

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL AT 7PM

Cllr Oppenheimer, Cllr Buckle, Cllr Sinclair, Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Simon Dixon, Cllr Louisson, Cllr Butcher, Cllr Caukill and Clerk

Residents: 11

Minutes

1) Welcome. Cllr Caukill welcomed everyone to the meeting

2) Presentation by Jody Orchard (Forestry Commission Officer) – Ash Die Back.

Explained background and current role. Ash Die back impact is stark: west surrey to west sussex. A lot of the ash is on steep slopes and is a hazardous tree at the best of time (brittle wood). Legislation for felling is from the 60s and not designed for dealing with disease. Grants available to help with restocking following felling for Ash. Images showing “stag heading”, honey fungus (secondary infection) and woods that are impacted. Not always ash die back could be cancer but 90% it is the former. Foliage will be under “Stag head” and will allow to understand percentage of effect. Fungal spores on the breeze so found the way over from Netherlands 2013 heavy in Norfolk hump. Show spread – when disease first found/confirmed. Now everywhere and not localised. Globalisation and lack of bio security are the factors. Since 70s, every alien pest disease is exponential every 5 years. There is some resistance being found in some trees and hopefully some pockets will survive (5-10%).

Q. What’s the plan. What do you do about it?

A. First concern is it showing signs of die-back? Identify. If it has, where is it – public right of way, over house, green house ie potential H&S problem? Then time to think about tree specialist in to discuss making tree safe.

Q. Tree will fall down eventually but what is process fall down from base in one go?

A. Yes, Boughs falling and then secondary infection can diminish root plate. Storms in winter there is no foliage but in spring onwards get sail effect.

Q. Given scale of problem and placement is there government aid to deal with problem?

A. Not for felling process but for restocking. One hectare of Ash big felling requires restocking – particular breeds and density. Grant would help here.

Q. What species are being replanted

A. Depends on nature of woodland: ancient woodland is broadleaf native species. A Mixture. A policy of Keepers of Time steers to wards broadleaf

Q. What can you do with wood once felled. Can it be burnt

A. Yep. Preseasoned. Spores/fruiting bodies on leave litter. Could dispose of leaves and burn these so reducing reinfection on same tree. Better than doing nothing but spores are everywhere. More likely just delaying inevitable. Evidence that older trees will fend off over time but younger ash (10-15 yrs). Consider benefit to wildlife when reviewing older trees but consider H&S first.

Q. evidence of it spreading to other species.

A. Within ash but not across genus. Keep

Q. If you see symptoms can you do anything about it

A. Not if a younger tree. Older tree give it every chance to live healthy life. If growing environment is not stressful, more likely to fend off diseases.

Q. Are we facing a future without ash? Are disease resistant being developed?

A. Timber sustainable resource. Test posts being worked on by Forestry maybe some way down the line and this will allow them to start replanting the species. Other concerns that are also taking resources.

Q. Are there any obligations on landowners to protect surrounding properties?

A. Yes. Caveats what is reasonable and foreseeable. Landowners should be aware of the state of trees on their property. Get professional advice.

Q. What is required in terms of felling licences?

A. TPOs need to be declared and preservation areas. Person felling is responsible for TPO. Get professional advice if not in a garden. Likely to be needed

3) **Apologies for absence and acceptance of last minutes.** Apologies received from Cllr Brighton due to holiday. Last minutes accepted

4) **Chairman's Annual Report – David Caukill. Attached as an Appendix**

5) **District Councillor Charles Louisson's Annual Report**

Last couple of years very difficult for everyone and District Council's ability to work has been impacted too. A lot of time distributing grants to support people and businesses - £50m. Pandemic has impacted services that are provided eg refuse and HGV. In the end no collections missed. Some late but all completed. Penns Place – planning to dissolve joint management with Havant (2009). Cost efficiencies were made but direction now facing district and borough facing different challenges and right time to dissolve. Agreed by both councils so new management structure being debated and target to complete by Autumn 2022.

- Side effect to relocate from Penns Place. Fairly old building and HQ will be new building on Bedford Road that council already owns. New working practices easier to accommodate and more energy efficient. £400,000 saving in running costs.
- New regional hubs will be established: Alton, Whitehall & Borden and other location. Make it easier to access facilities.
- Grants. Just under £1,000 and £860 to PCC in Hawkley. 2022/23 applications open again: supporting communities fund
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Q. Recycling centre at Bedford Road. Has it reopened so you can just turn up. Still pay for household building – not required at National level.

A. Defer to Russell. Booking permanent feature and have to pay for rubble and plasterboard

Q. How much do you pay for fly tipping

A. Not have a number for it. Recognise it is an issue.

Q. Caught between two. Fly tipping exists because of charges for disposal.

A. Good effort responding to logging. Where we get enough information we can prosecute – four figure fines and criminal record

Q. Make more publicity about prosecutions being made

A. Press releases do get sent out

Q. Productivity being measured?

A. Yes, split from Havant has included this: some areas identified. Also identified where productivity can be improved working from home

Q. What is happening from Penns Place

A. Consulting on potential uses. Thinking along lines of multi use site

Q. Money from central government. Some interesting claims. If you can't recover what
A. Central Gvt on the hook. About half-way through the process. Rigorous checks for 2021

6) County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer's Annual Report. Appendix Two

- Great to see a well attended meeting. HCC had a hard time during pandemic but should be proud of all working closely together. Hawkley did a great job as a parish.
- BOATS. Has been campaigned at SDNP for 4 years. On the agenda for MPA in May. New member of SDNPA is a barrister with experience of green lanes. Hope National Park Authority will get stuck into . Letter from Hawkley was very clear and referenced regularly. Will report back from meeting.

Q. Litter on roadsides . Big issue on main roads and not very safe for volunteers. Could you close a road?
Community problem

A. A3 and slip roads is frightful and has got worse. Take it away and think about it. Pilot schemes are worth considering.

Q. BOATS. Is dangerous and where is opposition from SDNPA coming from? Are they four wheel drivers

A. National Park only get s£10m a year and so there are financial constraints and some are sympathetic of the enjoyment drivers get. No sympathy that we can spend £4m in Seven Sisters and frustrated that not spend 0.5M to resolve BOATS.

Q. Letter from Hawkley. Note thanks to David and contribution as Chair

7) Open Forum

Q. Report road accidents. To whom?

A. To the police and this feeds in. Particularly if injured

Q. Land for sale from Higher Oakshott Farm. What use might it be put two: two plots. Concerned that not going to put sheep on it. Risk that it will turn into livery stable and then Glamping .

A. Curling to confirm who purchased land to Chair. Risk that every piece of land. Keep on top of it. Charles – limited grounds for refusal to barn. Query about barn being removed if not for original use.

Q. Phone box on Upper Green. Digital Voice conversion and in storm and losing power so was unable to use phone. 2024 . Great to have EE but concern that similar event would have no contact.

A. Dilemma. EE mast did not have battery back up? Priors Dean generator ran out and so no broadband either. 29th March Telegraph that BT have agreed to stop switch to digital.

Q. Letter received "Next Door Hawkley". Is this a scam? Gave it a sense of authority

A. There is a local network/website. For individuals to make a decision on.

8) Date of next meeting – May 11th 2022, 7:30pm – Parish Council's AM

Meeting closed 20:53

Appendix One

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022, CHAIR'S REPORT

The Annual Parish Meeting is a standing meeting which provides an annual opportunity for your councillors to report on their activities over the last year. The Parish extends from near Bradshott on the other side of the Selbourne Road, down to Snailing Lane and through to Empshott, Hawkley and then down to Oakshott. This is my opportunity to report back to residents of the parish on our activities during the year.

I should note that it is the first time we have been able to hold this meeting "in person" for three years. Coronavirus is still present but it is heartening to be able to see village events filling up the diary again.

Turning now to HPC, much of our business is routine and recurs each year including planning matters, maintenance issues and making small grants and/or donations towards specific causes. But we are also dealing with a number of less routine matters which I will cover first.

Traffic

Traffic safety is a recurring issue. HCC will prioritise expenditure based upon potential for casualty reduction. If you have an accident in the Parish, the statistics on which these decisions are based will not be updated unless you report the accident. This affects priorities and spending so it's in everyone's interest for you to report any accidents.

This year saw the completion of projects initiated in earlier years:

- The signage improvements on Hawkley Hill following the tragic road accident involving a horse and rider in November 2020 have now been completed and the Long Vehicles sign outside the Spread Eagle is now in place.
- The Lower Green fingerpost was refurbished Summer 2021; there are two other fingerpost signs outstanding which we will deal with when our resources allow.

There is a new campaign among parish and town councils in Hampshire seeking to introduce 20 mph speed limits in Hampshire's residential areas, potentially including rural communities. There is some sympathy for the proposal in parts of HCC, not so much for the potential for casualty reduction (statistics show that the introduction of a 20 MPH limit has little impact) but because in some more urban areas it encourages people to walk and cycle more – ticking a different box. Early stage, but we are keeping abreast of developments.

BOATs – "Byways open to all Traffic"

There are several unmetalled tracks around the Parish which legally are open to motorised traffic and increasingly seem to attract recreational "off-roaders", (eg. 4x4s and motor bikes). While most may be responsible users, there are some whose principal objective appears to be to make these tracks ever harder to transit, causing extensive damage to the surface and the surrounding flora and fauna, often rendering the route impassable to the local horse and foot traffic which used to be the principal user.

There is a groundswell among parish and town councils in Hampshire seeking to limit this traffic. We wrote to the SDNP seeking change a year or so ago, as did several other councils; a number of members of the SDNPA (including Russell Oppenheimer and Doug Jones) are supportive of the proposal. It has been difficult to get HCC to take action (in the absence of any potential casualty reduction) and the campaign has highlighted a difference of opinion about the SDNP's authority to take action.

The government has recently begun a consultation process around the recommendations contained in the Glover Report. This covered a wide range of issues around access to, prioritisation and management of our national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty which has reinforced Sandford Principle: "Where irreconcilable conflicts exist between conservation and public enjoyment in National Parks, then conservation interest should take priority."

Against that background, the Government consultation includes proposals to give National Parks specific powers to limit the use of BOATs. We have supported these proposals in our response. So ... watch this space.

Children' Play Area

The Play Area was built in about 2001. In recent years, the RoSPA safety report has increasingly highlighted wet rot in the supporting timber framework to the extent that about 12 months ago, part of the apparatus was closed and removed.

Cllr Simon Dixon oversees the maintenance of the Play Area and assembled a group of parents to form the Hawkley Play Area Action Group who have stepped up and immediately started a fundraising campaign, sought tenders for the work and have now selected a contractor and started fundraising.

The Trustees of the Hawkley Parish Hall are responsible for the project To date nearly £30,000 has been raised including a £5,000 grant from this Parish Council, and devolved grants from both our District and County Councillors – for which many thanks.

It's good to see the community coming together to improve an important community resource for the next generation

Phones

The Mobile mast now operational for emergency services and this has improved coverage for general public. Its existence has allowed us to proceed with adoption of the Upper Green telephone kiosk. Once the acquisition is complete a working group led by David Large will refurbish it.

Moving onto the more routine matters

Planning

There were 26 planning applications in the period in a Parish with only about 210 houses! Your Planning Committee visited considered and commented on each of them. Objections were lodged against 6 items.

Two of these objections related to a mobile home that has been installed in a field south of Spring House in Empshott where EHDC recently took enforcement action to have the home removed. The occupant has appealed against the order the determination of which is pending.

While it was outside our parish, we also made submissions objecting to Veolia's proposed Materials Recovery Facility in Alton on the basis of the potential increase in traffic along the B3006. This development was ultimately refused by HCC; Veolia are considering their position.

The time given to considering these applications should not be underestimated and we are also lucky to have a Planning Committee, chaired by Geoff Brighton, who give the time to consider each application.

Maintenance of Greens, Roads, verges and footpaths

We oversee the maintenance of the greens, ponds and byways around the Parish. We routinely ensure that the parish roads, verges, ditches, ponds and drains are kept clear and tidy.

- Verges: While HCC will trim dangerous 'sightlines' on request, it has substantially reduced the maintenance of the verges more generally to a single annual cut as a result of budget pressure. This year we have been advised the cut will be between May and June and as such we may need to repeat our action of engaging a contractor in November to ensure the verges are clear through winter.
- Cutting of the Greens: Thanks to Dominic Palmer, Barry Philips and others for keeping them in shape.

When work is needed, we encourage HCC to act or, if they cannot prioritise it, we try to deal with it ourselves. We currently participate in the Lengthsman Scheme funded by HCC in which gives us one man-day's labour each quarter to do minor maintenance tasks. This is the last year this service will be funded by HCC. In future HPC will have to fund this activity and is one a cost that has impacted the Precept for 22/23.

Donations and Grants

The PC has the capacity to make small grants and donations to groups and activities with a local impact. This year we supported East Hampshire Citizens Advice Bureau, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, Hawkley PPC, The Liss, Greatham and Hawkley Friendship and Hawkley Sports Club (fireworks).

Finances and Admin

All of this has been achieved on our very low annual precept of £13,000 (collected through your Council Taxes). For 2022/23, it was agreed that the precept should be increased to ensure the council have reserves to cover some improvements to infrastructure and maintenance, potential election costs and contribute to large community projects such as the play area. This decision was not taken lightly and supporting documents are available on the parish website.

We are very pleased to have recruited Katherine, our Clerk, to start in January last year. She has made a great contribution to our operations as well as tidying up quite a few loose ends in our administration to ensure we are meeting legal requirements: Financial Regulations, review of Asset register, Grievance procedure, Code of Conduct and Grant application process have all been reviewed this year. Also established Temporary Scheme of Delegation to allow the Planning Committee to work efficiently.

We were lucky to find her and are immensely grateful for her efforts!

Final thanks

So that's the year that was 2021/22. None of this would have been achieved without our committed team of councillors whose contributions and efforts often go unremarked and even un-thanked.

I include here our County and District Councillors, Russell and Charles, who have each made time for Hawkley - a small parish their respective portfolios - and given help and guidance where they can.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognise the considerable contributions made by each of our councillors: Jo Humphrey, Geoff Brighton, Susan Sinclair, Simon Dixon, David Large, Liz Buckle and Charlie Butcher and their continuing commitment to their task in serving our community.

David Caukill

Chair: Hawkley Parish Council

Appendix Two

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR PETERSFIELD HANGERS ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISHES 2021-22

As I write this, and as you commence preparations for your Annual Parish Meetings, Hampshire County Council has pivoted amazingly swiftly from pandemic mitigation to refugee preparations. We are working closely with local authority partners, businesses and residents to identify suitable homes for Ukrainians over the coming weeks and months. Hampshire will play a proactive part in supporting the people of Ukraine, as we did for Afghan refugees last year. More information is available on the Ukraine pages of our website at hants.gov.uk/Ukraine

Over the last two years I was very conscious that working from home was difficult for those still struggling with slow broadband. The good news is that most of East Hampshire has been included in the government's £5bn Project Gigabit. This means that many of us will get a subsidised superfast fibre connection in the second half of 2023. The contracts will be tendered this year and a contractor appointed early next year. I will keep Parish Councils updated on progress with this procurement process in my newsletters.

The Levelling Up White Paper was published on 2 February 2022 and has presented an opportunity for Hampshire. We now have clarity on the models of devolution which will be acceptable to the Government. And it is clear that all areas in England will have a devolution deal by 2030. As we move towards a County Deal, it should mean more powers and more resources for Hampshire's elected politicians, which should translate into better placemaking initiatives and better services for residents. Parish Councils will remain central to the plans.

The financial position at Hampshire County Council is not easy at this time. We have been cutting costs for 12 years now, but we still have an annual budget gap (from 2023) of £92m and CC is not allowed to run a deficit. This is

largely a result of price increases in the care sector and growing demand in adult and children's services. The Government is currently reviewing Local Government Finance and we are lobbying to make sure that Ministers and Civil Servants fully understand the pressures on services. Without an improved financial settlement, we will face very difficult choices next year: charges at HWRC and Lolly Pop crossings. Hampshire is in a better position than many counties: we still have considerable reserves which enable us to invest in building new schools, expanding existing schools and creating new places for children with special needs.

I have nearly completed my first year as Executive Member for Highways Operations. The pandemic was challenging for the Highways teams and for our contractor Milestone but I am proud that we kept people moving and maintained the roads in good condition. In 2021 Hampshire Highways fixed 49,462 road defects and resurfaced 336,500 square metres of carriageway. We also cleared 173,562 drainage assets. The South saw unprecedented rainfall and flash flooding in 2021 and I am keeping my fingers crossed that 2022 will be more of a normal year for precipitation!

This year Hampshire Highways has brought new innovation to the service; battery-powered vehicles such as an electric excavator, an electric telehandler, a battery-powered plate compactor, as well as new materials such "non-crete" sugar-cane bollards have all contributed to the reduction in our carbon emissions. Significantly, the Highways service opened a new materials recycling facility, based at Micheldever. We won a prestigious Green Apple award for this facility in November. Within 12 months, the Micheldever facility aims to deliver a net reduction in CO2 of around 67,500kg by reducing the use of scarce aggregates, replacing some traditional hot mix asphalts with cold lay materials and reducing the total miles travelled for material supply. The cold recycled road surface uses a fifth of the energy of traditional materials and saves 40 per cent of CO2 emissions.

At Hampshire County Council we are investing in walking and cycling schemes through our £500m Capital Programme, as well as developing innovative Active Travel schemes. "Modal shift" away from private cars has been a priority for us since our climate emergency declaration. Modal shift is also good for air quality and the health and wellbeing of communities. We will shortly be consulting on our new draft Local Transport Plan which puts walking and cycling at the top of the hierarchy – a substantial shift in priorities. I hope communities will support this plan in their responses to the consultation.

On decarbonisation, Hampshire County Council has made substantial progress. We are installing solar panels on 300 schools in a £80m scheme following a successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. We have also launched the first Solar Together Campaign in Hampshire – a scheme that offers high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage to help residents generate their own green energy - maximising on bulk buying power to offer competitive prices for the purchase of panels. The County Council is also working with Community Energy South to build a network of community energy projects around the county and has invested in the first Community Energy scheme in Overton.

Additionally, in supporting households to reduce transport emissions, the County Council secured Government funding for the installation of 50 on-street residential electric vehicle charge points (in Winchester and Eastleigh) and, there are plans to extend this. We are also investing in tree-planting with our mission to plant one million trees by 2050. This year we are planting a new woodland to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as well as thousands of new Highway Trees and School Trees.

With all this activity there is a chance for Hampshire to gain a reputation for being the greenest County in the UK. Parishes can play their part by stimulating local retrofit of homes and I am delighted that some Parish Councillors are engaging with PeCAN on this. If anyone else would like to learn more about retrofit, please do not hesitate to contact me or visit petersfieldcan.org. The spike in energy prices makes this the perfect time to reduce those energy bills!

I am really pleased that so many Parishes in Petersfield Hangers have taken advantage of the Community Funded Highways Infrastructure Scheme. I am aware of work completed or underway in Ropley, Sheet, Steep, Froxfield, Liss, Greatham and Hawkley. The priority is usually traffic-calming and these schemes can make a real difference. If anyone would like to learn more about the scheme please visit the website at

For transparency I always like to use my annual report to share a table of all my County Councillor grants made during the financial year – see below.

SUMMARY OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRANTS AWARDED IN 2021-22

Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Amount
Liss Athletic FC	Replacement Floodlights	The floodlights at the clubs were deemed unsafe. The club need to replace them in order to continue training	£500
Sheet Village Community Trust	Printing and distribution of Sheet News	Sheet News is a local six monthly newspaper produced entirely by volunteers and distributed to the 2000+ residents .	£500
Sheet Primary School	Interactive Screen	The funding will be put towards buying an interactive screen for children in our new library.	£1,000
Flat Spaces Foundation	Mobile Hoist	Replace a 24 year old mobile hoist, which is on loan	£375
Liss Parish Council	Traffic Calming	Interactive Speed Indicator Device that will be hung in various locations for traffic calming purposes.	£385
Home-Start Butser	Home-Start Butser	To be able to continue our vital work with local families who are facing unprecedented challenges	£750
Petersfield Musical Festival	Petersfield Musical Festival 2022	Ten concerts in March, involving local choirs, orchestras, bands and schools,	£500
S.O.S from the Kids	S.O.S from the Kids	S.O.S from the Kids write and perform songs as a wake-up call for climate action.	£1,000
Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool	To provide a bin store for the Pool	To provide a bin store outside the swimming pool area	£600
Petersfield Walking Festival	Petersfield Walking Festival	The festival will be a week-long event offering a wide variety of free walks in the local area	£750
Sheet Association	Sheet Village Jubilee Big Lunch	A Jubilee Big Lunch to be held in Village Street, Sheet, followed by games, charity stalls etc.	£450
Hawley/Priors Dean PCC	Restoration of church bells	Hawley's church bells are in urgent need of repair & restoration.	£390
Hawley Parish Hall	Hawley Playground Renovation	The Village Hall needs to replace the swings and play structures otherwise the playground will be condemned	£800

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year as we continue to build our community infrastructure.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers