



## Dormansland Parish Council

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### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DORMANSLAND PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30pm VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE PLATFORM

**This meeting was held remotely, as permitted by emergency legislation introduced on 6th April 2020 in response to the ban on public gatherings to reduce the transmission of the Corona Virus – Covid-19 which was declared a global pandemic by WHO on 11th March**

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#### **1 Participating**

Councillor Maureen Young (Chairman)  
Councillor Harry Fitzgerald (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor Guy Kaiser-Davies  
Councillor David Bright  
Councillor Susan Calamassi  
Councillor Clive Robinson

Also participating: District Councillor Nicholas White, the Clerk and 11 members of the public.

#### **2 Apologies for absence**

Councillor Lesley Steeds

#### **3 To receive declarations of interest**

Councillor Fitzgerald declared an interest in agenda item 18.3.

#### **4 To receive minutes of the 228<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 (previously distributed)**

4.1 Members **approved** the minutes of the 228<sup>th</sup> meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 previously circulated to all members. These were signed as a true and accurate record (after the meeting).

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

No report received from Councillor Steeds.

#### ***Councillor White reported:***

Councillor White noted the ongoing roadworks along Plough Road and Dormans Road.

It was brought to the attention of the Council that 2 Cromwell Hall Farm Cottages planning applications 2019/2070 and 2072 and have gone to appeal. The applicants are appealing against both planning applications which is of concern because they are both on greenbelt land. It is hoped the inspector will not approve these as there has been a lot of potential development on that site.

Another recent application has gone through for 2 containers at Orchard Cottage in the woods which is AONB land. It is hoped that TDC will refuse this as the applicants are trying for retrospective approval for containers to be delivered onto the land.

The Chairman noted Councillor White's comment and will make enquiries.

### **THE CHAIRMAN TO SUSPEND THE MEETING**

#### **6 Public Question Time**

6.1 There were no public questions.

### **THE MEETING TO BE RE-OPENED**

#### **7 Chairman's Comments**

The Chairman had nothing to report this month.

#### **8 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported:

- TDC have resurfaced the path in the Recreation Ground.
- Chased up TDC regarding a meeting they were going to organise between TDC, SCC and the PC regarding a potential new parking/speed restriction scheme for New Farthingdale.
- Making enquiries for blue hearts to be made for the wildflower area in Mutton Hill.
- Plaque has arrived for the Coronation Oak so will arrange a date to have that put in.
- Thanks to all residents and PC members who attended the litter-pick on Sunday 27 September 2020.
- Adam Neill has made a start on painting the BT kiosk in Dormans Park and will complete this when the weather is drier.
- Arranged another food order this month for the Dormansland Diamonds which they have received.
- The Clerk would like to propose that the PC consider moving to a new company for their website.  
**ACTION:** To include on November's agenda for discussion.

#### **9 Village Environment, Highways and Infrastructure**

##### **9.1 To receive any updates on blocked drains/gullies and other highways issues.**

It was noted that the gullies were cleaned last month and still appear to be clear and SCC appear to have dealt with the backlog.

##### **9.2 To receive a report on the litter pick organised by DPC on 27 September 2020.**

Councillor Fitzgerald thanked members of the public for taking part in Sunday's litter pick. Whilst walking the village it was observed that there were still lots of weeds in the kerbs even though a recent weed spray had taken place.

**ACTION:** Clerk confirmed she had already advised SCC of the situation asking their contractor revisit the site. She would follow this up.

#### **10 Memorial Hall**

##### **10.1 To receive any updates from the Trustees.**

The Clerk read out the following update received from the Chairman of the Trustees.

*At the moment the position really remains unchanged. The deal is under contract but there are extended delays bringing all the parties together to approve plans and submit an application due of course, to Covid-19. We will update the PC when everything has moved forward sufficiently.*

## **11 Dormansland Diamonds**

- 11.1 Councillor Robinson reported there was a current lull and although there are still families being supported this is a reduced number from a few months ago. People are now back to work and getting back on track. In discussions with the Church and St Silvan's there was more concern as to what the future holds. Jobs have been lost at Gatwick, bad weather, furlough ending etc. may require more support from the Diamonds. Councillor Robinson told how the sewing group have produced over 3,500 of PPE with over 2,000 donated to NHS, care homes, care workers and charities. The remainder was spread around for people to purchase with donations. The Sewing group are now making dog bags and peg bags for fundraising through donations and aim to keep funds at high level in case of a spike. Councillor Robinson thanked the PC for purchasing frozen food and to the Baptist Church who donated their Harvest Festival food for food bank.

The Chairman thanked the work of the Dormansland Diamonds and everyone involved.

## **12 Dormansland Neighbourhood Plan**

- 12.1 The Chairman confirmed that DPC were the qualifying body and would not be progressing the Neighbourhood Plan until they receive deliberations from the inspector on the Local Plan. It was noted that at present there was nothing further for the PC or the NP Steering group to do.

The Chairman of Steering Group asked that if Local Plan fails what provision the PC has in place to stop development in Dormansland. The PC confirmed that if this happened it would be concerned and would take advice from professional consultants to advise on the best way forward.

A conversation took place between the Chairman of the PC and the NP Steering Group over the status of the plan. Both had conflicting views on the current situation.

The Chairman of the Steering Group explained that the Neighbourhood Plan was finished when it was sent to TDC however the Chairman of the PC disputed this fact and did not believe it was ready for public consultation and as had been stated many times before the PC couldn't ratify it in its current form.

A member of the public raised concerns about possible development in the village and believed the PC had no intention of ratifying the Neighbourhood Plan.

A further member of the NP Steering Group also expressed her concerns of not progressing with the Neighbourhood Plan and what that could mean for Dormansland.

A member of the public was of the opinion that the PC were not representing the people of the village.

After heated exchanges the Chairman closed the conversation and suggested that if anyone had further questions they should direct these to the Clerk.

## **13 Neighbourhood Watch/Crime**

- 13.1 ***To discuss whether the above scheme is still operational in the village and to note recent episodes of crime.***

Councillor Robinson reported that during August and September there had been mini crime wave in our village and surrounding villages. In terms of Dormansland and Dormans Park there were 8 van/garage break ins, most in a single week and some other incidents of car vandalism and trespass.

Because of van break-ins Councillor Robinson started to collate information and processed this to Surrey Police noting that there was no police presence currently in the village. He had access to 2 officers and talked regularly about what they were doing. They have made sure patrols start to come back to the area. In addition, he had talked about what other things could be done. Councillor Robinson has a meeting on 8 October with Mark Howell the Design Out Crime Officer (DOCO) for the area. Neighbourhood Watch had been discussed and he would report back on that. Neighbourhood Watch

used to be active in the village however members left and couldn't carry on so Councillor Robinson is hoping that Mark Howell can re-energise the Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the village.

## 14 Consultations

**Members noted** the following consultations.

### 14.1 Proposed Devolution and Recovery Bill

Councillors Fitzgerald and Bright attended a Unitary Councils and Local Government Reorganization Seminar for Tandridge District Council. Councillor Fitzgerald explained that a white paper had been received from Government to make Surrey a Unitary Council. After a lengthy meeting talking about the benefits it was recently disclosed that the white paper would not be forthcoming for a Unitary Council until possibly Springtime. Therefore, this was currently in abeyance.

### 14.2 Planning White paper Consultation Briefing via Zoom - 8 October 2020 at 2pm

**Members noted** Councillors Young and Fitzgerald were attending a briefing to provide the opportunity for a better understanding of the implications.

### 14.3 Government Reform of the Planning System (circulated to members by the Clerk on 17 August 2020)

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government issued three consultations on reform of the planning system

- Changes to the current planning system (deadline for responses 1 October)
- Planning for the future - the planning white paper (deadline for responses 29 October)
- Transparency and competition: a call for evidence on data on land control (deadline for responses 30 October)

### 14.4 Open Spaces Review - Tandridge District Council are conducting a review of parks and open spaces. The consultation opens for public review and responses on Monday 28 September to 5pm on 9 November 2020.

**ACTION:** DPC sent their response to TDC on 3 August 2020

## 15 Reports from representatives on outside bodies

### 15.1 Lingfield Library – The Chairman confirmed that Lingfield Library was now open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2-5pm and Saturdays 10-2pm. Numbers are improving.

### 15.2 Gatwick Airport – Councillor Kaiser-Davies reported a note had been sent to Parish Councils from Alison Addy, Head of Community Engagement at Gatwick. She reiterated the changes Gatwick are facing due to Covid-19. This has had a huge Impact on jobs and they are looking at number of new initiatives. One being a charge of £5 for drop offs at the terminal. There will be a consultation of a red route system across the airport for areas where people cannot stop/drop off and unload. No details have been given on timelines and what this means for taxis.

**ACTION:** Councillor Kaiser-Davies to send Clerk questions for sending to Alison Addy.

Jane Vogt confirmed she was attending a meeting towards the end of October so should get gain some more information then.

Councillor Fitzgerald invited Councillor White to share his recent news regarding his position at CAGNE. Councillor White told members he had been elected as President for CAGNE and started this position last week. He confirmed CAGNE are representing everyone in and around the immediate Gatwick area.

## 16 Planning Committee

### 16.1 **RESOLVED: Members appointed** Councillor Robinson onto the DPC Planning Committee with immediate effect.



The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments) account for the month, as follows:-						
<b>CASH BOOK</b>						
Opening Balance						82,191.67
Add: Receipts						0.31
Less: Payments						(2,401.55)
						<u>79,790.43</u>

18.3 To approve salary increase of 2.75% as agreed by the NJC and that payments be backdated to April 2020.  
**RESOLVED:** Members approved the Clerk’s pay rise and for payments to be backdated to April 2020. Councillors Fitzgerald and Robinson abstained from voting.

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

19.1 To note applications received for the role of new parish councillor and to arrange a date for interview. DPC noted one application received for the role of parish councillor.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to contact applicant to arrange a date for interview and agree with Councillors. Co-option at November’s meeting to be agreed.

19.2 To note the advice from the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks is for meetings to continue to be held remotely.  
 Members noted to continue with virtual meetings until further notice.

**20 Meetings and Training**

- 20.1 Next Meeting of the Parish Council via Zoom Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 7.30pm.
- 20.2 **Members approved** Council meeting dates for 2021.
- 20.3 Councillor Young and Fitzgerald to attend Planning White paper Consultation Briefing via Zoom - 8 October 2020 at 2pm
- 20.4 **Members noted** Councillor Robinson attending 2 training courses:
  - Councillors (new and refresher): Being an effective councillor 8 October 2020
  - Councillors – Introduction to Planning 14 October 2020
- 20.5 To consider calling an extraordinary meeting to review the Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and policies.  
**RESOLVED:** Members agreed it was necessary to review the Standing Orders and policies before May 2021.  
**ACTION:** Chairman to call an extra-ordinary meeting.

**Meeting closed: 8.20pm**

**Signed as a correct record:**

  
  

**Dated:**