



Dormansland Parish Council

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DORMANSLAND PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2021 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

The Chairman opened the meeting introducing Councillor Cheryl Roux, our new parish councillor.

1 Participating

Councillor Maureen Young (Chairman)
Councillor Harry Fitzgerald (Vice Chairman)
Councillor David Bright
Councillor Susan Calamassi
Councillor Clive Robinson
Councillor Cheryl Roux

Also participating: County and District Councillor Lesley Steeds, District Nicholas White, the Clerk and 35 members of the public.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Councillor Kaiser-Davies.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fitzgerald declared a historical interest in agenda item 7 as he had been a Trustee in 2018/19.
Councillor Robinson declared an interest in agenda item 15 as he was a member of the Dormansland Diamonds.
Councillor Bright declared an interest in agenda item 11 as his wife was a member of a befriending scheme.

4 Members **approved** minutes of the 233rd meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2021 previously circulated to all members. These were signed as a true and accurate record (after the meeting).

6 Members **approved** minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 2021 previously circulated to all members. These were signed as a true and accurate record (after the meeting).

7 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

Councillor Steeds reported:

- Surrey: More money has been allocated for capital highways projects so more can be done in the division over the coming year. Surrey are introducing a rental scheme for utility companies

meaning they will have to hire and pay for the rental of the roads that they use. This will give Surrey some further funding and also make utility companies complete their work quicker and reduce the amount of these companies spend digging up roads.

- Parents found out this week the allocation of school places for children.
- District: The Lead Engineer at TDC has been pushing Southern Water about the issue at Mayfield however they have refused to allow TDC to redirect the water into the foul water system. Rob Preedy (TDC) is embarking on a project costing approximately £100,000 to drill a bore hole and complete the necessary work. This should take place during next year once a feasibility study and engineering project has been carried out. Councillor Steeds will update as and when she receives any information.
- Recently attended a Planning Inspector Appeal meeting for Furze Field Chase, Dormans Park and is awaiting the Inspector's decision. This was for a development of 5-9 executive houses on Green Belt land.
- There have been complaints on Facebook about the children's play area in Recreation Ground. Councillor Steeds agreed these were well founded and would be liaising with TDC about this. She encouraged the PC to do the same.
- Biffa/TDC Dustbins. The majority of waste bins were emptied on Saturday 27th February but there were some difficult areas to access and will not be done until Wednesday. Councillor Steeds has complained repeatedly to TDC that this was not good enough. The person in control of the contract does not receive updates from Biffa however this will change when the new contract changes on 4 April. TDC have more control and smaller trucks have been built and bought by TDC for inaccessible areas eg. The Platt.
- A question was raised about The Platt/Station footpath and Councillor Steeds reported she was expecting the inspection to be carried out during March 2021.

Councillor White reported:

- From next Monday Biffa were going to be sending out leaflets on their next round of collections explaining what the new arrangements were going to be. The new procedure should result in a more efficient service controlled by TDC and with Biffa responding directly to TDC.

7 Dormansland Memorial Hall

7.1 To receive updates on the Memorial Hall.

The Chairman noted that due to comments made about the Parish Council on a new Facebook page recently it was felt necessary to issue a statement. She read out the following:

Dormansland Parish Council are concerned about the current situation regarding the Dormansland War Memorial Hall and wish to make the following statement which we hope will address the concerns being aired on Facebook and elsewhere.

The Parish Council's policy is to be as open and as transparent as possible. We abide by the rules and at times it is necessary to seek legal advice prior to releasing information which may cause brief delays in response time.

The Parish Council has requested a meeting with the Trustees and residents which has been declined by the Trustees. A statement from them has been provided as follows:

"We are still in talks with developers, Covid has made proceedings slow but does allow us time to make sure we can provide a facility accessible for the whole community to use. We know this is frustrating but as soon as we have any updated plans they will be available to look at. We are in the process of setting up a website so potential users can state their interest. - We appreciate your patience. - Trustees

We are currently seeking legal advice as to the Parish Council's position in the current situation regarding the Dormansland War Memorial Hall and we will make known our findings in due course."

We confirm that no Trustees currently sit on the Parish Council. One Councillor resigned as Trustee in November 2019, the name has been removed from the Charity Commission data base and the same name is currently being removed from the Land Registry data base.

The Parish Council represents the best interests and wellbeing of the community and we are working to obtain the right resolution for all in our dealings with the Dormansland War Memorial Hall.

Since that statement the Parish Council also wrote to the Charity Commission regarding the absence of accounts and overall lack of transparency from the Trustees.

ACTION: The Parish Council will make further updates once they have received their legal advice.

THE CHAIRMAN TO SUSPEND THE MEETING

8 Public Question Time

- 8.1 In the circumstances and due to the number of people present the Chairman agreed to give an extension to public question time.

Questions were raised about the Memorial Hall and Neighbourhood Plan. Members of the public expressed their concerns about a lack of transparency, conflicts of interest, lack of financial information and a general feeling of not being updated or involved with the developments of the Memorial Hall. The PC explained that the Neighbourhood Plan was still on hold and they would be awaiting the outcome of the inspector's report of the Local Plan.

The Chairman of the Trustees was present and answered questions put to him as did members of the Parish Council.

THE MEETING TO BE RE-OPENED

9 Chairman's Comments

The Chairman thanked our Tree Warden, Fiona Thompson for organising the planting of 12 cherry trees throughout the village.

10 20s Plenty

- 10.1 To decide whether the PC wish to proceed with this scheme.

Members agreed that this should be an initiative that the parish should be consulted on. Certain members felt this scheme could be very beneficial and increase safety for younger and older residents however a complete view of the village would be necessary.

ACTION: Members agreed to include this in the larger consultation they are planning for the village and to find out what Surrey's policy was because the PC would need their backing should they wish to take this forward.

11 Tandridge Befriending Scheme (TBS)

- 11.1 To discuss contributing to the Tandridge Befriending Scheme (TBS).

The Tandridge Befriending Scheme (TBS) is operated by Tandridge Voluntary Action (TVA) across the district. The TBS funding is sought year on year and the TBS are asking for parishes councils to collectively contribute to the continuation of the scheme. The cost could be £850 year. TBS need to secure this funding for 3 years.

Members were interested in supporting this but would question the cost if not all councils contribute and felt this maybe something the village could pick up locally through volunteers.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain further information from TBS

12 Village Environment, Highways and Infrastructure

- 12.1 To receive any updates on highways issues.
Updates received during Councillor Steeds report.

13 Reports from representatives on outside bodies

- 13.1 Gatwick Airport – To receive any updates from Councillor Mr Kaiser-Davies.
The Chairman read out the following update received from Councillor Kaiser Davies.

Dormansland Parish Council have sent the following:

1. A response on behalf of Dormansland Parish on the night flight consultation as well as in support of GACC's response.
2. A response to the CAA concerning Route 5.
3. Our query to GATCOM and Mr Sinclair on the targeting of the 8-10 nm joining point to ILS.

Jane Vogt attended a Noise Community Forum meeting earlier in the month and has been in conversations with Councillor Kaiser-Davies. Some of the representatives on NCF and NEX are putting ideas forward that will not be helping Dormansland in the future and this comes via GACC. Jane recommended that Dormansland Parish Council withdraw their support with GACC.

ACTION: Members to consider withdrawing DPC's support for GACC.

14 Dormansland Diamonds/Neighbourhood Watch

- 14.1 To receive any updates from Councillor Robinson.

Councillor Robinson reported the Diamonds are still providing support to families on an ad hoc basis. The demand for scrubs has increased and the washing, sewing and ironing groups are seeing off the demand. He thanked the residents who continue to deliver food into the food bank and material when needed for the sewing group. The Dormansland Diamonds now have a bank account and are working towards a charity status.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme still lacks support for coordinators and only one new member has joined making a total of 6 members in the parish covering 9 roads. Councillor Robinson asked that if anyone is interested to please contact him or the Clerk. The NHWS is a recommendation by the police and that neighbours looking after neighbours can be very effective.

15 Grant Applications

- 15.1 The Parish Council had been asked by the Dormansland Diamonds if they would donate chocolates for the nurses at East Surrey and the Queen Vic hospital as a gift on Mother's Day. Whilst it was agreed this was a lovely gesture the PC had recently donated £500 to Geoff Ledden's NHS Nurses appeal and also £500 to the Diamonds so unfortunately would not be donating to this cause.

16 Accounts/Finance

- 16.1 **Members approved** cheques for payment.

200399	Lisa Liggins (Dormansland Diamonds - Grant for Food)	£162.00	Clerk purchased items
200400	SSALC Limited (Councillor Trianing x 2 @ £36.00)	£72.00	
200401	Foxhole Farm (Replenishing 9 grit bins in village)	£705.00	
200402	Lisa Liggins (Salary)	£1,197.94	
200403	Lisa Liggins (Clerk's expenses)	£31.50	
200404	Lisa Liggins (Office expenses - BT phone bill/Stationery)	£108.34	
200405	Maureen Young (Title Register Searches on Memorial Hall)	£47.88	
BACS	The Surrey Pension Fund	£341.65	payment by BACS

16.2 **Members noted** the bank reconciliation and cash books for February 2021.

HSBC Community Account						
Balance per Bank Statement as at 26/02/2021						
	HSBC Community Account					39,790.77
	HSBC BMM Account					36,337.58
Less unrepresented cheques as at 26 February 2021						
200387						-500.00
200391						-341.65
200397						-10.00
						<u>75,276.70</u>

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments) account for the month, as follows

CASH BOOK						
Opening Balance						77,977.17
<i>Add: Receipts</i>						
Interest						0.31
<i>Less: Payments</i>						(2,700.78)
						<u>75,276.70</u>

16.3 To approve the appointment of a new auditor for the Parish Council.*

The Clerk advised it was necessary to appoint a new auditor for the PC and recommended Mr Mike Platten of Farsight Consulting who had been recommended by Horne PC. Members were sent a copy of his CV and quote.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to appoint Mr Mike Platten of Farsight Consulting as the PC's new auditor.

16.4 To discuss payment of invoice via BACS.

The Surrey Pensions Team had enquired whether the PC's employer contributions could be made via BACS instead of a cheque.

RESOLVED: Members approved that payments to The Surrey Pension Fund could be paid via BACS by the Clerk.

17 Information for Councillors (for noting or inclusion on future agenda)

18 Meetings and Training

18.1 Next Meeting of the Parish Council via Zoom on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7.30pm.

18.2 Next Meeting of the Planning Committee via Zoom on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 7.30pm.

18.3 **Members noted** and confirmed the Annual Parish Assembly would take place on Wednesday 28 April 2021. Due to government restrictions this would have to be carried out via Zoom. A decision would need to be made as to whether a guest speaker would be invited.

ACTION: Members to consider.

18.4 **Members noted** and confirmed the date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be on

Wednesday 5 May 2021 via Zoom.

Meeting closed: 8.51pm

Signed as a correct record:

Dated: