



## Dormansland Parish Council

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### NINETEENTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

#### Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual Parish Assembly of Dormansland Parish held on Wednesday 29 May 2019 at The Parish Rooms, The Platt, Dormansland RH7 6RA

#### **Present:**

Councillors Mrs Maureen Young (Chairman), Mr Harry Fitzgerald (Vice Chairman), Mr Guy Kaiser-Davies, Mr David Bright, Mrs Dawn Cook, Mrs Judy MacKenzie-Dunn, Mrs Susan Calamassi

#### **In attendance:**

The Guest Speaker: Lester Porter Chairman of the Trustees at East Grinstead Town Museum, County and District Councillor Lesley Steeds, District Councillor Sir Nicholas White, PCSO Conrad Cheeseman 33 members of the public and the Clerk to the Parish Council.

#### **1 Welcome**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Maureen Young, welcomed everyone to the nineteenth Annual Parish Assembly. Mrs Young introduced the Guest Speaker, Lester Porter Chairman of the Trustees at East Grinstead Town Museum.

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

Apologies were received from County and District Councillor Mrs Lesley Steeds and Mr Sam Gyimah.

#### **3 Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were approved unanimously as an accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

#### **4 Report from Chairman of Dormansland Parish Council**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for coming this evening. The Members of Dormansland Parish Council (DPC) are always very grateful for you taking the time to come and show your interest in in the voluntary work of the Parish Council and your County and District Councillors over the last year.

In the recent May elections all seven of our existing Parish Councillors were re-elected unopposed. I was also re-elected as Chairman at our recent Annual Meeting of the council. I would like to introduce my follow Councillors. Vice Chairman Harry Fitzgerald, Guy Kaiser-Davies, David Bright, Dawn Cook, Judy MacKenzie-Dunn and Susan Calamassi.

I would like to thank District and County Councillor Lesley Steeds for her continuing interest which she shows in the work of the Parish Council, her attendance at Parish Council meetings and the assistance she has given on matters affecting the Parish. Lesley was also re-elected District Councillor in the recent elections.

May I also thank District Councillor Sir Nicholas White for his work.

I would like to welcome Lester Porter, Chairman of Trustees of the East Grinstead Town Museum and we look forward to hearing from him later on this evening.

The Parish Council have dealt with various matters throughout the year of which some are still on-going and we are here to answer any questions you may have.

## **PLANNING**

During the last year, the Parish Council has dealt with 91 planning applications at its meetings. The planning meetings are now held on the fourth Wednesday of each month and once again I would like to thank members who regularly give up time to consider the planning applications put before us.

Last year the Planning Committee at Tandridge District Council (TDC) granted planning permission to developers for the building of 9 affordable houses with 70 parking plots behind Dormans Station. TDC are in the progress of drafting a Section 106 Agreement with the developer which enforces certain restrictions on the developers of this site.

DPC are delighted to report that plans to build 101 homes on green belt land at Frith Manor have been rejected by Tandridge District Council. The planning officer refused permission on the basis that the proposed scheme would constitute inappropriate development in the green belt causing significant harm to the openness and visual amenities. DPC strongly objected to this application in 2017.

Plans for the development of land to the south east of Charters Village consisting of the erection of extra care development of 31 units (comprising 8 apartments in a 2 storey building, 16 apartments in a part 2 storey/part 3 storey building, and 7 cottages) was also refused just a few weeks ago.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT**

Councillor David Bright reported the following:

Planning laws allow a community to add extra planning policies for their own area. A Neighbourhood Plan sets out those policies.

A draft Dormansland Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared based on consultations that were carried out in 2015/16 with residents and businesses.

The plan has been delayed for a variety of reasons since the second public consultation event in February 2016 and the situation has changed in a number of respects since then. At that time there was concern that the future of the village would be directly affected by the Tandridge District Local Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan would have helped protect the village against any adverse effects of planning policy changes as a result of the Local Plan.

Tandridge District Council published its preferred strategy for the Local Plan in June 2018 which confirms that Dormansland will not be directly affected. The village continues to be included in the Green Belt which surrounds it and therefore benefits from the considerable planning protection that such status provides.

Since February 2016 there have been changes to the situation around three key things that the Neighbourhood Plan was intended to address, these being:

1. Provision of a car park at Dormans Station
2. Resolution of the future of the Memorial Hall, ensuring that charitable status is maintained and a community facility is provided.
3. Provision of affordable housing in the village.

A decision on whether or not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan is currently on hold for two reasons:

- 1) Planning decisions are expected from Tandridge that may resolve the three issues above.
- 2) Although Tandridge District Council has published its preferred strategy for the Local Plan this is now being considered by the Government Inspector and may be changed. A neighbourhood Plan must be consistent with the Local Plan and therefore it makes sense to wait until the Local Plan is finalised before making decisions regarding the future of a Neighbourhood Plan.

With increasing pressure on local infrastructure arising from housing developments in Tandridge and neighbouring counties and with a well-established policy of protecting the Green Belt the Parish Council will not be supporting a Neighbourhood Plan that provides for large scale development in or around Dormansland.

The Parish Council is determined that a Neighbourhood Plan will reflect the wishes of the majority of residents. If it is decided to move forward with a Neighbourhood Plan there will be further public consultation and ultimately a referendum on whether to adopt the plan or not.

#### **MEMORIAL BENCH FOR LYNN BLAKE**

We were pleased to be able to purchase a Memorial Bench for our late parish clerk, Lynn Blake whom I know many of you knew in the village. If you haven't had a chance to see this it is positioned near the beacon in the Recreation Ground overlooking the Downs.

#### **VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGNS**

The Parish Council funded new entry signs to the village which were installed on the borders of our parish. They notify drivers they are entering Dormansland, Gateway to the High Weald.

#### **BATTLE'S OVER CELEBRATION**

On 11 November we held a special event in commemorating the Centenary of the end of the First World War. On 11 November 2108 more than 1,300 Beacons of Light were lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories and we were honoured to play our part in this event. Special thanks went to Adam Neill for preparing the beacon and Harry Baker-Smith for playing the Last Post.

#### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

In December 2018 we held our first Christmas Lights competition which was well received by residents. A huge amount of effort was made by many residents and the village looked wonderfully festive. The parish council also joined in the Christmas spirit by providing 2 Christmas Trees in the village, one at New Farthingdale and one on the green at Newhache.

#### **OPEN SURGERY**

The Parish Council held 2 open surgeries throughout the year which have proved very successful. There will be new dates set for the summer.

#### **VILLAGE MAINTAINANCE**

On behalf of DPC we would like to say a big thank you to Adam Neill in helping the PC with maintenance jobs and tidying up around the village. His work is greatly appreciated.

#### **DORMANSLAND MEMORIAL HALL**

A planning application (in principle) has recently been put forward to TDC which the Parish Council have supported. Trustees have given regular updates at parish meetings and articles put in the Village Voice. The Chairman of the Trustees has also attended several parish meetings and addressed the public. We await the outcome of the planning application which is being put forward to the Planning Committee this week.

#### **GATWICK AIRPORT**

Councillor Guy Kaiser-Davies reported the following:

2018 and 2019 to date have been just as busy with regards to the continued impacts around overflights, noise, pollution and night flights.

A brief reminder on a key consultation that closed in January of this year. DPC sent a letter in response to Gatwick's Master Plan which asked 11 key questions. I have highlighted 4 key aspects from those questions which I believe are of interest to this audience

1. Do we oppose or support the principle of growing Gatwick by making best use of the existing runways in line with Government policy?
2. Should land that has been safeguarded since 2006 continue to be safeguarded for the future construction of an additional main runway
3. What more, if anything, should be done to minimise the noise and other environmental impacts of Gatwick's continued growth?
4. Are there any aspects of our Surface Access Strategy that you believe should be improved?

DPC's response was very detailed but I would like to summarise some of the key points from our submission

Gatwick only has one runway with the other being for emergency use. We therefore accepted the principle of growing Gatwick by making best use of the existing runway, but if the intention was to use the emergency runway and in future a third runway then Dormansland Parish Council strongly opposed this.

We highlighted that by using more than one runway there would be an increase in more flights, leading to an increase in emissions and especially noise over existing routes for both arrivals and departures, which head over residential and protected areas. Gatwick's draft master plan also contained no new proposals for reducing the impacts in noise, emissions and other impacts on local people or on communities under flight paths. In our view, therefore, Gatwick's proposals were not consistent with the basic principles of fairness and balance that underpin government policy or with the specific policy requirement that environmental issues and mitigations should be taken into account in airport growth proposals.

More flights create more traffic adding to further transport congestion and overcrowding on public transport. The M23, M25 and the Brighton main line are not suitable to carry the number of passengers that increased growth in the number of flights especially at peak times were envisaged by the airport. Also, there is insufficient local infrastructure to support further expansion of flights and passengers at Gatwick eg Doctors, schools, roads.

Next on our list of To Do's is the Government Aviation Green paper consultation, which outlines proposals for a new aviation strategy which focuses on amongst other things actions to reduce environmental and community impacts and improving the passenger experience. DPC will be responding to this by the deadline of 20th June

As you know Dormansland Parish Council is a member of the HWCAAG who represent us on a number of fronts, especially as a community representative sitting on the Noise Management Board (NMB) and we would like to again pass on our thanks to Jane Vogt who continues to be our representative at the HWCAAG and fight our corner.

With regards to the NMB there have been a number of issues and challenges with how this operates. There is a review of the ToR. In terms of structure, the proposal is an Executive Board (NEX) overseeing a Delivery Group (NDG) and linked to a new and more representative Community Noise Forum (NCF). The big challenge here is about ensuring we have the right people sitting on these boards and the setting of targets of which GAL are fighting against. Jane has provided DPC's contribution to the ToR discussion. There is a proposal being reviewed at the moment

We have finally got a new noise complaint system at Gatwick Airport which went live on 1st April. This consists of a telephone line and those that suffer Gatwick's continual noise breaches will also have a new flight tracker website, online form to complain via, and a mobile app for iPhones and Android

Gatwick announced back in September the 2018/19 dates for their Discover Gatwick programme, a series of events where representatives of the local community can learn more about Gatwick and how they are leading the way in enhancing the experience of passengers and in managing a highly efficient and responsible airport.

Several of the DP Councillors have in recent years had the opportunity to participate in this event and found it extremely useful as well as an opportunity to highlight a number of challenges/issues that the Parish faces

I am sure the coming year will be no less quiet.

### **SPEED WATCH**

During last year three speed watching sessions were held and reported a total of 76 drivers speeding either on Plough Road or Dormans Road. They would all have received a warning letter from Surrey Police. Hollow Lane is also on the agenda for discussions with Surrey Police.

### **POLICE REPORT**

The Chairman introduced PCSO Conrad Cheeseman to the meeting.

He reported that 3 years ago there were 3 PCs and 2 PCSOs. Now there was just himself. A policing review took place by Surrey Policy and the 3 PCs became Response Officers. PCSO Cheeseman covers Lingfield, Dormansland, Dormans Park, Felcourt, Felbridge, Smallfield, Horne, Burstow, Outwood and Blindly Heath hence he may not be seen as often as residents would wish. He will always go to where the problems are or are being reported. Crime figures show there have not been too many problems, especially with anti-social behaviour in Dormansland and Dormans Park. Nationally crime figures are marginally up however Tandridge is one of the only boroughs in Surrey that has had an overall decrease in reported crime.

A Policing in the Neighbourhood Review took place just over 3 years ago and there are now more Response Officers and part of PCSO Cheeseman's role is to help them too. This includes collecting CCTV, taking short statements, house to house enquiries. In last 3 years Surrey Police are not getting intelligence from the public and this is not helped by Conrad covering a vast area. Surrey Police are encouraging PCSOs to go out into community to gain intelligence, talk to people and attend parish meetings, schools, scouts etc.

The question was raised as to whether PCSO Cheeseman would be given anymore help but he confirmed this was not likely however there were talks that there will be 2 Neighbourhood Support Officers rather than PSCOs.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Cheeseman for his report.

### **LINGFIELD COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

Report attached to the back of this document.

### **LINGFIELD UNITED TRUST**

Report attached to the back of this document.

### **DEFIBILLATOR**

The Defibrillator was installed over 4 years ago in the Kiosk at Potters Store. It is locked for security however the code can be accessed from any of the local Public Houses and the Police. In an emergency call 999 without delay.

## PRECEPT

The Parish Council has kept its precept this financial year to £55,000.

The precept is used to protect Dormansland Parish Council in the event of likely future capping which currently affects County and District.

Both County and District have limited funds and are cutting many of its services including libraries, street lighting, grass cutting etc. and it is highly likely they will try to devolve more responsibility to Parish Councils. The Parish Council will be contributing towards these services, including grass cutting and pot holes in the future. The Parish Council has just recently confirmed to SCC we are prepared to fund 4 extra grass cuts for this year. There may be other services for which we are unlikely to get help from County or District.

DPC offer grants to local charities and organisations and may we stress that the precept is for the whole parish which includes Felcourt, not just our village.

## ACCOUNTS

The 2017/18 parish accounts were adopted and approved by the external auditors. We were assisted in this by Peter James, our internal auditor, and I wish to express our thanks. As usual the Parish Council continued with its policy of making grants to local organisations and during the last year a total of £4,450 has been given, the beneficiaries being: -

St. John's Church <i>Maintaining the churchyard and graveyard</i>	£2,000
Dormansland Urban Saints <i>Setting up residential weekends away to Blacklands Farm</i>	£250
Dormansland Carnival Committee <i>Covering the cost of the PA equipment and MC</i>	£ 400
YWI Dormansland <i>Funding for life skills educational meetings for members</i>	£250
Ashurst Wood Short Mat Bowling Club <i>Purchase of small woods for members</i>	£100
Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre <i>To fund replacement water boiler</i>	£350
Dormansland Primary School PTA <i>Contribution towards funding the school's Forest School experience</i>	£2000
St Catherine's Hospice <i>To provide 10 hours of "hands on" nursing care.</i>	£500
Dormansland Mother & Toddler Group <i>Replacement of broken chairs and new radio mic and amp</i>	£200
Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Trust <i>Ongoing running costs including aircraft fuel, protective uniform etc.</i>	£300
Tandridge Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group	£100

The Parish Council is now offering grants throughout the year which will be considered on a quarterly basis.

## **CONCLUSION**

I wish to thank all the Parish Councillors for their support and dedicated commitment to the Parish and also give thanks to our Clerk Lisa Liggins.

Once again thank you for coming and I hope you will join us for refreshments and please feel free to bring up any matters that you wish with myself and my colleagues.

### **5. Report from County and District Councillors**

#### **Report from District Councillor Sir Nicholas White**

Councillor White recently convened a meeting with Cabinet Member Cameron Mackintosh and County Councillor Lesley Steeds because he extremely concerned about the repairs that had been done on Dormans Road/Racecourse Road. The pot holes had been repaired in areas where strips of road were unattended and the work was poor. As a result of the Cabinet Minister taking this up with Senior Officers at SCC they have agreed that on 7 June 2019 they will resurface 8 x 8.5 metres of road because the repairs that were previously done were already breaking up. Councillor White had a further meeting with Cameron Mackintosh and Councillor Steeds with regards the bridge at Moor Lane. He reported this would take time to be repaired as SCC only have one main bridge expert. It could take up to 6 months before it is repaired and the road reopened.

Councillor White has been approached by a number of people regarding planning applications and either TDC or the agents representing the owners haven't properly understood what is required so he has acted as an intermediary.

Other areas he has been involved with are SCC matters rather than TDC. In particular schooling. Various parents are concerned that children leaving primary have no spaces at the local secondary schools. Children are being offered schools as far away as Merstham Park (13 miles away). SCC said they had no records of that.

Councillor White noted that surgeries and infrastructure are important to this area and if a garden village is built at South Godstone the infrastructure has got to be one of the first things to be rectified. TDC said they cannot guarantee this.

With regards Gatwick Airport, Councillor Lockwood is going to be on the GATCOM Committee and Councillor White will be backing her. He is concerned that with the extended use of the emergency runway there will be more noise, emissions and climate change. It is important to fight hard to make sure that Gatwick is not allowed to have a second runway.

### **6. Address by Lester Porter**

The Chairman introduced Lester Porter and thanked him for his attendance. Mr Porter has been Chairman at the museum for the last year and gave an interesting and informative speech. Mr Porter gave some background information about the history of the museum. In particular he spoke about the 'Rebuilding Bodies and Souls' flagship exhibition that was opened in 2016, the 75th anniversary year of the foundation of the Guinea Pig Club. The project tells the story of the birth of reconstructive and plastic surgery in East Grinstead during the Second World War through the eyes of the patients and the medical professionals involved, as had been the wish for nearly 70 years. The museum created a lasting legacy for the 649 members of the Guinea Pig Club, of which there are 7 surviving, who, after sustaining life-changing war injuries, were rebuilt, body and soul, by the internationally renowned surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe and his dedicated team at the Queen Victoria Hospital. This legacy engages, connects and inspires the community, students, historians, RAF personnel and volunteers, reigniting a sense of pride and place for East Grinstead, affectionately known as 'the town that didn't stare'.

Mr Porter left some booklets for the public to purchase and leaflets to take away with them.

Councillor Fitzgerald thanked Mr Porter for his attendance and speech and presented him with a small gift from the Parish Council.

DRAFT



## 7. Public Questions

Bridget Davey expressed her concerns about speeding in the High Street and the pinch points that were not fit for purpose. She said the village needs a proper crossing and the pinch points are not benefitting anyone. Bridget said the Parish Council needed to stand up to SCC. Mothers walking their children to school witness the speeding and feel it is too dangerous for their children to walk in the High Street on their own. Bridget said something needs to be done about getting a crossing installed.

The Chairman said this was a question for County Councillor Steeds who unfortunately wasn't present. She did say that County Councillor Steeds informed her that there were concerns and it was under review at SCC. SCC spent time carrying out a survey and included the school's views before the pinch points were installed. Fifty thousand pounds has been allocated for a speed table at the Memorial Hall cross roads and it is hoped this will greatly reduce speeding.

Bridget Davey didn't believe this would make a difference and a roundabout would have been a better option.

The Chairman confirmed the speed table had nothing to do with the Memorial Hall development. In the past Members discussed various options including a roundabout but SCC refused this. She noted that we could put our views forward to SCC but final decision would be made by them. The Chairman suggested contacting Councillor Steeds or SCC directly with regards the speeding. She said that speeding was of concern to the Parish Council and it will be discussed further with SCC. She suggested asking the Speedwatch team to carry out a check in the High Street. **Action: Clerk**

Bridget Davey suggested painting white numbers on the road.

Karil Greenhalgh asked what was the Parish Council's view on Lingfield Park Racecourse applying for their liquor licence to be extended to 2am.

The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council would be sending their objections to TDC. Tannery Close had been in touch on this matter and the Parish Council will be supporting them. The Chairman recommend that all residents write to the TDC licensing department objecting to this application. She said that herself and Councillor Steeds had spoken to the racecourse about their concerns.

Dominic (Manager Royal Oak) suggested that if residents were going to write to TDC they should refer to the 2003 Licensing Act where there are 4 main conditions that can be referred to. It would be a better response to state under which 4 principles you were objecting to.

Mark Ridge suggested writing directly to County Councillor Lesley Steeds who is the Chair of the Licensing department at TDC.

Liz Lockwood reported that this was of concern to Lingfield Parish Council. She said that on the TDC website it shows clearly under what categories you can write objections. All objections should be sent to TDC Licensing department. If it gets to a point that Lingfield Park Racecourse decide to amend their application they will be provided with copies of all representations and are obliged to contact all those people to negotiate an outcome for all parties. Residents can also contact TDC for a map showing the extended area. Contact Dormansland Clerk or Fay Elwood at Lingfield Parish Council for the relevant email address.

Mark Ridge reported that he attended Lingfield Parish Council's meeting and their Chairman, Vivienne Hepworth, was arranging a meeting with the Resort Manager. Dormansland's Chairman said she will liaise with Vivienne and arrange to attend that meeting too. **Action: Maureen Young**

Karil Greenhalgh asked if the Parish Council had any idea what is going on at the house in Racecourse Road.

The Chairman said the house was being cleared and that Head and Southern are using the site to store building materials. She confirmed the owner does not live in this country. She has spoken to builders who have given very little information. She will make further enquiries.

**8. Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 8:48pm

**Signed as a correct record:**

**Dated:**

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