

# Fontmell Magna Parish Council

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at St Andrews Primary School, Fontmell Magna at 7.30pm**

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**Present:** Cllr H Horstead (Chairman), Cllrs M Ayre, M de la Perrelle, R. East, G Roberts, M Humphreys, L Williams.

**In attendance:** M. Wheatley – Clerk, Cllr Graham Carr-Jones – County Councillor and 48 members of the public

### **Public Questions:**

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting had been called to discuss DCC Highway's proposals regarding the one-way system on the A350/C13 which were going to be presented to the DCC Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

A briefing paper had been prepared by Robin East and Roger Thomas. This paper had been circulated and is attached to these minutes. Robin East outlined the various options which had been put forward by DCC and after some discussion asked those present to indicate by a show of hands which option they preferred. Robin East confirmed that whilst DCC Highways had said there were 6 Options his view was that there were only 4 options as outlined in the briefing paper. All of those present except for 3 confirmed that Option (a) as outlined in the briefing paper i.e. for the one way system to stay as an advisory system with HGV's being advised to go north on the A350 and south on the C13 was the preferred option provided that better signage was erected and relevant mitigation measures were put into place for Melbury Abbas. It was acknowledged that this Option was the least worst Option and was no more than a "sticking plaster" and the only solution was to implement a proper North/South route.

Robin East also confirmed that DCC Highways were in the process of resurfacing the A350 and that the traffic management measures including gates for the village would be installed shortly. The works would take place at night and the road would be closed for sometime but all of the villagers would have access to their properties. Robin East also confirmed he had discussed whether the speed through the village could be reduced to 20mph but had been told that this was not permitted on an A road and in any event it would not be supported by the police. He would however continue to fight for West St. to be made a 20mph zone.

Robin East confirmed that the report on North/South connectivity had been published and was available on the Dorset for You website.

**28/11/01 Apologies for Absence.** Cllr Catherine Langham District Councillor.

**28/11/02 Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.

**28/11/03 A350/C13.** The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support Option a as outlined in the briefing paper provided the signage in Shaftesbury and Blandford was improved and appropriate mitigation measures were put into place for Melbury Abbas.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42 pm.

Date

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Chairman, Fontmell Magna Parish Council

**Briefing paper for Fontmell Magna Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting**  
**28 November 2017 – 7.30pm – School Hall.**

**Prepared by: Robin East & Roger Thomas**

This note addresses the issues of the A350/C13 that will be considered at the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 28 November. It is the only item on the agenda and will address:

1. The village response to the proposals (together with any potential “mitigation measures”) to be considered at the DCC Cabinet on the 6 December, to ensure the village’s views are properly represented.
2. The works planned for the village in February 2018.
3. The Tri-County (Dorset, Bath & North-East Somerset and Wiltshire) long term strategic plans
4. A review of the FM Traffic Management Scheme of August 2014 – this will include speed limits.

**Summary**

This village was recently represented at two ‘stakeholder’ meetings called by DCC Highways on the 9 October and 13 November. The meetings covered; the planned improvement/maintenance works for the A350/C13 to be completed by the end of March 2018; revised speed limits on both roads and, of more concern, they informed the meetings of an “Options Paper” on future traffic management in the Blandford-Shaftesbury corridor (*the details will be published on the Dorsetforyou website towards the end of November*). The options, set out below, are intended to address existing problems with HGV traffic on the A350 and C13. The implications of any necessary “mitigation measures” needed IF certain options were approved by the Cabinet could have a profound effect on Fontmell Magna and indeed all the villages on the A350.

**This is a potential and serious problem for Fontmell Magna.** We need to make our views known and ensure they are properly presented to the DCC Cabinet before they meet to decide on the 6 December, hence the importance of this meeting and the gathering of a consensus response from the village.

**What are the DCC Options?**

The ‘stakeholder’ meetings were advised of the following options:

*(a) Advisory one-way northbound on A350 and southbound on C13 for HGVs - This is the current system. It is not enforceable, not yet formally adopted by DCC. DCC admit that this is not operating effectively, it needs better signposting and further “mitigation measures” to make it work for Melbury Abbas.*

*(b) Permanent and enforceable northbound on A350 and southbound on C13 for HGVs (ie the current system but put into a legal form of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)). There are two drawbacks to legislating for the north-south one-way system. (i) It would acknowledge for the*

*first time that the A350/C13 corridor was suitable for HGVs. It may not look like it, but at the moment these roads are not on the Dorset freight maps (although irritatingly the A350 starting at Travis Perkins north of Shaftesbury is a Wiltshire freight route). (ii) As soon as the north-south one-way system becomes law, the routes will become “official” and will appear on Tomtom and everyone’s satnavs. In our view, these two together could well attract even more HGV traffic than we have at the moment. The fact that neither the A350 nor the C13 is suitable for HGVs will be overlooked. There is another option not noted by DCC, namely a temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). There are pros and cons to this which will be put to the PC meeting.*

*(c) Advisory signposts at both ends of the C13 saying “Unsuitable for HGVs”. This would not be enforceable and looks innocuous, but would (as with (d) below) have the biggest impact on Fontmell. It could mean a significant increase in the HGV traffic on the A350 in both directions and would, we have been advised by DCC Highways, entail “mitigation measures” along the route. A drawing of one such “mitigation measure” for Fontmell was presented at the ‘Stakeholder Meeting’ and covered the installation of traffic lights between The Mead and the Fontmell pub. This scheme envisaged using part of the existing road to provide a footpath between Mill Street and Parsonage Street with the lights controlling a single alternate flow of the traffic, cars and HGVs.*

*(d) A ban on HGV’s going through Melbury. This would have even more of an impact on Fontmell as it would be enforceable and would also trigger “mitigation measures”.*

You need to be aware that we have now been assured by DCC that the “Traffic Lights” scheme will not form any part of the resurfacing and village improvement work starting in February, nor will there be any “mitigation measures” undertaken without a prior full consultation of any such proposals with those parishes affected

#### Protecting Fontmell’s interests:

The Parish Council now need to gather your views to be able to reflect them faithfully at the Dorset County Council Cabinet meeting on 6 December where the issue of the options for the A350/C13 is on the agenda.

Please come along to the meeting and/or send any comments to Marianne [clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk) or to [robinm47@gmail.com](mailto:robinm47@gmail.com).

Robin East  
Councillor Fontmell Parish Council  
A350 Community Group