

**MEETING OF HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30PM via ZOOM**

PRESENT: David Caukill (Chair); Jo Humphrey; Susan Sinclair; Simon Dixon; Charlie Butcher; Geoff Brighton and Liz Buckle.

Also present: County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer and District Councillor Charles Louisson.

Two residents were present.

Katherine Horton (Clerk) was in attendance as well as the retiring Clerk, Sue Harwood.

AGENDA

21.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

21.2 Apologies for absence

David Large

21.3 Declarations of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared

21.4 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 18th November 2020

No comments. Minutes approved and to be signed at a later date.

21.5 To approve the minutes of the planning meetings of 25th November, 22nd December 2020 and 13th January 2021

Minutes approved and to be signed at a later date. Decisions have been communicated to the appropriate organisations

21.6 Chair's comments

- Drainage on Vicarage Lane is still an issue during periods of heavy rain but no repeats of last year's floods.
- Residents' concerns were relayed to the speeding driver reported in November; there is evidence of improvement.
- HGVs and GPS routing. A local resident kindly followed up with Ordnance Survey to confirm if they are able to adjust information used by GPS. Unfortunately, GPS is now more commonly fed by Google and as such a request from HPC is unlikely to create change. However, since the last meeting and as a result of research by said local resident (the results of which were shared with Hampshire Highways) HCC have agreed to fund and site a sign "Unsuitable for Long Vehicles" at the Spread Eagle. It is hoped this will ease the issue of HGVs on Lower Green.
- Madeleine Allison (Tree Warden) and Liz Buckle proposed a working group to consider what planting and/or maintenance might be possible and appropriate for Hawkley. Susan Sinclair and Charlie Butcher volunteered to join that group. The plan is to produce a brief report/recommendations for discussion at the April APM.
- Hawkley Area Support Group is printing and distributing more smilies within the Parish.
- A fallen tree at Jolly Robbins and was cleared by Nigel Brown. Thanks to Nigel and also to others who cleared the debris on the verge. HPC Tree Warden has suggested further work would be beneficial and this is in hand.

21.7 Public forum

- A resident highlighted continuing use of Standfast Lane by off-roaders despite the seasonal TRO. The Chair asked that where possible, registration numbers are taken in order that the Clerk can log and report the abuse.
- The mess on the land resulting from "Empshott Farm" is a significant and growing eyesore. The PC continues to fight the regrettable attempts to develop the land.
- Tree Warden requested HPC support in raising awareness locally and hopes to positively engage the community.

21.8 Report of District Councillor - Charles Louisson

- At the last meeting, proposed changes to local housing quotas meant EHDC were to increase new homes delivered from 600 to 900-1000 houses per year. Huge opposition to these contentious proposals caused the government to review its plans. It is believed that EHDC will revert to the original 600 commitment.
- Budget setting season has been reasonably challenging but new initiatives will be invested in.
- 2020 -2024 strategy: a Council that is fit for purpose, a safer, healthier and more active East Hampshire, a thriving local economy and greater environmental awareness

21.9 Report of County Councillor - Russell Oppenheimer

- Hampshire CC. Cold Spots initiative to address fuel poverty.
- Hampshire also going to be consulting on local transport plan – first one for nine years.
- County Councillor Elections: 6th May. Likely to be delayed. New plan to be published in next two weeks
- Travellers: a couple of issues locally (Prior's Dean and Froxfield). National Park is responding robustly. Planning Inspectorate generally under pressure from the number of applications to be considered.

21.10 Planning Application

- a) *SDNP/21/00057/BBPN* Grange Farm, Empshott Road, Hawkley, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 6HT. *Installation of two x 8 & 9m wooden poles*
Recommendation for No Objection but advise SSSI marked at one site. Approved.

21.11 Finance:

a) Summary to January 2021 and authorisation of payments

Chair circulated financial summary ahead of meeting. Payments authorised. Chair to sign it at a later date.

b) To agree Donations and Grants for 2020-21

The Donations Report previously circulated (appended to these minutes) was taken as read. After discussion it was agreed to split £1,600 equally between four local charities: Butser-Homestart, the Rosemary Foundation, East Hampshire Citizens Advice Bureau and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

c) To set the Precept for 2021-22

The Precept Report Paper previously circulated (appended to these minutes) was discussed. Discussion ensued on various aspects. In particular, there is only £1,600 of uncommitted expenditure available to cover unforeseen/unexpected expenses although there is circa £12,000 of reserves to cover essentials. The 2020 RSPoA play area inspection highlighted some wet rot in supports to the swings which needs to be dealt with. SD agreed to seek a competent assessment of any work required. No special budget provision for remedial work has been made pending receipt.

A motion to maintain the precept at current level of £13,000 was proposed by GB - seconded by CB. Approved unanimously.

21.12 Consideration of highways matters

a) Finger Post signs

JK Engineering, who proved to be by far the cheapest supplier in connection with the Village Signs and are HCCs preferred supplier, has quoted to refurbish or replace each fingerpost sign. Even so, the total cost for all 6 signs under consideration, at c £10,000, is well beyond current resources. Onsite refurbishment by contractors was also considered; concluded that the likely cost and resulting useful life was not as cost effective as the off-site shot blasting and regalvanising proposed by JK Engineering. It was decided to refurbish signs as and when budget/funding is available recognising that, while there are funds available in the current year, there are other significant potential constraints over the next couple of years when further refurbishments are unlikely.

The County and District Councillors were both thanked for their offers of £400 each from their devolved budgets towards the high costs of this project which when added to the £3,300 available surplus in our 2020-21 budget brought the potentially available resources to £4,100.

Decided to refurbish the Empshott Green/Mill Lane sign last November, quotation received £1,500. Decided to refurbish the Hawkley Hill/Poccocks Lane sign: £2,040. Remaining available budget of £560 carried forward towards the Playground refurbishment in over the next two years.

b) Horses on Hawkley Hill – Update

Possible bridleway routes suggested have been investigated but have proved prima facie infeasible. HCC advise that they plan to resurface the relevant stretch of Hawkley Hill and will install appropriate white lining and signage at HCC expense; HCC will consult HPC about design. JH met with representatives of British Horse Society who propose large yellow plastic signs on the poles of existing signage for future consideration in consultation with HCC and SDNP. The effect of these measures will be monitored closely.

21.13 Refurbishment of BT phone kiosk on Upper Green

David Large had reported in advance of the meeting that three residents have volunteered to help. He plans to start work in the Spring. Simon Dixon to advise on/provide any surplus materials used in the Lower Green refurbishment.

21.14 Date of next meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) will be held on Wednesday April 14th 2021 @ 19.00

Meeting closed 21:00

Katherine Horton (Clerk)
20th January 2021

Chair

Date