cook stressed that the Trust is not a profit-making organisation. Solicitors were happy that everything done was in accordance with the rules and regulations. A member of the public praised the Trustees for what they were doing.

### 14 Village Environment, Highways and Infrastructure

- 14.1 Councillor Cook gave members an update on the aircraft/interference over West Street. Councillor Cook's husband visited Mrs Pollock and wrote a report of his finding which Councillor Cook read out. Mr Cook noticed in particular the proximity of the railway to the site line. He suggested the intermittent sparking of trains could be the cause and asked Mrs Pollock to keep an eye on that. A subsequent email has been received from Mrs Pollock and the interference occurred when there were no trains are in the vicinity. Councillor Cook suggested speaking to OFCOM and asking them to investigate. The Chairman said she has spoken to residents in West Street who have not had these problems. **Action: Clerk to contact OFCOM and Mrs Pollock**

- 14.2 It was noted that one more gully has been cleared in the village but nothing further has been mentioned from Highways about Sandhawes Hill.  
Councillor Bright has received an email from Phillipa Gates at SCC to say she is waiting for an installation date for the village signs and will be chasing.

Councillor Cook was asked by the owners of the Village Shop to report that all the white road signs outside the shop have virtually disappeared **Action: Clerk to contact Councillor Steeds/SCC**

- 14.3 The Clerk spoke to the Sarah Endersby, Clerk at Godstone PC, about digital mapping. Sarah explained the advantages she found to using the system which included burial grounds, land titles, the position of assets and identifying footpaths. **Members agreed** digital mapping was not necessary or of any benefit to DPC at this time.

## 15 Reports from representatives on outside bodies

### 15.1 Lingfield Library

Library committee held a meeting on 9 January 2019 to discuss the volunteers. Once a report has been received the Chairman will forward this to the Clerk.

### 15.2 Gatwick Airport

Councillor Kaiser-Davies provided a comprehensive response to the Gatwick Master Plan.

## 16 Current Consultations

### 16.1 Gatwick Airport Draft Master Plan 2018

The Clerk confirmed DPC's response to the Gatwick Master Plan was sent on 8 January 2019.

## 17 Accounts/Finance

### 17.1 Members approved cheques for payment.

200146	The Surrey Pension Fund (December)	£277.65
200147	Lisa Liggins	£988.32
200148	Lisa Liggins - Clerk's expenses	£36.00
200149	Lisa Liggins - Office expenses	£333.73
200150	HM Revenue & Customs	£404.62
200151	Harry Fitzgerald (Christmas lights vouchers)	£45.00
200152	Adam Neill	£80.00

### 17.2 Members noted bank reconciliation and cash book for December 2018

<b>HSBC Community Account</b>			
Balance per Bank Statement as at <b>26/12/2018</b>			
	HSBC Community Account		51,967.66
	HSBC BMM Account		35,087.83
Less unpresented cheques as at 26/12/2018			
200131			-144.00
200136			-40.00
200138			-250.00
200139			-100.00
200141			-400.00
200143			-2,000.00
200144			-43.20
			<u>84,078.29</u>

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments) account for the month,							
as follows:-							
<b>CASH BOOK</b>							
Opening Balance							89,562.48
Add: Receipts							5.77
Less: Payments							(5,489.96)
							84,078.29

- 17.3 **Members approved** expenditure of £238.80 for office paper shredder  
 17.4 **Members approved** expenditure of £45 for Christmas Lights Competition

**18 Training and Meetings**

- 18.1 Next Planning Meeting Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Room  
 18.2 The Clerk attending Elections & Co-option Briefing and Awareness Tuesday 12th February – Wellshurst Golf Club, North Street, Hailsham

**19 Information for Councillors (for noting or inclusion on future agenda)**

Outdoor Fitness Equipment – next steps  
 West Street TV interference/OFCOM

**20 Date of next Meeting**

- 20.1 Next Meeting of the Parish Council Wednesday 6 February 2019 at 7.30pm in The Parish Room

**Signed as a correct record:**

**Dated:**